

# Presenting the Branch Mint Collection's Exceptional Liberty Seated Type Set Sale!

July 10, 2021 – July 17, 2021



An exceptional Liberty Seated Mint State type collection assembled with the highest degree of difficulty; only Branch Mint coins were allowed!

- 26 Important Lots, Many with Noteworthy Pedigrees
- CAC Green and Gold Approvals including Top Pops!
- A Host of Gems with Eye Appealing Toning
- Rare Dates

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**1838-O No Stars V-2 H1oC, PCGS MS63+ CAC, Gem Original.** The No Stars half dimes and dimes are evocative of the 1836 Gobrecht dollars, which present a solitary Seated figure with no extraneous detail. This piece exhibits original silver-gray surfaces, completely brilliant at first glance, with faint gold streaks noticeable as the piece is tilted under a strong light. The obverse is softly struck in the lower gown and rock base while the reverse detail is sharp throughout. V-2, with a low date sloping upward to the right. Light die clashing is evident on both sides. The New Orleans Mint struggled with yellow fever and other issues in this, their inaugural year. Original, high-grade survivors can be numbered with one hand, as CAC has certified one coin (this) in MS63 with four in all higher grades combined. PCGS has certified a single piece at this level, with five examples higher. Housed in a PCGS Gen 6.0 (2015-2020) Gold Shield holder with CAC approval. This is a splendid representative of the type with ample original luster and a high degree of rarity.



**1839-O No Drapery V-5 H1oC, PCGS MS64 CAC, Gem Original.** The first impression of this hairline-free, original piece is its strong luster, with active cartwheel on the obverse and more textured reverse flash. Toning is near completely silver with hints of faint gold across the obverse. V-5, with numerous obverse die cracks. Although not evident at arm's length, inspection with a glass reveals a bold crack through star 4, with a lighter crack joining stars 4 through 12. Well-struck with articulated foot support and distinct leaf veins. The CAC census notes three examples higher, while PCGS records six in all higher grades combined. The few pieces at the Gem level will run into five figures, which places this coin in the sweet spot among higher MS examples. Housed in a PCGS Gen 6.0 (2015-2020) holder with CAC approval.



**1848-O V-4 H1oC, PCGS MS66+ CAC, Gem Original.** The 1840s Seated coinage tends to be boldly impressed, and this piece is no exception with design details rising sharply above the plain. Completely detailed stars pop from the planchet and surround the figure of Liberty in high relief. The luster is exceptional, as expected for the grade, revealing vibrant cartwheel as the coin is tilted. While the initial "look" suggests untoned surfaces, the obverse hosts a light russet splashes to the left while the reverse hides faint champagne shades that become more evident under strong light. V-4, with the date starting in the rock and sloping down to the right, while the mintmark is small, thick, and nearly circular. Clint Cummins is currently reworking the Valentine varieties, and his work is available online at https://sites.google.com/view/clintcummins/half-dime-attribution-guide. CAC has certified only three pieces higher. PCGS records six examples at MS67 and two at MS68. Housed in a PCGS Gen 6.0 (2015-2020) Gold Shield holder with CAC approval. Previously from Joe O'Connor (2/2004), Gene Gardner (Heritage 5/2015, lot 98168, realized \$5,287.50), and the Wind River collection (1/2018), which is listed in the PCGS set registry.

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**1855-O Arrows V-1a H1oC, PCGS MS65 CAC, Gem Original.** Gem, light gold surfaces host delicate russet shades at the rims, with added tones of aqua among the reverse dentils. Silver coinage increased substantially following the 1853 Coinage Act, but this is a lower mintage issue with 600,000 struck. The Mint preferred to strike higher denominations if they had a choice, and this was such a situation as over three million half dollars were struck in New Orleans the same year. Fields are nearly flawless, and a strong glass reveals only scattered ticks. V-1a, with a die crack connecting all stars. Valentine notes this die is rusted, and this is particularly evident in the obverse stars. CAC has approved three pieces higher, while PCGS reports two coins in MS66 and two in MS67. Housed in a PCGS Gen 4.0 (1998-2002) holder with CAC approval. As with most of the Branch Mint Collection coins, this example stands among the finest known, a true museum piece that is infrequently encountered even during periods of strong market activity. Previously from the Gardner collection (Heritage 10/2015, lot 98154, realized \$4,230) and the Wind River collection (1/2018).



**1860-O H10C, PCGS MS65 CAC, Gem Original.** The half dime design was reworked in 1860, with UNITED STATES OF AMERICA moving from the reverse to the obverse, while the figure of Liberty evolved into a more delicate, thinner form. The reverse cereal wreath is now more ornate, with a nod to the agricultural capacity of the United States. This example exhibits even silver-gray obverse shading with deeper hue at the rims, while the more intensely toned reverse reveals deep blue-gray color with original Mint bloom in the protected areas. Fields are immaculate, consistent with the assigned grade, and the flash is considerable. This was the final year of half dime production at the New Orleans Mint. CAC notes five higher-graded examples, while PCGS reports ten coins in MS66 and four pieces in MS67. Housed in a PCGS Gen 6.0 (2015-2020) holder with CAC approval.



**1838-O** No Stars F-102 10C, PCGS MS64+ CAC, Gem Original. All coins exist on a continuum, and, even among CAC-certified examples, some are nicer than others. This is clearly such an example, with pristine surfaces and delicate obverse rim toning. Shades of blue, gray, and olive are evident as the coin is tilted, and the eye appeal is exceptional. The reverse exhibits faint gold toning underneath scattered flecks of russet and blue-green. Examination under a strong glass reveals only minute ticks. F-102, with obverse die erosion apparent under close inspection. CAC has certified only three pieces at the Gem level. PCGS notes just five coins higher, four at MS65 with a single piece at MS65+. Housed in a PCGS Gen 6.0 (2015-2020) Gold Shield holder with CAC approval. Some coins are worth pushing for, and the new owner will be justifiably proud of this premium quality example.

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**1839-O** No Drapery F-104a 10C, PCGS MS66+ CAC, Gem Original. For many astute collectors, luster is king, and the flash of this example is undeniable, as it completely penetrates the medium toned surfaces. Russet and gold shades frame the reverse, while Liberty exhibits blue and violet color throughout. The reverse is similarly toned, always a consideration with respect to CAC certification. F-104a, with a high, level date and prominent reverse die crack traversing the length of the coin through DIME. Surfaces are near-perfect and even with a glass one is challenged to locate any marks. The CAC census notes three higher pieces at MS67, the same as PCGS, which also reports three examples at MS67. Housed in a PCGS Gen 6.0 (2015-2020) Gold Shield holder with CAC approval. As is typical, the Branch Mint Collection pieces compete with the finest known coins, and indeed, if one were to compare this piece with the examples in MS67, this coin might well be selected as the most eye appealing of the group. Previously from Heritage (2/2012, lot 3325, realized \$13,800, there in an NGC MS66+ holder).



**1842-O F-105 10C, PCGS MS63 CAC, Choice Original.** Silver gray surfaces are uniformly shaded to the naked eye, though under a glass a few bits of crust are evident on both sides. Luster is a consistent with the grade, and a touch sharper on the reverse. F-105, with a die lump inside of star 12, and a slightly upward sloping date. The survival of Branch Mint coinage in this level of preservation was strictly a matter of chance, as little attention was paid to mintmarks until the end of the 19th century. A quick glance at the Guide Book confirms this, with prices rapidly increasing at the EF and AU levels. This piece approaches the condition census, as PCGS reports seven pieces finer, none higher than MS65. The CAC numbers are similar, with four coins in MS64 and two pieces at MS65. Housed in a PCGS Gen 4.0 (1998-2002) holder with CAC approval. While this coin is by no means inexpensive, it remains close to finest known, and will sell at a fraction of the price of a Gem Uncirculated example. From the Jones Beach collection (Heritage 1/2007, lot 2565, realized \$4,600).



**1853-O Arrows F-102 10C, PCGS MS64 CAC, Near-Gem Original,** Light gold shading blankets both sides of this lustrous With Arrows example. Cartwheels easily rotate as the coin is tilted under a light, and the eye appeal is compelling. The 1853 Coinage Act mandated a slight reduction in the weight of silver coinage, in order to make it more correctly valued in relation to the gold coinage. The legislation was immediately successful, restoring widespread circulation of silver coins. Arrows were placed at the date from 1853 to 1855 signifying the lower weight of the coins. This is a well-struck example with some softness in the head and reverse bow knot. F-102, with an even date and large, thin mintmark. CAC has approved only four MS pieces in all grades combined, with this example the sole finest CAC-certified coin. The PCGS census notes two pieces at MS64 and only one higher, at MS66. Housed in a PCGS Gen 4.1 (2002-2004) holder with CAC approval. Bidders will do well to carefully consider the opportunity to acquire the finest piece certified by CAC. From the Kennywood Collection (ANR 1/2005, lot 356, realized \$10,925).

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**1873-S Arrows F-101 10C, PCGS MS64+ CAC, Gem Original.** Liberty exhibits russet shades in the protected areas, while the left obverse field reveals similar toning. A few bits of blue hue complement the coppery color, which is less intense on the reverse. Both sides exhibit moderate cartwheel and the flow lines, which reveal the luster, are clearly unimpeded by hairlines or any other detrimental marks. F-101 with repunching in the 1 and a small, thin mintmark. The PCGS census reports ten pieces finer, while CAC has certified two at MS65 and one at MS67. As with all of the Branch Mint Collection pieces, the technical quality is exceptional and, as usual, this piece is among the finest known examples. Housed in a PCGS Gen 5.0 (2015) Dupont hologram holder with CAC approval.



**1891-O Unlisted 10C, PCGS MS66 CAC, Gem Original.** Superb luster highlights blue-green centers framed by rose shading at the rims. Strong cartwheel actively dances as the coin is tilted, rotating around the colorful surfaces. The reverse might well grade MS67, were it not for micro-chatter south of M. Regardless, the luster atop the wreath is mesmerizing and it difficult for this cataloger to put the coin down. CAC has certified nine examples in M66 with none higher, while PCGS has 16 coins in MS66 and three in MS67. There won't be any bargains in the Branch Mint Collection sale – these coins are the not the sort to "slip through," but this piece, with a CAC guide of \$3,450, represents a quite reasonable value given that it is tied for finest known at CAC. Housed in a PCGS Gen 4.1 (2002-2004) holder with CAC approval. From the Gene Gardner Collection (Heritage 6/2014, lot 30283, realized \$2,820).



**1875-S BF-13 20C, PCGS MS66+ CAC, Gem Original.** This piece is a stunner under a light, revealing swirling shades of russet, gold, and blue, and it is challenging to recreate this effect with a single image. Active cartwheel accompanies the rich toning and the eye appeal is strong. Surfaces are virtually flawless and close inspection with a glass identifies only the barest ticks. BF-13, with a misplaced digit in the denticles and a filled mintmark, while a few spider-web die cracks are evident in the reverse legend. The excellent Brunner-Frost guide to twenty-cent varieties is freely available at doubledimes.com. The twenty-cent denomination was a short-lived concession to the silver lobby, who had little use for the coin after Morgan dollars went into production in 1878. PCGS notes six pieces in MS67 and one in MS68, while CAC reports only one piece higher, at MS67. Housed in a PCGS Gen 5.0 (2015) Dupont hologram holder with CAC approval. This piece is an excellent choice for a collector seeking a single piece to exhibit the twenty-cent denomination and will draw appreciation from even the most advanced numismatists.

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**1840-O** No Drapery Briggs 1-A 25C, PCGS mS63, Choice Original. The 1840-O No Drapery quarter has a distinct appearance with thin, dished dentils and more open space among the design elements. This choice uncirculated example exhibits silver surfaces with charcoal flecks scattered about the rims, more heavily on the obverse. The strike is sharp with complete star points and pinpoint detail in the eagle feathers and claws. This is exceptional, as Briggs notes strike weakness for this issue. A few fields lines are consistent with the assigned grade and the luster is ample, with the reverse flash especially strong for the grade. Briggs 1-A, with the mintmark far left and repunching in the 8. PCGS reports six coins at MS63 with only three higher at MS64. Housed in a PCGS Gen 5.0 holder with reverse DuPont hologram (2014-2015).



**1851-O Briggs 1-A 25C, PCGS MS63+, Gem Original.** A quick tilt of this key branch mint piece reveals ample cartwheel on both sides, with the reverse exhibiting a trace of reflective, prooflike surface. Silver centers host russet hints at the obverse rim while the reverse is nicely framed by a ring of pinkish russet and aqua. Briggs 1-B, with a centered mintmark. The strike on this example is far superior to most 1851-Os quarters, with only stars 12-13 soft and just a touch of weakness in the head. The reverse is strike is boldly executed and completely detailed. The few marks are scattered and CAC consideration at the MS63+ level is inhibited only by a few obverse field lines that require a glass, strong light, and specific viewing angle to identify. PCGS has certified only four pieces at all MS levels, including an MS61, MS62, MS63+ (this coin), and one MS64 example. Housed in a PCGS Gen 6.0 (2015-2020) Gold Shield holder. This offering represents a rare combination of absolute rarity and condition rarity, a piece that is a tick away from finest known. Previously from the Bob Hammond collection (Stack's Bowers 11/2016, lot 2064, realized \$18,800, there graded PCGS MS62 CAC) and previously appearing in the Whitney P. Sunderland collection (Bowers & Merena, March 1994, lot 1513, realized \$4,840).



1853-O Arrows & Rays Briggs 1-B 25c, PCGS MS64 CAC, Near-Gem Original. The Arrows and Rays design is a favorite among Seated and type collectors alike, with a distinctive halo of rays framing the reverse eagle. Russet-gray splashes cover the obverse of this conditionally rare example, while the reverse reveals traces of olive shading in the recessed areas. Cartwheels are active and neatly traverse the ring of rays surrounding the eagle. The strike is well-impressed with just a couple soft stars to the right of Liberty. Briggs 1-B with three lines, centered, inside the mintmark. PCGS has certified five pieces in MS64 with a single coin at MS65. At CAC, this piece is the single MS coin certified, an extraordinary situation. Certain branch Mint pieces in the Liberty Seated series simply don't exist in uncirculated condition, or are numbered in the single digits. This piece is a highlight of the Branch Mint Collection sale and demonstrates strong aesthetic appeal in combination with a high degree of originality and condition rarity. Housed in a PCGS Gen 6.0 (2015-2020) Gold Shield holder with CAC approval. Previously from the Gardner collection (Heritage 10/2015, lot 98426, realized \$17,625, as PCGS MS64) and more recently appearing in Heritage 3/2016, lot 4836 as an NGC MS65 (realized \$18,800).

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**1854-O** Arrows Briggs 2-E 25C, PCGS MS66 CAC, Choice Original. Brilliant, bold luster radiates from the surfaces of this With Arrows type example, and the overall flash is compelling. Both sides are largely untoned with just the barest hints of gold shading above the eagle. Obverse stars are soft to the left while the reverse reveals some weakness beneath the shield. Briggs 2-E, with an even date and large mintmark just left of center. PCGS has certified only four pieces higher, with three in MS65 and a sole coin at MS66. The selection of a branch Mint piece to represent this type is noteworthy, as the Philadelphia mintages of this period greatly exceeded those of the New Orleans and San Francisco facilities. More so, the Philadelphia coins were far more likely to be saved as most collectors of this period centered in the large, eastern cities. This is an aesthetically appealing example of this two-year type, with an O mintmark that distinguishes it from the far more available Philadelphia pieces. Housed in PCGS Gen 4.0 (1998-2002) holder. Previously from the JFS Collection (Heritage, 8/2004, realized \$3,105), later from the Horseshoe Collection (8/2010). This piece is the plate coin in Bowers Guide Book of Liberty Seated Silver Coins (p. 270).



**1874-S Arrows Briggs 1-A 25C, PCGS MS66 CAC, Gem Original.** Luster drips from both sides of premium Gem example, and the slightest tilt quickly reveals the situation, creating instant cartwheel rotation. A gold and olive skin covers both sides, more evenly on the obverse. The strong luster easily penetrates the medium shading and is completely unimpeded as it moves about the surfaces. Briggs 1-A, with an even date and small, squat mintmark. Briggs notes a hoard of this issue that surfaced from a west coast bank in the 1940s, and the population numbers are consistent. PCGS notes 39 pieces in MS66 with just five at the MS67 level. The situation is more competitive at CAC, with nine pieces in MS66 and a single coin at M67. Regardless of where this coin originated, there is no denying the overall "pop" revealed by an initial glance. Housed in a PCGS Gen 4.4 (2005-2011) holder with CAC approval. From the Jim O'Neal Collection (Heritage 1/2018, lot 3490, realized \$5,520).



**1891-O Briggs 2-B 25C, PCGS MS64, Near-Gem Original.** An even, light gray skin covers both sides of this better-date Seated quarter, representing the final year of production for this long 19th century series. Additional bluish shades highlight the right obverse field in addition to the space above the left wing. Surfaces are prooflike, as is typical for high-grade 1891-O survivors. At least one piece has been certified as a branch Mint proof but more likely represents a somewhat more reflective example than typically seen. The strike of this example is needle sharp with completely defined stars and strong claw and feather detail. Briggs 2-B, with a date sloping upward and a tilted mintmark. PCGS notes only four pieces graded higher, including three coins at MS65 and a single piece at MS67+. With a mintage of 68,000 pieces, this coin is challenging in terms of both condition and absolute scarcity. Housed in a PCGS Gen 6.0 holder (2015-2020) with embedded hologram.

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**1839** No Drapery WB-4 5oC, PCGS MS63+ Gold CAC, Gem Original. The originality of this early Seated half is hard to overstate, with hairline-free surfaces and pleasing gray skin. Varied shades appear as the coin is tilted, alternately revealing gold, blue, and copper colors on both sides, and the overall eye appeal is strong. A few fields voids are noted above the rock, none of recent origin. WB-4, with tangential lines in the rock support behind the heel. Note, the Bugert attribution guides for the Seated half series are freely available on the LSCC website, lsccweb.org. Stars are well-struck while the reverse exhibits characteristic weakness south of the shield. CAC has certified a single MS63 coin (this piece) at the Gold CAC level and five pieces at MS64. With Gold status ensuring CAC approval at the MS64 level, this piece is essentially tied for finest known at CAC. PCGS has certified five pieces higher in the MS65 band. Housed in a PCGS Gen 6.0 (2015-2020) holder with Gold CAC approval. Among the finest known for the issue, this piece would easily complement even the most advanced sets of Seated halves. Ex. Eric P. Newman (Heritage 11/2013, lot 33466, there appearing in an NGC MS64+ CAC holder, realized \$61,687.50), and previously acquired by Newman from the famed collection of Colonel E. H. R. Green. This coin truly has it all - aesthetic appeal, near top pop status, and one of the most storied pedigrees in numismatics.



**1847-O WB-22 5oC, PCGS MS65+ Gold CAC, Gem Original.** Yet another Gold CAC piece from the Branch Mint Collection, this stone original 1847-O half is the epitome of originality, with antique surfaces graced by medium silver and gray skin. Fields are primarily silver, with smoky gray shades scattered about the rims on both sides. Nearly all star points are present if faint, while the reverse exhibits typical softness in the left claws. Surfaces are near perfectly smooth and a glass will be required to locate the few marks. WB-22, with obvious repunching on the 7, and a diagonal die line from H extending to the rim. Housed in a PCGS Gen 6.0 (2015-2020) holder with CAC approval. From the Gene Gardner Collection (Heritage 5/2015, lot 98468, there presented as NGC MS66 CAC, realized \$30,550). Prior to Gardner this coin has a pedigree tracing to the early 20th century and including Stickney, Clapp, and Eliasberg. A finer pedigree is hard to imagine, with Eliasberg and Gardner, in particular representing, the finest ever collections of Seated coinage. Housed in a PCGS Gen 6.0 holder (2015-2020) with embedded hologram.



**1853-O Arrows & Rays WB-21 50C, PCGS MS64 CAC, Gem Original.** Original silver surfaces are graced by medium gray shades among the stars and date. The reverse is less toned with faint gray hue scattered throughout the legend. A glass reveals only scattered marks, and the overall eye appeal is excellent. Nicely struck, with strong detail in the claws and feathers, while the star centers are nearly all evident. The cartwheel forms easily as the coin is tilted, with the reverse bearing slight hints of reflectivity. WB-21, with a radial die crack between stars 11 and 12, and another through (AM)E(RICA) on the reverse. CAC has certified just two pieces at MS64 and a single example at MS65. PCGS reports seven coins at MS64 with one at MS65. The CAC price guide lists the MS64 at \$12,800 while the sole MS65 jumps to \$48,300. While bragging rights are always nice, the MS64 strikes this cataloger as the much better value. this is an attractive example that easily stands on its own as a worthy representative of the Arrows and Rays type. Housed in a PCGS Gen 5.0 (2015) Dupont hologram holder with CAC approval.

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**1854-O With Arrows WB-31 5oC, PCGS MS65 CAC, Gem Original.** Silver-gray surfaces host the barest hints of light blue toning in the recessed areas of Liberty, while the stars reveal russet bits here and there. The reverse exhibits a medium gray skin with a thin band of aqua and russet at the rim. Well struck, with most stars complete and only the usual softness in the left claws. WB-31, with a vertical die line through 4 and a reverse crack connecting the arrow tips and extending to the rim. Attribution of 1854-O half dollars is possible due to the meticulous research of Mike Lloyd, which is well documented in the Bugert reference. CAC reports five pieces higher, with three in MS66 and two in MS67. PCGS notes 16 examples in MS66 and four pieces in MS67. Housed in a PCGS Gen 4.3 (2005) holder with CAC approval. From Barry F. Smith, 4/2018. As with most of the pieces in the Branch Mint Collection, the overall eye appeal is strong, and the technical quality speaks for itself.



**1872-S With Motto WB-1 50C**, **PCGS MS65 CAC**, **Gem Original**. This wildly reflective half is a multi-colored headlight and reveals a full spectrum of color atop the prooflike surfaces. A golden obverse skin hosts blue-green and russet shades while the reverse exhibits rings of violet and blue, leading to gold rims. The obverse in particular is the very definition of "skin," which has the appearance of a foil that one might peel back. Apart from a few light marks in the right obverse field the surfaces are near-perfect. WB-1, with the 1 in the date centered over three dentils, while the mintmark is small and wide. PCGS reports three examples in MS65 with a single MS66 piece finer. CAC notes two coins at MS65 (including this) and two pieces at MS66. While collectors may alternately be drawn toward either Mint State or proof formats, this colorful, flashy piece is a reminder that business strikes can come with highly prooflike finish. Housed in a PCGS Gen 6.0 (2015-2020) holder with CAC approval.



**1874-CC** Arrows WB-3 **50C**, PCGS MS63 CAC, Near-Gem Original. Along with the 1870-CC and 1878-CC, the 1874-CC is one of the keys to Carson City half dollar set. Few pieces survived from the small mintage of 59,000 pieces and today examples in all grades are highly prized. This piece exhibits even, medium gray toning, with hints of gold, russet, and blue more evident as the coin is tilted under a light. Moderate cartwheel radiates from both sides, a touch more actively on the reverse. WB-3, with a die lump below the curl and a diagonal die line through (STAT)ES. The mintmark is small with close spacing and slopes upward. Well struck with star centers evident and typical softness in the left claws. CAC has certified but four Mint State pieces - this example, two at MS64 and a single coin at MS65. PCGS reports three higher pieces in MS64, one in MS65 and one in MS66. Housed in a PCGS Gen 4.5 (2011-2013) holder with CAC approval. The significance of this offering is hard to overstate, as Carson City pieces are among the most desirable issues in the Seated series. This piece combines the all-important CC mintmark with key date status and a strong technical grade. As if that were not enough, CAC endorses this example as premium for the grade. The new owner of this special coin will be exceptionally pleased. Previously from the Milford Collection (Heritage 1/2011, lot 5565, realized \$26,450).

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**1860-O OC-7 Seated \$1, PCGS MS63+ CAC, Choice Original.** The appeal of a Mint State Seated dollars is hard to resist, as the large, lustrous pieces will always draw attention when exhibited among their lesser brethren. Cartwheels dance on both sides of this example, quickly rotating over largely untoned surfaces. A crescent of russet and blue rim toning graces the left side of the obverse while ONE DOL. hosts similar shades in the legend. The 1860-O dollar often comes heavily bag marked but this is a pleasing exception. Although there is some reverse chatter above the eagle, the obverse surfaces are noticeably smoother. OC-7, with the left edge of 1 aligned with the fourth set of shield verticals, while a reverse rim crack, visible only with precise orientation of a glass, connects to the center leaf. The Osburn/Cushing Seated dollar reference is freely available online at seateddollarvarieties.com. PCGS has certified 30 pieces at MS64 with nine examples in MS65. CAC reports 11 coins in MS64 and three at the MS65 level. Housed in a PCGS Gen 4.4 (2005-2011) holder with CAC approval.



**1877-S Trade \$1, PCGS MS65+ CAC, Gem Original.** A light gold skin evenly covers the obverse while the reverse reveals original silver color. The 1877-S is a high mintage issue, but the quality here is anything but common. A quick flip in hand reveals substantial cartwheel and the flash is generous. Star centers are sharp, and the eagle feathers are completely delineated. A few ticks are scattered on both sides, with no marks of note. Despite the abundant mintage this piece is close to the condition census. CAC reports only eight examples in MS66 and above, while PCGS notes eight pieces at MS65+ and 10 in higher grades. This is clearly a high-end representative of the type, and, while not inexpensive, collectors should keep in mind that there are few bargains in numismatics and that quality usually requires a healthy investment. With MS66 CAC pieces priced at \$20,000, this near-MS66 quality piece should draw a strong price. Housed in a PCGS Gen 6.0 (2015-2020) holder with CAC approval.