



Search and Recovery

After an arduous 12 year search for the *SS Republic*, Odyssey Marine Exploration discovered the shipwreck in the summer of 2003 nearly 1,700 feet below the surface of the Atlantic Ocean, approximately 100 miles off the Georgia coast. Shortly after the painstaking archaeological excavation of the site began, the first coins were discovered.

To avoid scratching the beautiful surface of the coins, each one was picked up individually utilizing a specially designed soft silicone limpet and a state-of-the-art ROV (remote operating vehicle) nicknamed *ZEUS*. Prior to the *SS Republic*, this kind of delicate operation was considered an impossible dream.

Odyssey's discovery and recovery of the *SS Republic* coins and artifacts was featured on Dateline NBC in April 2004 and was the subject of a National Geographic Ultimate Explorer episode showcasing the history of the ship and the complex recovery operations. Additionally, a one hour National Geographic PBS special is dedicated to the history and archaeology of the *SS Republic*. National Geographic magazine, The New York Times and many other publications around the world have been following the story of the *SS Republic* and Odyssey's dedication to the archaeological excavation of the site.

**Now you can own a piece of the story
that is being shared with the world!**



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Own a Piece of History

SS Republic Silver
"Shipwreck Effect"
Liberty Seated Half Dollars



Here's Your Chance to Own a Piece of History A Magnificent Liberty Seated "Shipwreck Effect" Half Dollar

These incredible coins have been recovered from the famed SS *Republic*, one of the most sought after shipwrecks in history. The provenience of these Liberty Seated Half Dollars is certified, providing a unique testament to the history of our country and a glimpse into another era.

- Lost at sea for over 138 years
- Struck during one of the most important periods in American history – the Civil War era
- Painstakingly picked up one at a time and recovered from the ocean floor 1,700 feet deep
- Conserved and authenticated by the country's leading conservation and grading facility



Impressive Features

Each Liberty Seated "shipwreck effect" Half Dollar from the SS *Republic* Collection has been conserved by Numismatic Conservation Services (NCS), a leading authority in coin conservation. The coins are then individually certified, numbered and sealed in a clear acrylic capsule by Numismatic Guaranty Corporation (NGC).

Each coin comes with a Certificate of Authenticity, an exciting National Geographic DVD documenting the discovery of the SS *Republic* and the Lost Gold of the Republic book by Peter Vesilind. Each coin has a designated registration number for identification and authentication.



The Tale of the SS *Republic*

The sidewheel steamer's fascinating history begins in 1853 when she was christened the SS *Tennessee*. She served in both the Confederate and Union navies during the Civil War, including a stint as Admiral David Farragut's flagship. She fought vigorously in several conflicts, including the Battle of Mobile Bay, made famous by Farragut's exclamation, "*Damn the torpedoes – full speed ahead!*"

Powerful and Majestic

Her military career ended abruptly when her hull was damaged in a gale, and in 1865 a New York shipping magnate bought the crippled ship and renamed her SS *Republic*. After an extensive refit, she was soon making regular runs from New York to New Orleans with shipments of cargo and money to fuel the city's expanding post-war economy.

By the time she was lost, the SS *Republic* boasted a remarkable history. Built in Baltimore at the height of the steam age, she was christened the SS *Tennessee* in 1853. She was an industrial marvel, 210-feet long by 34-feet wide with a massive single piston engine driving two 28-foot iron sidewheels. The stout ship could transport 100 passengers and fit 5,000 barrels of cargo in her hold.

The Final Voyage

The sidewheel steamer SS *Republic* left New York on October 18, 1865, bound for New Orleans with a reported \$400,000 (1865 face value) in specie on board. On the fifth day, a gale blew in and by nightfall the SS *Republic* was stalled without power in a fierce hurricane. Passengers labored for hours to bail out the ship's hold, but it was a futile effort. Her crew worked feverishly to prepare the lifeboats and patch together a makeshift raft.

At 4 p.m. on October 25, 1865, the SS *Republic* disappeared into the sea. Published accounts of the survivors' harrowing tales were accompanied by newspaper reports that "some \$400,000 in treasure" had gone down with the ship.

The "Shipwreck Effect"

More than just rare coins, each of the SS *Republic* silver half dollars is certified as having a "shipwreck effect." This effect makes them unique, and unlike other graded numismatic coins from the site, an expert can tell that these coins were lying undisturbed in the deep ocean for 138 years. In most cases, the coins exhibit nearly full detail. When you hold these Civil War-era coins in your hand, you will be amazed at the fine detail preserved in them, from the lockets of Ms. Liberty's hair to the individual feathers in the eagle's wings.

Their appearance can be traced to their historic heritage and are stunning remembrances of the day the SS *Republic* sank. These coins tell a story of our common past and are a legacy to share with future generations.

These SS *Republic* "shipwreck effect" Liberty Seated halves are appealing to Americana, Civil War, shipwreck and coin collectors alike. These products are of great historical significance and are wonderful collectibles that buyers can pass down to their family members for generations to come.



More to Come!

Beyond this first offering of coins from the SS *Republic*, additional coins have been recovered and include numerous gold eagles, gold double eagles, graded silver half dollars and even a few quarters, nearly all dating between the 1840s and 1865. Unlike other recently discovered shipwrecks, a wide variety of dates and mints have been noted in this find.

Based on the pieces recovered, which have been professionally conserved by Numismatic Conservation Services (NCS) and graded and encapsulated by Numismatic Guaranty Corporation (NGC), this collection includes several of the finest-known examples of United States silver coins from the period. The "numismatic collection" from the SS *Republic* contains coins that are indistinguishable from coins that have never been underwater.