

2024 – The Year in Review Liberty Seated Dollars by Dick Osburn, LSCC # 717

My gut feeling before writing this was that this was a strong year for Seated Dollars. However, I attended very few shows, so I decided to get some data to verify my feeling.

It turns out that 2024 was relatively quiet for Liberty Seated Dollar auctions. The two major auction houses, Heritage and Stacks-Bowers, offered a total of 704 Seated Dollars in their 2024 auctions. Among these 19 different dates were represented by 10 or fewer examples, and 10 dates by 5 or fewer. If you were looking to fill out a Seated Dollar set it was a tough year.

The dates with 5 or less appearances: 1851, 1852, 1854, 1855, 1858, 1859, 1866 no motto, 1870-S, 1871-CC, and 1873-CC. 1866 No Motto and 1870-S are no surprise – neither of these prohibitively rare dates were offered in 2024. The others are as expected except for 1859. Only 4 examples were auctioned during 2024, and two of these were proofs. I've always considered this a very underrated date. This data is another confirmation. 1858 was another mild surprise. As a proof-only date, the survival rate is much higher than many others in the 1850's. They are usually available if your pocketbook can afford them. It's surprising that only 3 were offered in 2024. And even though it's a proof-only date, most collectors consider this a part of the set.

Two of the four CCs were among those seldom offered in 2024 – the 1871-CC with just two offerings, and the 1873-CC with four. All those offered were graded as problem coins except for one 1871. If you're looking for a problem-free original example of either of these dates, you'll have to be patient.

Prices were strong for problem-free coins, and solid even for those that were details graded. CAC stickered and CACG graded coins were strongest, with a few of the scarce to rare dates bringing some amazing prices. Only common dates were available at what I'd consider reasonable prices. High grade coins were available for nearer to what price guides would indicate than the lower grades. Problem-free low to mid-grade examples of the scarcer dates are nearly impossible to find.

I expect 2025 to continue these trends. More new collectors are finding this series, and it only takes a few to drive the prices to new highs. The auction picture looks bright. The first two months of 2025 will see a large number of Seated Dollars auctioned, including more problem-free examples of the rare dates than we saw all of last year. If you're building a problem-free set it may be time to talk to your banker!!

A final note, just for comparison. The two major auction houses offered a total of 28,708 Morgan dollars in 2024, including 19 examples of the 1895 and 116 of the 1893-S. Compare this to the Seated Dollar total of 704 for ALL dates. Enough said!!!