

Liberty Seated Coinage at the 1993 FUN Convention

It was no surprise to observe a very limited supply of scarce and rare date Liberty Seated material at the recent FUN Convention in Orlando. While common date and problem coins from the Liberty Seated series will always be available at such large shows, desirable specimens of the scarce and rare dates appear to be almost never available. Yet, despite the lack of choice Liberty Seated material, my overall experience at the show was great. There seemed to be a more positive attitude and more enthusiasm than I have seen over the past year among the many dealers and collectors attending the show.

Among the Liberty Seated half dimes that I saw on the bourse floor were an 1850-0 Small o in XF and two 1853-0 No Arrows coins in Good. The Seated dimes of note were an 1846 in XF, an 1859-S in Gem VF, several examples of the 1860-0 in grades from Good to Fine, a choice Fine 1865, an 1872-CC in VG and an 1873-CC in AG. Also available were a damaged 1864-S quarter, an 1871-CC quarter, a nice example of the rare 1878-S half dollar in Fine and an 1861 dollar in AU.

It appears to me that there are still many underrated dates in the Liberty Seated series in the period of the 1860s. I believe that this is especially true for Philadelphia and San Francisco dimes of this period. I also feel that many of the rare date Seated quarters are still quite underrated and in many cases under priced when considering the great difficulty in locating them. The difficulty in obtaining examples of the rare Carson City coinage in all Seated series was evident at the convention with very few examples being available for purchase by the interested collector.

Although there was a limited number of choice Liberty Seated coins available at the show, I was able to purchase some nice Seated dimes for my collection. I did find that there were plenty of collectors willing to pay a good price for nice Seated material when it becomes available. The problem seems to be the small number of nice original pieces now circulating around the rare coin market. But then again, the search is part of the great fun of collecting coins.

Jason L. Carter
LSCC #1426