

# Auction Appearances of the Scarce to Extremely Rare Liberty Seated Coinage from the Carson City Mint

by  
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The Carson City Mint is best known among Liberty Seated specialists for the rarity of the dime through silver dollar issues produced between 1870 and 1874. It is largely the rarity of these issues that makes assembling a collection of these denominations such a difficult and challenging task. This is especially the case if the goal is to assemble sets in higher grades, since many of the early Carson City issues are commonly found in grades of Good to Very Good with only a handful of examples known in grades of Extremely Fine or higher.

The premier rarities are the unique 1873-CC No Arrows dime and the 1873-CC No Arrows quarter for which only three to four pieces are known to exist (Rubin, 1987). These are followed by the 1876-CC twenty cent piece for which 16 to 18 examples have been traced, mostly in Uncirculated (Breen, 1988). While not as rare as these, there are numerous other Carson City issues that are legitimately scarce to extremely rare. These include the 1871-CC to 1874-CC dimes, 1870-CC to 1873-CC quarters, 1870-CC to 1874-CC and 1878-CC half dollars and the 1870-CC to 1873-CC silver dollars. Without doubt, these issues are the hallmark of any collection of the Liberty Seated dime through dollar denominations, and to varying degrees can be very difficult to obtain. In higher grades, such as About Uncirculated and Uncirculated, many of these issues are extremely rare and may take years to acquire. For example, the total number of surviving examples of the 1872-CC quarter has been estimated to range from 60 to 167 (Barr, 1988). In Uncirculated, however, the 1872-CC is probably an R-8 to possibly nonexistent, and easily surpasses the 1876-CC twenty cent piece in terms of rarity in Uncirculated.

All of these issues, of course, are not equally rare even in higher grades. Obviously, there are far fewer surviving examples of the 1874-CC dime, with a mintage of 10,817, than the 1872-CC half dollar, with a mintage of 257,000. As a collector of the CC mint issues, therefore, I have developed an interest in examining the relative scarcity of the different dates and denominations in an effort to determine their availability in various grades.

To accomplish this goal, auction appearances over the 18 year period from 1972 to 1989 were tabulated from Rome's Auction Prices Realized and the results used as the basis for the study. Although limited to just one segment of the coin market, given the number of auctions surveyed and the period covered, the results should provide a reasonably accurate view of the availability and relative rarity of the key date Carson City issues. This is especially the case if the survey results are used in conjunction with other sources of information such as population data from the LSCC member surveys and one's own collecting experiences.

As with any source of numismatic information, a survey of auction appearances includes some inherent biases. Some of these result from the reporting policies of Rome's Prices Realized. For example, auction appearances of coins grading below Very Good are not included. Likewise, coins described as damaged in the lot descriptions are also excluded. Consequently, the actual number of auction appearances in the survey period may be higher than reported, due to the exclusion of the low grade and damaged coins. Conversely, not all the auction appearances of a given

date are necessarily different coins. In higher grades several individual coins made two or more appearances on the auction market. The results, therefore, are not a true sample, in a statistical sense, of the total population of surviving examples.

Auctions also tend to attract a higher proportion of choice, high grade coins and rarer dates. More common coins, such as the 1872-CC half dollar and lower grade coins, will tend to appear on the retail market rather than be offered at auctions. This factor will also tend to skew the results toward higher grade coins. To illustrate this, the mean grade of the 42 examples of the 1871-CC dime reported herein is VF-32. In comparison, the mean grade for 25 examples recorded in a survey conducted by the author of 250 consecutive issues of *Coin World* was 13.5. In reviewing the survey results, therefore, the reader should bear in mind the source of information and the inherent biases. Nevertheless, the survey should be useful to the collector in planning future acquisitions of these rare dates, and in helping establish their relative scarcity.

### Survey Results

In the 1972-1978 Silver Edition of *Rome's Prices Realized*, there were no occurrences listed for either the 1872-CC quarter or 1873-CC Liberty Seated dollar. Review of auction catalogs from the period, however, revealed several auction appearances of undamaged specimens of both issues. Consequently, it appears that the 1872-CC quarter and 1873-CC dollar were inadvertently omitted during the compilation of the Silver Edition.

The survey records for these two issues are not, therefore, directly comparable to the other coins in the survey. To partially overcome this difficulty and still retain the comparative value of the survey, the results are presented in two tables. Table 1 covers the entire period from 1972 - 1989 while the Table 2 covers just the period from 1979 - 1989. Table 2, therefore, provides a meaningful comparison between the 1872-CC quarter and 1873-CC dollar relative to the other issues. In addition, although covering a shorter period, Table 2 also provides some insight into the more recent availability of the scarce to extremely rare "CC" mint issues.

Tables 1 and 2 list the number of occurrences recorded for each date in the grades reported in *Rome's Auction Prices Realized*, the total occurrences, and the computed average grade. Although *Rome's Auction Prices Realized* differentiates between Uncirculated, Choice Uncirculated and Gem Uncirculated, due to the tremendous changes in grading standards that occurred during this period, it was deemed advisable to simply list all of these under a single heading as Uncirculated.

The only coin that did not appear on the auction market during this period was the unique 1873-CC No Arrows dime. All the remaining issues were offered during the survey period, including three occurrences of the 1873-CC No Arrows quarter and 17 appearances of the 1876-CC twenty cent piece.

The only date that was not offered in Uncirculated was the 1872-CC quarter, although as noted above this issue was omitted from the listings for the period 1972 - 1978. This is followed by the 1870-CC and 1873-CC WA quarters, with one appearance each in Uncirculated. In all, 10 of the 21 issues had fewer than 5 appearances in Uncirculated and 13 of the 21 had 10 or fewer examples offered in Uncirculated. This tends to illustrate the overall rarity of the early CC mint issues in Uncirculated, and

Table 1. — Auction Appearances of the Scarce to Extremely Rare Liberty Seated Coinage from the Carson City Mint, 1972 - 1989.

	Very Good	Fine	Very Fine	Extremely Fine	About Uncirculated	Uncirculated	Total Occurrences	Average Grade
<b>Dimes</b>								
1871-CC	9	2	9	17	2	3	42	31.7
1872-CC	2	16	19	16	1	2	56	25.0
1873-CC WA	12	13	19	12	2	4	62	23.4
1874-CC	3	2	13	3	1	4	26	27.6
<b>Twenty Cent Piece</b>								
1876-CC	0	0	2	2	2	11	17	51.8
<b>Quarters</b>								
1870-CC	5	7	8	3	0	1	24	19.3
1871-CC	7	5	4	2	3	3	24	25.2
1872-CC (1)	11	7	9	2	1	0	30	16.1
1873-CC NA	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	60.0
1873-CC WA	4	7	5	4	0	1	21	20.8
<b>Half Dollars</b>								
1870-CC	17	6	6	6	2	7	44	24.7
1871-CC	7	14	28	19	10	9	87	29.7
1872-CC	12	8	42	33	20	13	129	32.0
1873-CC NA	7	10	19	11	9	16	72(2)	33.4
1873-CC WA	2	4	20	18	16	23	83(2)	40.5
1874-CC	5	6	6	12	16	11	56	38.8
1878-CC	8	7	9	10	10	21	65	38.3
<b>Dollars</b>								
1870-CC	25	15	55	71	43	30	240	34.5
1871-CC	12	8	17	22	9	6	74	30.0
1872-CC	16	7	27	25	19	19	113	34.0
1873-CC (1)	2	5	6	8	3	4	28	32.4

(1) Does not include auction appearances for the period 1972 - 1978 (see text)

(2) Does not include auction appearances that did not specify NA or WA

Table 2. — Auction Appearances of the Scarce to Extremely Rare Liberty Seated Coinage from the Carson City Mint, 1979 - 1989.

	Very Good	Fine	Very Fine	Extremely Fine	About Uncirculated	Uncirculated	Total Occurrences	Average Grade
<b>Dimes</b>								
1871-CC	6	1	6	9	1	1	24	27.1
1872-CC	2	5	11	9	0	0	27	24.3
1873-CC WA	5	8	8	7	1	1	30	22.9
1874-CC	1	1	8	1	1	4	16	31.9
<b>Twenty Cent Piece</b>								
1876-CC	0	0	2	1	2	7	12	50.0
<b>Quarters</b>								
1870-CC	1	6	5	3	0	0	15	20.0
1871-CC	3	3	3	1	2	1	13	24.6
1872-CC	11	7	9	2	1	0	30	16.1
1873-CC NA	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	60.0
1873-CC WA	2	5	3	3	0	1	14	22.0
<b>Half Dollars</b>								
1870-CC	8	3	4	3	0	2	20	21.0
1871-CC	3	9	16	13	4	3	48	28.2
1872-CC	5	6	27	17	10	4	69	30.0
1873-CC NA	5	7	11	8	5	6	42(1)	30.3
1873-CC WA	0	3	11	12	5	13	44(1)	40.1
1874-CC	3	4	4	10	6	6	33	36.7
1878-CC	8	7	5	6	4	4	34	27.3
<b>Dollars</b>								
1870-CC	18	13	46	49	24	13	163	31.7
1871-CC	10	4	10	10	5	3	42	27.6
1872-CC	13	6	18	18	10	8	73	30.6
1873-CC	2	5	6	8	3	4	28	32.4

(1) Does not include auction appearances that did not specify NA or WA.

the extreme difficulty that can be encountered in acquiring choice high grade specimens of these dates.

The remainder of this paper is devoted to a discussion of the survey results for each of the five denominations. Of necessity the discussions are somewhat abbreviated due to limitations on space, however, where appropriate reference is made to earlier population studies by LSCC members and others.

### 1871-CC to 1874-CC Dimes

The 1874-CC dime appeared far less frequently than the 1871-CC to 1873-CC dimes and, with the exception of the 1873-CC No Arrows dime, is the premier rarity among the Carson City dimes. Of the 26 examples that were reported in Rome's Auction Prices Realized, 18 were in grades of Very Fine or lower with only three appearances in Extremely Fine, one in About Uncirculated and four in Uncirculated. Although the 1874-CC appeared a total of four times in Uncirculated, not a single Uncirculated example was offered during the 10 year period from 1972 to 1981. Following this, an Uncirculated example appeared in the Munoz IV sale by Superior in 1982, a coin later sold by Stack's as part of the Allen F. Lovejoy Collection in 1990. Other Uncirculated examples include a specimen offered by Superior in 1987 as part of the Buddy Ebsen Collection and two appearances of the Norweb coin, sold by Bowers and Merena in October 1987 and November, 1989.

In grades of Extremely Fine or higher, Gray (1988) lists the 1874-CC in Rarity Plateau I and the results of the auction survey certainly support this rating. Ahwash (1977) lists the date as a high R-7 in Uncirculated, however, Breen (1988) lists the date as "extremely rare" and reports only 6 to 8 are known in all grades. Based on the auction survey, and even assuming that half the auction appearances are duplicate offerings, the results would suggest that the survival figures reported by Breen are somewhat conservative. Breen also reports that numerous forgeries have been produced and the reader should refer to McCloskey (1980) for a full discussion of the die characteristics of this date.

The 1871-CC dime occurred a total of 42 times over the 18 year period and was second to the 1874-CC in fewest number of appearances. The average grade for all examples was 31.7 with three examples in Uncirculated and two in About Uncirculated. Like the 1874-CC, several years can pass between appearances of high grade specimens. In the case of the 1871-CC, an Uncirculated example was auctioned in 1977 and 11 years passed before the next Uncirculated example was offered in 1988. During the most recent five year period, 1985 to 1989, only five examples were offered in grades of Extremely Fine or higher. These included three examples in Extremely Fine and one each on About Uncirculated and Uncirculated. The AU example was from the Norweb Collection auctioned by Bowers and Merena in October 1987 and graded AU-58 to MS-60, prooflike. The coin realized \$12,100 with the 10 percent buyers fee. This same coin was subsequently graded Uncirculated, and offered in the RARCOA session of Auction '88 where it realized \$13,200 with the 10 percent buyers fee.

The average grade of the 56 appearances of the 1872-CC dime was 25.0. This date most frequently appeared in Very Fine and 53 of the 56 examples were in Extremely Fine or lower. Throughout the survey period there was only one appearance of this date in About Uncirculated and two appearances in Uncirculated. In AU and Uncirculated the 1872-CC was offered less frequently than any of the other early CC

mint dimes. While certainly more common than the other dates in lower grades, this date appears to be underrated in higher states of preservation. Among the early Carson City mint issues, this is just one of several dates in which a missed opportunity to acquire a high grade specimen may be followed by a decade or more before another opportunity occurs.

The 1873-CC dime appeared a total of 62 times in the survey period; more frequently than the other three early CC mint dimes, including the higher mintage 1872-CC. The average grade, however, was 23.4 and this was the lowest average grade of the four dime issues examined. The 1873-CC occurred most frequently in Very Fine and 56 of the 62 appearances were in grades of Extremely Fine or lower. In Uncirculated, Kagin's offered an example in the 1973 "Sale of the 70's" auction. Following this, the Harry X Boosel specimen was offered by RARCOA in their April, 1972 sale and this coin was subsequently offered in Superior's ANA sale in August 1975. In October, 1990 this same coin was sold by Stack's as part of the Allen F. Lovejoy Collection. The other Uncirculated example listed in Tables 1 and 2 is the Norweb specimen presented by Bowers and Merena in October, 1987 and graded MS-64. This coin realized a record price of \$61,600 with the 10 percent buyers fee. As with the other dates, the 1873-CC is extremely rare in higher states of preservation and is likely an R-8 in Uncirculated.

### 1876-CC Twenty Cent Piece

The 1876-CC twenty cent piece is one of the classic rarities in American numismatics and numerous papers have been written regarding this coin. There were 17 auction appearances of the 1876-CC twenty cent piece during the survey period including two examples each in Very Fine, Extremely Fine and About Uncirculated, and 11 examples in Uncirculated. Specimens of the 1876-CC appeared on the auction market with some regularity, and no more than two years elapsed between auction appearances during the 18 year survey period. As reported by Breen (1988), most of the estimated 16 to 18 surviving examples are in Uncirculated; a finding which is certainly reflected by the auction records.

### 1870-CC to 1873-CC Quarters

The 1873-CC No Arrows quarter was offered three times during the survey period. The first example was a part of the James A. Stack sale conducted by Stack's in 1975. The piece, described as Gem Uncirculated, realized \$80,000. The second piece was from the Norweb Collection, auctioned by Bowers and Merena, and realized \$88,000. For a complete description of the latter piece the reader is referred to Briggs (1989). A third example, not listed in *Rome's Prices Realized*, was offered by New England Rare Coin Auctions in 1980, and was a resale of the James A Stack specimen.

The 1870-CC, 1871-CC and 1873-CC quarters all occurred at approximately the same frequency during the survey period. All three of these issues are rare, and in higher circulated grades and in Uncirculated they are all extremely rare. Hatfield (1976), Briggs (1984) and Ash (1985) in establishing rarity plateaus for the Liberty Seated quarters, provide a perspective on the relative rarity of these issues. Barr (1988)

provides estimates of the total number of the 1870-CC to 1873-CC quarters surviving in all grades.

These three issues also occurred at approximately the same frequency during the period from 1979 - 1989. In contrast the 1872-CC appeared a total of 30 times during this period, or approximately twice the frequency of the other issues. Interestingly, the relative frequency of appearance of the four issues over this 11 year period was very similar to the frequency of appearance reported by Barr (1988) in a three year survey of the retail market. The results would suggest that the 1870-CC, 1871-CC and 1873-CC WA quarters are all of about equal rarity in all grades, while the 1872-CC is somewhat more available.

The 1870-CC quarter is generally considered to be the rarest of the four issues. During the survey period there were 24 occurrences of this date with an average grade of 19.3. This issue occurred most frequently in Very Fine, with eight examples offered during the 18 year period. Of the 24 occurrences, 20 were in grades of Very Fine or less with 3 pieces offered in Extremely Fine and one piece in Uncirculated. The Uncirculated example was from Stack's sale of the H. Phillip Speir Collection and Other Consignments, formerly the R. L. Miles, Jr. specimen, and realized a price of \$5,250 in 1974. Obviously, high grade examples of this issue only rarely appear on the market, and in Extremely Fine or better not a single example was offered during the nine year period from 1975 to 1983. In all conditions, both Hatfield (1976) and Briggs (1984) placed the 1870-CC in Rarity Plateau I. In grades of Very Fine to About Uncirculated, Ash (1985) also placed the 1870-CC in Plateau I. Breen (1988) describes the coin as very rare in all grades and "prohibitively rare" in Uncirculated. Breen also notes that forgeries of this date exist and the reader should refer to Briggs (1983) for a detailed discussion of the die characteristics of the 1870-CC quarter.

Like the 1870-CC, the 1871-CC also appeared 24 times in the auction survey. The average grade was 25.2 and 16 of the 24 examples were in grades of Very Fine or lower. Although this date was the most frequently occurring of the quarters in About Uncirculated and Uncirculated, this result is somewhat misleading. All three of the appearances in AU are the R. L. Miles, Jr. Specimen, sold by Stack's, R.L. Miles Jr. Collection, April, 1969. Last catalogued and offered by Stack's in June, 1985, this same coin was auctioned by Stack's in March, 1979 and by Bowers and Ruddy in June, 1976 in The Willing/E. A. Carson Collections. Uncirculated examples offered during the survey period include the James A. Stack specimen offered by Stack's in March, 1975, and subsequently offered in the Reed Hawn sale by Stack's in March, 1977 (Jelinski and Simons, 1979). The most recent appearance in Uncirculated was the Norweb coin, described as Choice Brilliant Uncirculated by Bowers and Merena, which realized \$26,800 in March, 1988. Thus, the six appearances of the 1871-CC in AU and Uncirculated represent only three different coins; the R. L. Miles, Jr. specimen in AU and the James A. Stack and Norweb specimens in Uncirculated. Noting that forgeries of this date likely exist, McCloskey (1986) provides a full description of the die characteristics of this date.

Although more available in all grades, in the author's opinion, the 1872-CC quarter is extremely underrated in higher grades. During the period from 1979 - 1989 there were 30 auction appearances of this date; approximately twice the frequency of the 1870-CC, 1871-CC and 1873-CC WA quarters. While the 1872-CC quarter is certainly not as rare as the other three issues, in grades of Extremely Fine and higher the 1872-CC occurred less frequently than the 1871-CC and 1873-CC WA. During the entire 11 year period this date did not make a single appearance in Uncirculated,

only the Norweb coin was offered in About Uncirculated and two pieces appeared in Extremely Fine. The paucity of examples in higher grades resulted in an average grade of 16.1, the lowest of the five quarter issues examined in this paper. White (1989) even speculates as to whether the 1872-CC quarter even exists in Uncirculated, and based on the survey results this speculation appears to be well founded. Based on the results of the auction survey, clearly the 1872-CC is a great rarity in grades of About Uncirculated and higher and appears to merit a Rarity Rating of at least R-8 to possibly nonexistent in Uncirculated.

There were 21 appearances of the 1873-CC WA quarter, the lowest of the regular issue quarters examined. During the entire 18 year period there was only one example offered in Uncirculated. This was the Norweb specimen which realized \$44,000 in 1988. Aside from this one Uncirculated piece, there were no examples in About Uncirculated and only four examples offered in Extremely Fine. There was a six year span from 1977 to 1982 during which not a single example was offered in Extremely Fine and only two examples were offered in Very Fine. The issue most frequently appeared in Fine and the average grade of the 21 examples was 20.8.

### 1870-CC to 1874-CC and 1878-CC Half Dollars

Of the seven CC mint half dollars examined, the 1870-CC occurred with the lowest frequency and had the lowest average grade of 24.7. Among the half dollars, the 1870-CC also had the lowest number of appearances in grades of Extremely Fine and higher. Based on the work by Wiley (1988) regarding the "Louisiana Hoard", it appears that many of the pieces offered during the early part of the survey period were purchased by the same individual and held off the market. In part, this could help explain the low frequency of appearance of this issue.

The 1870-CC was followed by the 1874-CC and 1878-CC half dollars with 56 and 65 auction appearances during the survey period, respectively. Both are comparatively low mintage issues relative to the 1871-CC to 1873-CC half dollars and, as expected, occurred less frequently. The 1874-CC appeared about half as frequently as the 1878-CC in Uncirculated. However, this is somewhat misleading since the occurrences of the 1878-CC were not uniformly distributed over the survey period. Eighteen of the 21 occurrences of the 1878-CC in Uncirculated were offered during the period from 1972 to 1979. During the 10 year period from 1980 to 1989 there were only three pieces auctioned in Uncirculated and three in About Uncirculated. During this same period, there were six examples of the 1874-CC in Uncirculated and six in About Uncirculated. Based, therefore, on the most recent 10 year period in the survey, both the 1874-CC and 1878-CC appeared relatively infrequently in Uncirculated, with several years elapsing between appearances.

In all grades, the 1871-CC, 1872-CC and 1873-CC half dollars occurred in approximate proportion to their original mintages. The 1872-CC with the highest mintage of these issues also occurred with the highest frequency. The 1873-CC With Arrows variety occurred somewhat less frequently than its relatively high mintage of 214,560 would suggest. Also noteworthy is the relatively infrequent appearance of the 1871-CC in Uncirculated. Only nine examples were offered during the eighteen year period, less than the much lower mintage 1874-CC and 1878-CC issues.

Although space does not allow a full discussion of each of these dates, it was noted that the number of examples of the 1871-CC to 1873-CC halves offered in



About Uncirculated and Uncirculated generally declined during the last half of the survey period. This is illustrated in Table 3 below, which differentiates between the occurrences of the four issues in About Uncirculated and Uncirculated during the periods 1972 - 1980 and 1981 - 1989.

**Table 3:** Auction Appearances of the 1871-CC to 1873-CC Liberty Seated Half Dollars in About Uncirculated and Uncirculated During the Periods 1972-1980 and 1981-1989.

Dates	About Uncirculated 1972-1980	About Uncirculated 1981-1989	Uncirculated 1972-1980	Uncirculated 1981-1989
1871-CC	8	2	6	3
1872-CC	13	7	10	3
1873-CC NA	4	7	12	4
1873-CC WA	11	5	10	13

In general, it is apparent that opportunities to acquire high grade examples of these issues have only occasionally occurred over the past nine years. It was also noted that during the most recent five year period from 1985 to 1989, there was only one appearance of the 1873-CC NA and two appearances each of the 1871-CC and 1872-CC in Uncirculated. Although certainly much more available than the early CC mint dimes and quarters, these dates are nevertheless very scarce in choice condition and can be very difficult to obtain in Uncirculated grades.

### 1870-CC to 1873-CC Liberty Seated Dollars

The occurrences of the 1870-CC to 1872-CC Liberty Seated Dollars ranged from a low of 74 for the 1871-CC issue to a high of 240 for the 1870-CC. The 1870-CC was by far the most frequently offered issue covered by the survey and appeared almost twice as many times as the 1872-CC half dollar, the next most frequently occurring issue in the survey. Of the 240 examples offered, 144 were in grades of Extremely Fine or higher, and 30 were in Uncirculated. Even during the latter half of the survey period, the 1870-CC appeared with regularity in higher grades, and was readily available to the interested collector.

The 1871-CC and 1872-CC issues occurred a total of 74 and 113 times during the survey period, respectively. In both cases, a relatively high percentage of the specimens offered at auction were in grades of Extremely Fine or higher. Specifically, 50 percent of the 1871-CC dollars and 56 percent of the 1872-CC dollars offered during the survey period were in grades of Extremely Fine or higher. There was, however, a pronounced decline in the number of 1871-CC dollars offered in higher grades from 1985 to 1989. During this period, there were only two appearances in Uncirculated, and one appearance each in About Uncirculated and Extremely Fine. By comparison, the 1872-CC was offered three times each in Uncirculated and About Uncirculated and 10 times in Extremely Fine. At least in lower grades both issues appeared regularly throughout the entire survey period; not a single year elapsed without at least one example of each date appearing on the auction market.

As listed in Table 2, the 1873-CC occurred a total of 28 times during the period from 1979 to 1989. By comparison, there were 42 appearances of the 1871-CC during this period. This supports the generally accepted view that the 1873-CC is the scarcer of the two issues. The average grade of the 28 examples of the 1873-CC was 32.4 with 15 of the 28 examples recorded in the survey in grades of Extremely Fine or higher. As with several other issues, there was a marked decline in the number of high grade examples offered during the last five years of the survey. In the case of the 1873-CC dollar, there was only one appearance each in Uncirculated, About Uncirculated and Extremely Fine during this period.

### Summary

The purpose of this paper was to provide information on the relative availability of the scarce to extremely rare Liberty Seated issues from the Carson City Mint. To accomplish this, a survey was made of auction appearances over the 18 year period from 1972 to 1989. Although the results most certainly contain some biases, the survey should provide a reasonably accurate perspective on the availability of the key date CC mint issues on the auction market. Hopefully, the survey also provides the CC Mint collector with some information on the relative rarity of these issues in various grades.

Clearly, the results of the auction survey indicate that many of these issues are extremely difficult to obtain in any grade, and only occasionally appear on the auction market. Among the dimes and quarters, several years may pass without a single example of some dates appearing on the auction market. In higher circulated grades and Uncirculated, many of the 21 issues examined are extremely rare, and literally a decade or more may elapse between auction appearances. Taken together, the CC mint issues represent a considerable challenge to the collector attempting to complete a set of any of the Liberty Seated dime through dollar denominations.

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