

Briggs Encyclopedia of Liberty Seated Quarters Now Available

The Liberty Seated quarter series runs from 1838 to 1891 and has long been known to contain a large number of rare and underrated dates. But it is my feeling that collector interest in Seated quarters has been greatly hampered for many years by the lack of a comprehensive reference work on this series. This problem has been solved by the recent release of "The Comprehensive Encyclopedia of United States Liberty Seated Quarters" by Larry Briggs. This new book has been well researched and contains a wealth of new information never before available on the Seated quarter series. There are enlarged pictures of the obverse and reverse of every date in the series as well as descriptions of all of the known obverse and reverse dies used to strike the Seated quarters. There are also several hundred close up pictures of specific varieties showing mintmark placements, date placements and other assorted die scratches, die cracks and die defects. Nowhere has as much valuable information on the Seated quarter series been assembled into one comprehensive work. This effort is destined to become a valuable reference on the series and is bound to stimulate interest and collector awareness in this long overlooked series of rare date coins of the 19th century.

The most valuable contribution that this book makes is that it provides a standard reference work on the series. The collector can now take the pieces in his collection and compare their characteristics with the pictures provided in this book. This will immediately identify the date placement and mintmark size and placement for the genuine coins in the series. This information will be invaluable in identifying counterfeit specimens and give the collector confirmation of specific die characteristics seen on genuine specimens. While this work is well researched, it is inevitable that new varieties will be discovered following the release of this book. The book will thus provide the basis for extending the available knowledge of the quarter series and let the collector know when he has encountered a coin that has not been previously described in the literature on the series. There is no question that this book signals the beginning of a new and exciting era in the collecting of the Seated quarter dollars of the 19th century.

The author has also provided valuable information on the rarity and strike of the different dates in the series. Rarity estimates are given for various circulated grades and for coins in uncirculated condition. Strike characteristics are provided to help the collector determine whether the quality of a particular specimen is typical of those pieces that he might likely encounter. This information is especially helpful for those dates which have notoriously bad strikes and are seldom if ever available with sharp detail. While some of the rarity ratings and strike qualities are bound to be revised with more experience in the series, this book makes an invaluable contribution by providing a base reference from which adjustments can be made.

The new encyclopedia of Liberty Seated quarters is a necessity for any collector of the Seated quarter series. It is the first comprehensive reference work dedicated specifically to Seated quarters and is destined to take its place among the standard reference books on United States coinage.

The Editor