

## Greer Book on Liberty Seated Dimes Now Available

Liberty Seated dimes were struck over a period of 55 years beginning with the introduction of the no stars obverse variety in 1837. These coins circulated throughout the United States for a major part of the 19th century and served the country well as a source of small change. Yet very little had been written on these coins more than a century after they had been struck at the US mint. Only within the last 20 years have numismatic scholars studied this series and published valuable information on rarity, provided documentation on the existence of many varieties and identified die characteristics to authenticate many of the rare dates in the series. However, it has been my opinion that the series has suffered for many years because of the lack of a comprehensive reference work which would help the collector make informed purchasing decisions on the series. I am pleased to announce that I feel this problem has been solved. The available knowledge on Seated dimes has been collected, studied, expanded and carefully analyzed in an important new book on the series. "The Complete Guide to Liberty Seated Dimes" by Brian Greer is a valuable reference book on Seated dimes that was released to the numismatic public in July 1992. It adds a wealth of new information not previously available on this beautiful series of 19th century dimes and presents much of it in charts and tables that are easy to use. The book is well organized, clearly written and contains invaluable information on the series gathered by the author over a period of many years from his extensive studies of Seated dimes.

The new book by Brian Greer takes a very different approach to the series than that used by Kam Ahwash when he published the "Encyclopedia of Liberty Seated Dimes" in 1977. Ahwash attempted to list as many varieties as possible, provide large clear pictures of each variety and present documentation on how to tell them apart. Greer does not attempt to list all of the known die varieties for each date but he does provide a full obverse and reverse picture of every date in the series. Furthermore he provides close up pictures of over 125 varieties in the series showing mostly key features for the identification of recut date varieties, doubled die varieties and blundered die varieties. Some of these varieties have never before been published and the book presents valuable documentation of these varieties for the interested collector.

But the most valuable contribution of the book lies in the research done by the author in gathering rarity data for each date in the series. Greer provides rarity ratings in four grades from G-VG to MS for all dates and major varieties in the series. This information will help the collector identify coins that are particularly rare in certain grades and provide him with the knowledge to make more informed purchases within the series. Striking characteristics are also provided for many dates in the series so that the collector can determine if a specimen that he is considering for purchase is typical of those pieces available of this date.

I have also found the price history given in the book to be particularly valuable. Coin World Trends prices are given in four grades from Good to Mint State at four intervals over a 28 year period from 1963 to 1991. This information allows the reader to examine the price changes of each date by grade in recent years so that he can better assess the stability and price growth for a specific date. Some dates have shown steady price increases while others have shown limited price growth since 1963.

Also of interest to the reader would be the table showing the population statistics for certified coins by date from the grading services, tables listing all of the mintmark size variations known for each date from the New Orleans and San Francisco mints and the tables listing the rarest dates in specific grades. Overall the new guide to the Liberty Seated dime series by Brian Greer is a valuable contribution to the literature on the dime series and must reading for any collector with an interest in Seated dimes.

The Editor