

A Coin World Survey of Liberty Seated Dimes, 1987 to 1992

by

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Over a period of five and a half years I made a list of all the Liberty Seated dimes listed for sale in Coin World ads to document the relative availability of the many dates in this series of United States coins. During the period from January 1987 to August 1992, I recorded the contents of 1457 ads from 159 dealers which contained offerings of Liberty Seated dimes. Every ad was compared to previous ads from the same dealer and all duplicate listings were eliminated. It is recognized that this procedure might eliminate some duplicates that a dealer would have in stock, but I felt that this recording method would not significantly alter the results.

The major advantage of this recording technique is that it provides a more accurate estimate of the actual number of coins available. The results of my Coin World survey are given in Table I. The frequency of availability is given for each date in six circulated grades, in four mint state grades, and in proof condition. Surprisingly, this study showed that only 9745 coins were offered for sale during the entire five and a half year period. Previous Coin World surveys have been conducted on the dime series but availability is known to change with time as some issues become more popular or price adjustments make some issues more attractive for sale or purchase. This survey thus represents the latest available tabulation of coins offered for sale to the general public through *Coin World* ads.

This tabulation clearly demonstrates just how rare most of the early dates are in mint state grades. In fact, many of the rarities in the series are infrequently available in grades of XF or higher. This gets me to my own interest in the AU grade. In AU condition I found that 15 dates were not offered even once during this five and a half year period and that an additional 36 dates were offered five times or fewer, a frequency of less than once a year. It is no wonder that choice Seated material is in demand.

Table 2 presents a listing of the twenty least available dates in the series, ranked in the order of availability. This list includes 12 San Francisco mint issues, the four early Carson City mint issues, three Philadelphia mint issues and one New Orleans mint issue. All of these dates are difficult to find in mint state condition except for the two Civil War issues from the Philadelphia mint which are very hard to locate in circulated grades. In fact, the 1863 and 1867 dates are the only two in the entire series where 50% or more of the coins offered for sale were in proof condition.

Table 2 also provides a comparison of availability ranking from the two most recent surveys on the Seated dime series. Rarity rankings are included for my top twenty from the 1990 Coin World availability survey by R.E. Jones and the 1990 LSCC member survey. This comparison shows that 13 of the dates in my top 20 were similarly ranked in the Jones survey while 15 of the dates in my top 20 were among the 20 dates least reported in the LSCC survey. All three

surveys had the 1874-CC as the rarest date in the Seated dime series. The 1885-S continues to be the least available San Francisco mint issue and holds down the second spot in terms of availability in *Coin World* ads. The 1853-O continues to be the least available New Orleans issue through *Coin World* ads even though a relatively large number of examples of this date are in the hands of LSCC members. The 1841 was the only date in my top twenty that was not ranked at least as scarce in either of the two previous surveys. Only one date from the top ten in the Jones survey did not appear in my top twenty. This was the 1876-S which appears to be more available in the current market than it was during the time of the Jones survey in the mid-1980s. Finally, it should be mentioned that the low mintage 1864, 1865 and 1866 dates were among the ten least available dates reported in the LSCC member survey that did not make my list of top twenty dates. This is most likely caused by the number of expensive mint state and proof specimens on the market that can be purchased for a price.

Table 1
 Liberty Seated Dimes
 Coin World Advertisements
 January 1987 to August 1992

Date	Total	G	VG	F	VF	XF	AU	MS	MS	MS	MS	PF
								60-61	62-63	64-65	66-68	
1837	230	23	30	21	26	44	39	2	18	16	7	4
1838-O	106	29	23	10	23	12	6	-	2	1	-	-
1838	166	13	28	15	23	32	22	13	6	10	2	2
1839	48	-	4	4	8	12	8	3	1	3	3	2
1839-O	67	20	15	6	11	7	4	1	1	2	-	-
1840 ND	61	4	12	11	9	7	12	3	1	2	-	-
1840 WD	46	4	10	15	8	8	-	-	1	-	-	-
1840-O	57	6	20	8	5	8	8	2	-	-	-	-
1841	38	10	4	4	7	8	4	-	-	-	1	-
1841-O	82	17	14	13	17	12	5	2	1	-	1	-
1842	61	9	14	5	14	12	4	-	2	1	-	-
1842-O	60	9	11	16	8	12	3	-	1	-	-	-
1843	62	5	11	10	16	12	3	3	2	-	-	-
1843-O	55	9	12	11	21	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
1844	77	14	12	23	24	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
1845	88	7	13	13	18	18	12	1	3	3	-	-
1845-O	91	15	18	8	28	22	-	-	-	-	-	-
1846	76	12	15	23	21	4	-	-	-	-	-	1

Date	Total	G	VG	F	VF	XF	AU	MS 60-61	MS 62-63	MS 64-65	MS 66-68	PF
1847	51	7	3	15	10	8	5	-	1	2	-	-
1848	86	13	18	12	16	7	10	5	3	1	-	1
1849	65	6	11	18	8	12	7	1	-	2	-	-
1849-O	112	11	6	13	45	27	8	-	2	-	-	-
1850	98	5	9	17	19	26	13	3	2	4	-	-
1850-O	51	8	7	14	11	10	-	-	-	1	-	-
1851	53	5	4	15	11	11	3	1	2	1	-	-
1851-O	58	7	6	9	17	15	3	-	1	-	-	-
1852	65	2	8	14	18	15	2	2	2	1	1	-
1852-O	68	9	8	20	17	7	6	-	1	-	-	-
1853 NA	78	10	8	13	19	13	5	-	4	5	1	-
1853 WA	273	3	7	19	41	61	52	26	34	23	7	-
1853-O	31	2	3	9	9	6	1	-	-	1	-	-
1854	104	3	6	10	25	33	17	-	4	5	1	-
1854-O	64	4	2	12	15	12	11	1	3	2	2	-
1855	57	1	2	11	16	10	6	4	1	2	3	1
1856	160	6	13	30	39	38	14	9	6	-	2	3
1856-O	65	5	8	12	20	7	8	3	1	1	-	-
1856-S	27	2	7	6	9	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
1857	134	3	4	18	35	28	28	10	4	3	-	1
1857-O	107	6	15	11	21	17	22	5	6	2	2	-
1858	87	3	4	11	18	17	9	8	5	5	4	3
1858-O	50	4	6	8	11	11	5	4	-	1	-	-
1858-S	39	3	5	12	10	8	1	-	-	-	-	-
1859	85	3	3	5	12	12	7	2	4	3	8	26
1859-O	89	8	6	11	14	14	21	5	5	3	2	-
1859-S	41	8	5	13	13	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
1860-S	64	3	10	11	23	13	2	1	1	-	-	-
1860	71	-	1	2	9	16	5	5	13	6	-	14

Date	Total	G	VG	F	VF	XF	AU	MS 60-61	MS 62-63	MS 64-65	MS 66-68	PF
1860-O	45	3	15	13	10	3	1	-	-	-	-	-
1861	68	1	1	7	14	22	8	4	5	2	-	4
1861-S	24	2	3	3	9	4	2	-	-	1	-	-
1862	66	-	1	7	8	8	8	10	6	3	-	15
1862-S	28	1	3	4	10	8	2	-	-	-	-	-
1863	40	-	3	3	1	3	-	1	5	2	-	22
1863-S	48	4	7	8	19	5	2	-	3	-	-	-
1864	68	2	6	13	4	3	5	7	8	2	-	18
1864-S	56	2	9	14	18	9	-	3	-	1	-	-
1865	51	3	8	7	6	3	3	3	1	-	2	15
1865-S	48	2	3	9	22	9	1	-	2	-	-	-
1866	45	1	2	3	4	6	2	3	5	1	-	18
1866-S	25	-	5	7	6	5	1	-	1	-	-	-
1867	32	-	1	-	1	1	-	-	8	3	2	16
1867-S	33	1	5	4	11	7	3	-	-	2	-	-
1868	71	5	3	14	7	11	1	1	3	-	-	26
1868-S	41	3	5	6	7	13	4	1	2	-	-	-
1869	60	-	2	13	17	6	-	-	1	1	-	20
1869-S	77	1	6	7	25	19	7	3	6	3	-	-
1870	69	1	2	3	5	8	12	4	3	4	-	27
1870-S	38	-	1	7	13	7	3	3	1	3	-	-
1871	54	-	3	8	12	6	5	1	2	-	1	16
1871-S	44	1	1	6	17	13	3	-	3	-	-	-
1871-CC	29	6	5	11	3	3	-	1	-	-	-	-
1872	106	-	10	8	22	32	11	3	4	1	-	15
1872-S	41	1	8	8	11	6	3	1	3	-	-	-
1872-CC	35	4	6	4	15	6	-	-	-	-	-	-
1873 NA	146	8	16	19	43	32	12	2	3	-	1	10
1873 WA	228	7	23	23	55	43	42	10	6	3	-	16
1873-S	78	11	11	9	20	11	8	4	4	-	-	-
1873-CC	37	10	7	8	4	7	-	-	-	1	-	-
1874	235	17	20	18	42	48	21	22	9	7	3	28
1874-S	44	3	1	4	15	9	6	1	2	3	-	-

Date	Total	G	VG	F	VF	XF	AU	MS 60-61	MS 62-63	MS 64-65	MS 66-68	PF
1874-CC	9	2	4	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1875	196	1	12	9	33	45	37	14	15	5	1	24
1875-S	86	4	4	13	11	22	16	6	8	2	-	-
1875-CC	139	2	7	20	22	34	21	12	12	8	1	-
1876	187	2	4	13	15	33	44	24	15	8	4	25
1876-S	56	3	4	9	12	10	7	3	7	1	-	-
1876-CC	146	14	15	18	15	27	16	10	22	6	3	-
1877	76	1	2	8	13	18	10	5	2	3	-	14
1877-S	45	-	1	5	11	6	11	2	2	7	-	-
1877-CC	91	7	5	8	18	19	15	5	4	9	1	-
1878	73	-	2	4	10	8	12	11	5	5	-	16
1878-CC	54	7	5	12	9	12	5	1	-	3	-	-
1879	118	-	1	4	12	6	5	10	21	10	2	47
1880	151	5	12	6	15	23	9	5	14	10	4	48
1881	88	1	6	4	9	10	6	8	8	2	-	34
1882	140	-	3	7	12	10	27	22	11	15	5	28
1883	152	1	4	9	14	31	39	8	6	18	4	18
1884	153	-	-	9	23	18	18	20	12	17	8	28
1884-S	70	3	7	6	23	16	11	1	2	1	-	-
1885	124	2	3	6	12	22	22	9	11	14	-	23
1885-S	11	1	3	1	2	-	2	-	1	1	-	-
1886	166	1	3	8	22	20	42	15	15	11	2	27
1886-S	44	-	1	9	14	6	6	3	4	1	-	-
1887	230	4	6	10	25	53	42	23	16	15	2	34
1887-S	113	-	4	8	27	24	21	11	4	10	4	-
1888	118	2	-	5	18	21	28	12	8	7	-	17
1888-S	65	8	6	5	18	18	6	2	2	-	-	-
1889	152	1	3	10	23	28	30	17	7	9	-	24
1889-S	100	8	8	12	24	18	19	8	1	2	-	-
1890	184	3	2	13	23	41	32	19	19	12	2	18
1890-S	70	1	8	8	15	13	14	3	8	-	-	-
1891	245	3	3	15	29	50	42	40	29	16	1	17
1891-O	116	10	6	17	19	25	15	8	13	3	-	-
1891-S	63	1	2	5	18	11	15	5	3	2	1	-

Table 2
The Least Available Liberty Seated Dimes
Coin World Advertisements
January 1987 to August 1992

RANK	DATE	TOTAL	G-VG	F-VF	XF-AU	MS		PRF	1990	1990
						60-63	64-68		C.W. SURVEY RANK	LSCC SURVEY RANK
1.	1874-CC	9	6	3	-	-	-	-	1	1
2.	1885-S	11	4	3	2	1	1	-	2	22
3.	1861-S	24	5	12	6	-	1	-	3	13
4.	1866-S	25	5	13	6	1	-	-	6	12
5.	1856-S	27	9	15	3	-	-	-	19	11
6.	1862-S	28	4	14	10	-	-	-	4	20
7.	1871-CC	29	11	14	3	1	-	-	14	2
8.	1853-O	31	5	18	7	-	1	-	10	57
9.	1867	32	1	1	1	8	5	16	5	3
10.	1867-S	33	6	15	10	-	2	-	8	28
11.	1872-CC	35	10	19	6	-	-	-	21	7
12.	1873-CC	37	17	12	7	-	1	-	25	4
13.	1870-S	38	1	20	10	4	3	-	15	14
14.	1841	38	14	11	12	-	1	-	58	55
15.	1858-S	39	8	22	9	-	-	-	13	19
16.	1863	40	3	4	3	6	2	22	9	6
17.	1872-S	41	9	19	9	4	-	-	36	15
18.	1859-S	41	13	26	1	1	-	-	57	16
19.	1868-S	41	8	13	17	3	-	-	26	18
20.	1871-S	44	2	23	16	3	-	-	28	21