

# Results of the 1993 Liberty Seated Quarter Survey

by

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During the fall of 1993, a Seated Quarter Survey form was sent to all club members asking them to report all of the coins from this series that they currently owned. The survey form was returned by 103 club members who reported a total of 3937 coins from this series. I would like to take this opportunity to thank every club member who took the time to fill in the survey form and return it for inclusion in the survey results. It is only through the efforts of those members participating in the survey that articles of this kind can be successful.

First, it should be mentioned that this survey does not represent a random selection of available coins in the Seated quarter series. In many cases rare dates and varieties will be over represented because collectors will often buy extra examples of Seated rarities when they become available. Furthermore, some errors are bound to be made in the recording of varieties on the survey form in spite of every participant's good intentions to be accurate in listing the varieties in their collections. Despite these limitations, this survey provided very good information on the rarity of many varieties. Several interesting varieties have been known for a number of years and their rarity seems to be holding up. Others have only recently been discovered and it will take some time to determine a true rarity rating for these.

A total of 3937 coins was reported in the survey, but only 83 of these were listed in uncirculated condition. There were 56 pieces reported in grades of MS-60/62 and 27 pieces reported in grades of MS-63+ . A complete listing of the number of pieces reported for each date by grade is being compiled and will be published in the next issue of the journal. The purpose of this summary is to provide a rarity scale for each date in the series and to identify the rarity of important varieties in the series. Tables have been compiled for each mint listing the rarity of each date in rank order. Furthermore, these totals were broken down by variety for those dates with listed varieties on the survey form. When no variety is identified for a given part of the total, it implies that these pieces have not been attributed to any of the specifically identified varieties for this year.

The table for the Philadelphia dates confirms many of the rarity ratings that have been established over the years. The 1842 Small Date turned out to be the least reported of the Philadelphia dates. This date is recognized as a very rare proof only issue in the series. The second rarest issue in the Philadelphia series was the 1853/53 No Arrows date. This again is a recognized rarity among the Philadelphia issues. Other dates that ranked very high were the low mintage 1886 and 1887 issues as well as the difficult to obtain 1866 and 1869 issues.

Among the varieties in the Philadelphia issues, the least reported varieties were the recently identified doubled die obverse varieties for 1855, 1856, 1858 and 1861. It is likely that additional examples of these varieties will surface when collectors more closely examine the coins in their collections. Other rare varieties would include the 1856 with an extra 5 in the shield, the recently discovered 1863 1/1 and the 1891 with an extra 89 in the denticles.

**Philadelphia Mint Issues  
Rarity by Date**

Rank	Date	Frequency	Rank	Date	Frequency
1.	1842 Sm Dt	1	30.	1857	34
2.	1853/53 NA	12	31.	1870	34
3.	1873 NA Cl 3	13	32.	1880	34
4.	1842 Lg Dt	15	33.	1849	35
5.	1886	16	34.	1846	37
6.	1887	16	35.	1865	38
7.	1869	17	36.	1844	40
8.	1851	18	37.	1879	41
9.	1866	18	38.	1860	42
10.	1868	18	39.	1839	44
11.	1888	18	40.	1873 Arr	44
12.	1873 NA Op 3	20	41.	1878	45
13.	1883	20	42.	1838	47
14.	1885	20	43.	1843	49
15.	1852	21	44.	1862	53
16.	1881	23	45.	1855	55
17.	1884	23	46.	1877	55
18.	1882	25	47.	1847	56
19.	1889	25	48.	1859	57
20.	1863	26	49.	1872	57
21.	1840	27	50.	1845	58
22.	1841	27	51.	1891	60
23.	1867	27	52.	1875	62
24.	1871	27	53.	1858	68
25.	1874	28	54.	1856	73
26.	1864	30	55.	1876	80
27.	1890	30	56.	1861	81
28.	1850	33	57.	1854	103
29.	1848	34	58.	1853 A&R	167

**Philadelphia Mint Issues  
Rarity by Variety**

Date	Variety	Frequency	Date	Variety	Frequency
<b>1838</b>	.....	<b>Total 47</b>	<b>1839</b>	.....	<b>Total 44</b>
	1838 Open Claws .....	38		1839 Closed Claws .....	22
	1838 Closed Claws.....	9		1839 Reverse of 1838 .....	18
				1839 Very Long Claws .....	4

**Philadelphia Mint Issues  
Rarity by Variety**

Date	Variety	Frequency	Date	Variety	Frequency
<b>1841</b>		<b>Total 27</b>	<b>1845</b>		<b>Total 58</b>
	1841	21		1845	38
	1841 Doubled Die Rev.	6		1845/5	20
<b>1846</b>		<b>Total 37</b>	<b>1847</b>		<b>Total 56</b>
	1846	25		1847	28
	1846/46	12		1847 Compass Point Rev.	8
				1847 Doubled Die Rev.	8
				1847/7 Doubled Die Rev.	4
				1847 Extra 8 in Rock	7
				1847/7	1
<b>1848</b>		<b>Total 34</b>	<b>1849</b>		<b>Total 35</b>
	1848/1848	25		1849	20
	1848 Triple 1, Double 8	9		1849 Compass Point Rev.	15
<b>1850</b>		<b>Total 33</b>	<b>1852</b>		<b>Total 21</b>
	1850	23		1852	19
	1850 Extra 1 in Rim	10		1852/52	2
<b>1853 Arrows &amp; Rays</b>		<b>Total 167</b>	<b>1854</b>		<b>Total 103</b>
	1853	139		1854 Arrows	91
	1853/54	26		1854 Compass Point Rev.	12
	1853/853 Doubled Die Obv.	2			
<b>1855</b>		<b>Total 55</b>	<b>1856</b>		<b>Total 73</b>
	1855	46		1856	62
	1855 Compass Point Rev.	7		1856 Compass Point Rev.	7
	1855 Doubled Die Obv.	2		1856/56 Recut South	2
				1856/6 Doubled Die Obv.	1
				1856 Extra 5 in Shield	1
<b>1857</b>		<b>Total 34</b>	<b>1858</b>		<b>Total 68</b>
	1857	27		1858	58
	1857 Recut 5	4		1858 Compass Point Rev.	9
	1857 Compass Point Rev.	3		1858 Doubled Die Obv.	1
<b>1859</b>		<b>Total 57</b>	<b>1860</b>		<b>Total 42</b>
	1859	4		1860	7
	1859 Type 1 Obv, Type 1 Rev.	33		1860 Type 2 Obv, Type 1 Rev.	23
	1859 Type 1 Obv, Type 2 Rev.	7		1860 Type 2 Obv, Type 2 Rev.	12
	1859 Type 2 Obv, Type 2 Rev.	13			

**Philadelphia Mint Issues  
Rarity by Variety**

Date	Variety	Frequency	Date	Variety	Frequency
<b>1861</b>		<b>Total 81</b>	<b>1863</b>		<b>Total 26</b>
	1861	26		1863	25
	1861 Type 2 Obv, Type 1 Rev.	7		1863 1/1	1
	1861 Type 2 Obv, Type 2 Rev.	43			
	1861 6/6	4			
	1861 Doubled Die Obv.	1			
<b>1865</b>		<b>Total 38</b>	<b>1868</b>		<b>Total 18</b>
	1865	24		1868	17
	1865 1/1	14		1868 Triple 1, Double 8	1
<b>1869</b>		<b>Total 17</b>	<b>1872</b>		<b>Total 57</b>
	1869	12		1872	34
	1869 Doubled Die Obv.	5		1872 Extra 8 in Denticles	23
<b>1875</b>		<b>Total 62</b>	<b>1876</b>		<b>Total 80</b>
	1875 Type 1 Rev.	39		1876 Type 1 Rev.	27
	1875 Type 2 Rev.	19		1876 Type 2 Rev.	42
	1875 1/1	4		1876 Extra 6 Between 76	3
				1876/76 South	3
				1876 Recut 6 Inside	2
				1876 Extra 18 in Denticles	3
<b>1882</b>		<b>Total 25</b>	<b>1883</b>		<b>Total 20</b>
	1882	22		1883	19
	1882 18/18	3		1883 Extra 83 in Denticles	1
<b>1886</b>		<b>Total 16</b>	<b>1887</b>		<b>Total 16</b>
	1886 Strong LIBERTY	8		1887 Die Scratch in Shield	15
	1886 Mushy LIBERTY	8		1887 Proof	1
<b>1891</b>		<b>Total 60</b>			
	1891	59			
	1891 Extra 89 in Denticles	1			



For the New Orleans issues, the 1842-O Small Date ranked first in order of rarity. This date was closely followed in rarity by the 1849-O, 1851-O and 1852-O issues, all difficult dates to find in any grade. In uncirculated condition, all New Orleans mint issues are rare, including the 1853-O for which fewer than a dozen specimens are known in true mint state. The least reported varieties among the New Orleans issues would be the recently discovered 1847-O with the mintmark to the right and the 1853-O over horizontal O. Several long recognized varieties have remained hard to find. These include the 1840-O With Drapery with the Large O mintmark, the 1853-O with the filled O mintmark, the 1843-O Large O and the 1854-O Huge O.

**New Orleans Mint Issues  
Rarity by Date**

Rank	Date	Frequency	Rank	Date	Frequency
1.	1842-O Sm Dt	13	11.	1856-O	40
2.	1851-O	17	12.	1857-O	40
3.	1852-O	17	13.	1844-O	41
4.	1849-O	19	14.	1841-O	43
5.	1855-O	22	15.	1858-O	43
6.	1891-O	26	16.	1860-O	44
7.	1847-O	29	17.	1843-O	49
8.	1850-O	30	18.	1840-O	50
9.	1859-O	32	19.	1854-O	54
10.	1842-O Lg Dt	40	20.	1853-O	68

**New Orleans Mint Issues  
Rarity by Variety**

Date	Variety	Frequency	Date	Variety	Frequency
<b>1840-O</b>		<b>Total 50</b>	<b>1841-O</b>		<b>Total 43</b>
	1840-O No Drapery	15		1841-O	33
	1840-O With Drapery, Small O	29		1841-O Doubled Die Obv.	10
	1840-O With Drapery, Large O	6			
<b>1843-O</b>		<b>Total 49</b>	<b>1847-O</b>		<b>Total 29</b>
	1843-O Small O	37		1847-O Mintmark Left	18
	1843-O Large O	12		1847-O Mintmark Centered	9
				1847-O Mintmark Right	2
<b>1853-O</b>		<b>Total 68</b>	<b>1854-O</b>		<b>Total 54</b>
	1853-O	60		1854-O	39
	1853-O Filled O	6		1854-O Huge O	12
	1853-O O over horizontal O	2		1854-O Crumbled Obv. Die	3
<b>1860-O</b>		<b>Total 44</b>			
	1860-O	35			
	1860-O Broken O	9			

The 1860-S turned out to be the least reported date among the San Francisco mint issues. This date was closely followed in rarity by the 1871-S, 1872-S and 1878-S issues. The three rarest San Francisco dates in the higher grades were the 1859-S, 1860-S and 1864-S. Among varieties, the recently discovered 1858-S with mintmark to the left remained unique among reported coins. It also appears that among 1873-S quarters, the Small Open S variety is much rarer than the Small Squat S variety.

### San Francisco Mint Issues Rarity by Date

Rank	Date	Frequency	Rank	Date	Frequency
1.	1860-S	12	13.	1856-S	26
2.	1872-S	13	14.	1873-S	27
3.	1878-S	14	15.	1857-S	28
4.	1871-S	15	16.	1862-S	28
5.	1866-S	17	17.	1858-S	30
6.	1867-S	18	18.	1874-S	31
7.	1864-S	20	19.	1855-S	38
8.	1861-S	21	20.	1888-S	41
9.	1869-S	22	21.	1891-S	45
10.	1859-S	23	22.	1875-S	46
11.	1865-S	23	23.	1877-S	60
12.	1868-S	25	24.	1876-S	61

### San Francisco Mint Issues Rarity by Variety

Date	Variety	Frequency	Date	Variety	Frequency
<b>1856-S</b> .....		<b>Total 26</b>	<b>1858-S</b> .....		<b>Total 30</b>
1856-S .....		20	1858-S Mintmark Right .....		7
1856-S/S .....		6	1858-S Mintmark Centered ....		22
			1858-S Mintmark Left .....		1
<b>1869-S</b> .....		<b>Total 22</b>	<b>1873-S</b> .....		<b>Total 27</b>
1869-S Circular Crack on Obv.		12	1873-S Small Squat S .....		22
1869-S No Crack on Obv. ....		10	1873-S Small Open S .....		5
<b>1875-S</b> .....		<b>Total 46</b>	<b>1876-S</b> .....		<b>Total 61</b>
1875-S Type 1 Rev. ....		19	1876-S Type 1 Rev.....		13
1875-S Type 2 Rev. ....		27	1876-S Type 2 Rev, Medium S .		23
			1876-S Type 2 Rev, Med. Small S		25
<b>1877-S</b> .....		<b>Total 60</b>	<b>1888-S</b> .....		<b>Total 41</b>
1877-S Medium S .....		41	1888-S Strong LIBERTY .....		25
1877-S Medium Small S .....		19	1888-S Mushy LIBERTY .....		16

The rarest date among the Carson City issues was the 1873-CC No Arrows date. Only two coins of this date were reported, one an unverified coin in an AG grade. As expected, the coins from the first four years of operation in Carson City were the rarest dates from this Western mint. Carson City coins from the later years were scattered among the different varieties listed for these years.

### Carson City Mint Issues Rarity by Date

Rank	Date	Frequency	Rank	Date	Frequency
1.	1873-CC NA	2	6.	1875-CC	35
2.	1873-CC WA	9	7.	1878-CC	53
3.	1870-CC	12	8.	1877-CC	70
4.	1871-CC	15	9.	1876-CC	76
5.	1872-CC	17			

### Carson City Mint Issues Rarity by Variety

Date	Variety	Frequency	Date	Variety	Frequency
<b>1876-CC</b>		<b>Total 76</b>	<b>1877-CC</b>		<b>Total 70</b>
	1876-CC Type 1 Rev, Small CC	25		1877-CC Small CC	16
	1876-CC Type 1 Rev, Large CC	11		1877-CC Large CC	40
	1876-CC Type 2 Rev, Small CC	18		1877/77-CC	9
	1876-CC Type 2 Rev, Large CC	17		1877/77/77-CC	5
	1876-CC 6/6 Type 1 Rev.	2			
	1876-CC Doubled Die Obv.	3			
<b>1878-CC</b>		<b>Total 53</b>			
	1878-CC	41			
	1878-CC Cancelled Obv.	12			

The Liberty Seated quarter series is the most challenging of the Seated series to collect because of the many rare dates in the series. Hopefully this survey has provided some insight into the availability of the different dates in the series. Anyone wishing to make further comments on the survey or the Seated quarter series in general is encouraged to write to me as follows: Larry Briggs, P.O. Box 187, Lima, Ohio 45802.

