

Grade Analysis of 1993 Seated Quarter Survey Data

by

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Last fall LSCC members were sent a survey form and asked to report the date and grade of all Seated quarters in their possession. This survey form was returned by 103 club members who reported a total of 3937 coins in the series. A rarity analysis of the important varieties in the series was presented in Issue #59 of the journal. The purpose of this article is to present a listing of each date by grade as prepared from the survey data.

Before presenting the survey data for grade analysis it should be mentioned that two errors in addition were made in the data prepared for Issue #59 of the journal. The total number of 1840-O No Drapery coins reported was 40 instead of the 15 listed in the last issue. This corrected figure makes the 1840-O No Drapery coins more common than the With Drapery specimens of this date, a relationship more in line with my personal experiences. This makes the corrected total number of 1840-O quarters reported equal to 75. Also, the total number of 1857 quarters reported should have been 71 instead of the listed figure of 34 given in Issue #59. Again this corrected figure of 71 is more in line with my experiences for the relative rarity of this date in the series. Table 1 provides a listing of each date in the series by frequency and grade with the two corrections made in the originally reported totals. This table should help the collector better understand the relative rarity of each date by grade. But it should be kept in mind that this listing does not represent a random sampling of pieces available for each date in the series. The higher grades will tend to be over represented because the collector will seek out for purchase the best pieces that are available, or at least the best that he can afford to buy. A study of the survey forms indicates that most members attempting to complete a set of Seated quarters will buy pieces in the range from VF to AU when these coins are available. A relatively small number of pieces in the higher circulated grades will indicate that coins in these grades are not often available to the collector of this series.

The information contained in Table 1 cannot be fully appreciated without a summary of the grade distribution for each date in the series. Two methods of summary are provided. The Average Sheldon Numerical Grade is obtained by picking a Sheldon number to represent the middle of each circulated grade given in Table 1, multiplying this number by the frequency of its grade, adding over all grades and then dividing by the total number of circulated pieces reported for the date. Proof and Mint State specimens were not included in the calculation of the Average Grade because this measure is intended to compare distributions in circulated condition. This Average Sheldon Numerical Grade has been calculated for each date in the series. This score is useful in comparing the grade distribution across dates but it has its limitations in representing the center of the grade distribution for each date. This problem is created because the Sheldon scale is not linear across the grade range, with a wider range of points representing the higher grades. For this reason the Median Grade is calculated for each date. The Median Grade is that grade such that at least half of the reported pieces are at that grade or higher while at least half of the reported pieces are at that grade or lower. This measure gives the middle grade of the pieces reported for each date.

Table 1

Date	Total	AG-G 2-7	VG-F 8-19	VF 20-39	XF 40-49	AU 50-59	MS 60-63+	PRF 60+
1838	47	9	11	11	15	1	-	-
1839	44	4	11	16	10	3	-	-
1840	27	1	10	9	5	2	-	-
1840-O	75	5	21	22	21	6	-	-
1841	27	10	3	6	5	3	-	-
1841-O	43	6	16	8	7	6	-	-
1842	16	2	3	4	5	2	-	-
1842-O SD	13	2	3	5	2	1	-	-
1842-O LD	40	5	13	12	7	3	-	-
1843	49	11	8	9	13	6	2	-
1843-O	49	6	13	13	14	3	-	-
1844	40	3	8	12	10	7	-	-
1844-O	41	3	9	13	10	6	-	-
1845	58	2	13	16	15	11	1	-
1846	37	4	2	11	17	3	-	-
1847	56	6	13	15	14	7	1	-
1847-O	29	1	12	11	5	-	-	-
1848	34	4	9	6	11	3	1	-
1849	35	2	7	12	11	3	-	-
1849-O	19	4	8	3	3	1	-	-
1850	33	3	8	6	12	4	-	-
1850-O	30	2	8	11	7	2	-	-
1851	18	1	2	3	10	1	1	-
1851-O	17	1	9	4	3	-	-	-
1852	21	1	6	8	3	3	-	-
1852-O	17	-	8	6	2	1	-	-
1853 NA	12	-	5	2	3	-	2	-
1853 WA	167	36	34	38	33	22	2	2
1853-O	68	14	19	14	17	3	1	-
1854	103	12	25	28	28	7	3	-
1854-O	54	6	20	14	10	4	-	-
1855	55	1	7	26	18	3	-	-
1855-O	22	4	7	7	4	-	-	-
1855-S	38	4	18	6	8	2	-	-
1856	73	4	20	21	24	4	-	-
1856-O	40	3	11	12	11	3	-	-
1856-S	26	5	8	8	1	3	1	-
1857	71	2	16	23	18	11	1	-
1857-O	40	6	12	12	7	2	1	-

Date	Total	AG-G 2-7	VG-F 8-19	VF 20-39	XF 40-49	AU 50-59	MS 60-63+	PRF 60+
1857-S	28	3	9	5	6	4	1	-
1858	68	3	14	23	24	4	-	-
1858-O	43	3	8	14	15	3	-	-
1858-S	30	7	10	7	6	-	-	-
1859	57	-	10	22	19	5	-	1
1859-O	32	2	7	10	10	3	-	-
1859-S	23	3	8	8	3	1	-	-
1860	42	4	7	9	16	4	2	-
1860-O	44	3	9	17	10	4	1	-
1860-S	12	-	6	2	3	1	-	-
1861	81	9	11	20	29	8	4	-
1861-S	21	3	4	6	7	1	-	-
1862	53	3	14	11	16	7	-	2
1862-S	28	4	12	4	7	1	-	-
1863	26	3	7	11	4	1	-	-
1864	30	2	9	5	8	4	1	1
1864-S	20	4	8	5	2	1	-	-
1865	38	5	9	6	9	7	1	1
1865-S	23	1	8	8	6	-	-	-
1866	18	2	3	5	6	1	1	-
1866-S	17	1	4	7	5	-	-	-
1867	27	2	6	10	3	1	2	3
1867-S	18	2	5	9	1	1	-	-
1868	18	2	3	5	5	2	-	1
1868-S	25	5	7	8	4	-	1	-
1869	17	-	2	6	5	2	-	2
1869-S	22	4	6	3	8	1	-	-
1870	34	3	11	8	10	2	-	-
1870-CC	12	2	6	2	1	1	-	-
1871	27	3	4	6	11	3	-	-
1871-S	15	-	6	4	3	2	-	-
1871-CC	15	4	4	3	4	-	-	-
1872	57	1	17	20	11	7	1	-
1872-S	13	1	4	3	4	-	1	-
1872-CC	17	2	8	5	1	1	-	-
1873 NA	33	5	4	12	9	1	1	1
1873-CC NA	2	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
1873 WA	44	5	11	10	13	2	2	1
1873-S	27	1	11	6	6	3	-	-
1873-CC WA	9	3	5	1	-	-	-	-

Date	Total	AG-G 2-7	VG-F 8-19	VF 20-39	XF 40-49	AU 50-59	MS 60-63+	PRF 60+
1874	28	6	8	8	4	1	1	-
1874-S	31	5	8	13	3	2	-	-
1875	62	8	12	13	21	5	1	2
1875-S	46	-	16	18	6	6	-	-
1875-CC	35	3	12	6	6	3	5	-
1876	80	13	18	26	16	7	-	-
1876-S	61	5	11	22	10	10	3	-
1876-CC	76	6	22	20	16	6	6	-
1877	55	2	16	20	10	6	-	1
1877-S	60	6	17	18	6	10	3	-
1877-CC	70	13	19	15	15	4	4	-
1878	45	5	13	9	11	5	1	1
1878-S	14	1	2	3	4	3	1	-
1878-CC	53	6	17	13	10	5	2	-
1879	41	3	11	10	12	3	-	2
1880	34	1	4	5	14	4	3	3
1881	23	3	10	3	5	-	2	-
1882	25	2	5	7	7	-	4	-
1883	20	1	3	6	5	1	2	2
1884	23	2	5	8	5	3	-	-
1885	20	-	3	2	9	1	2	3
1886	16	-	4	5	4	3	-	-
1887	16	-	4	6	3	1	1	1
1888	18	1	3	3	6	3	-	2
1888-S	41	6	9	8	6	12	-	-
1889	25	-	7	9	7	2	-	-
1890	30	-	6	10	8	6	-	-
1891	60	5	17	11	15	7	2	3
1891-O	26	4	13	4	4	1	-	-
1891-S	45	6	16	6	12	4	1	-

Philadelphia Mint Issues

Table 2 presents the Philadelphia mint issues in rank order by rarity together with a summary of the grade distributions for each date. This table shows that the middle grade for most dates in the Philadelphia series is in the VF range. The rarest date of the Philadelphia issues would be the 1853/53 No Arrows quarter. This elusive date is very difficult to obtain in any grade and has virtually vanished from the market in recent years. The top fifteen dates in rarity in the Philadelphia series include the 1851 and 1852 dates. My experience with these two issues indicate that they are both very scarce, but they are not rare. Most of the other dates in the top fifteen in

rarity are the low mintage issues of the 1880s. When available, these dates can usually be obtained in the higher circulated grades resulting in relatively high average numerical grades. The exception seems to be the 1881 date which has the lowest average numerical grade of the Philadelphia dates. This date has the fewest number of pieces reported in the VF to AU range for any of the Philadelphia issues of the 1880s.

One issue that did not surprise me by its relative rarity and its low Median Grade was the 1874 With Arrows date. I have found this date to be very elusive at times, yet it is very modestly priced. I would have to say that the 1874 quarter is one of the most underrated of the Philadelphia dates in the series.

Table 2
Philadelphia Mint Issues

Rank	Date	Total Number of Pieces	Median Grade	Average Sheldon Numerical Grade
1.	1853 NA	12	low VF	26.00
2.	1842	16	high VF	31.25
3.	1886	16	high VF	33.93
4.	1887	16	medium VF	29.92
5.	1869	17	high VF	35.63
6.	1851	18	low XF	36.44
7.	1866	18	high VF	30.50
8.	1868	18	medium VF	31.08
9.	1888	18	low XF	35.28
10.	1883	20	medium VF	31.18
11.	1885	20	medium XF	36.96
12.	1852	21	medium VF	29.45
13.	1881	23	high Fine	21.88
14.	1884	23	medium VF	30.36
15.	1882	25	medium VF	28.30
16.	1889	25	medium VF	31.22
17.	1863	26	low VF	25.57
18.	1840	27	low VF	27.27
19.	1841	27	low VF	24.02
20.	1867	27	medium VF	26.04
21.	1871	27	low XF	33.24
22.	1874	28	high Fine	22.35
23.	1864	30	high VF	30.42
24.	1890	30	high VF	35.30
25.	1850	33	high VF	31.83

Rank	Date	Total Number of Pieces	Median Grade	Average Sheldon Numerical Grade
26.	1873 NA	33	medium VF	28.56
27.	1848	34	medium VF	29.38
28.	1870	34	medium VF	28.00
29.	1880	34	medium XF	37.39
30.	1849	35	high VF	31.72
31.	1846	37	low XF	34.85
32.	1865	38	high VF	30.63
33.	1844	40	high VF	32.55
34.	1879	41	medium VF	29.60
35.	1860	42	low XF	32.70
36.	1839	44	medium VF	28.32
37.	1873 WA	44	medium VF	28.13
38.	1878	45	medium VF	28.48
39.	1838	47	low VF	26.28
40.	1843	49	medium VF	28.26
41.	1862	53	high VF	31.77
42.	1855	55	high VF	33.38
43.	1877	55	medium VF	29.38
44.	1847	56	medium VF	29.46
45.	1859	57	high VF	33.96
46.	1872	57	medium VF	30.26
47.	1845	58	high VF	33.16
48.	1891	60	medium VF	29.55
49.	1875	62	high VF	30.31
50.	1858	68	high VF	31.86
51.	1857	71	high VF	32.44
52.	1856	73	medium VF	30.05
53.	1876	80	low VF	27.02
54.	1861	81	high VF	32.53
55.	1854	103	medium VF	27.63
56.	1853 WA	167	low VF	27.05

New Orleans Mint Issues

Table 3 presents the New Orleans dates in rank order by rarity and also presents the grade statistics for these issues. For the most part, the average grades for the New Orleans issues are lower than those of the Philadelphia issues, indicating that these coins were widely used in circulation. The top six coins on this list are the key New Orleans dates for the series. The 1891-O quarter has the lowest average grade for the New Orleans issues, supporting its claim as a rare date in the higher circulated grades. The 1849-O date has the second lowest reported average grade. This issue has long been recognized as a rare date in the Seated quarter series that is difficult to locate in the higher grades.

Table 3
New Orleans Mint Issues

Rank	Date	Total Number of Pieces	Median Grade	Average Sheldon Numerical Grade
1.	1842-O SD	13	low VF	26.19
2.	1851-O	17	medium Fine	22.21
3.	1852-O	17	low VF	25.21
4.	1849-O	19	medium Fine	21.18
5.	1855-O	22	high Fine	22.59
6.	1891-O	26	low Fine	20.92
7.	1847-O	29	low VF	24.60
8.	1850-O	30	medium VF	28.73
9.	1859-O	32	medium VF	31.46
10.	1842-O LD	40	low VF	25.67
11.	1856-O	40	medium VF	29.23
12.	1857-O	40	low VF	24.71
13.	1844-O	41	medium VF	31.47
14.	1841-O	43	low VF	25.96
15.	1858-O	43	high VF	31.75
16.	1860-O	44	medium VF	30.22
17.	1843-O	49	low VF	28.01
18.	1854-O	54	low VF	25.43
19.	1853-O	68	low VF	24.30
20.	1840-O	75	medium VF	29.55

San Francisco Mint Issues

The rarity and grade statistics are provided for the San Francisco mint issues in Table 4. Average grade values for the San Francisco issues are generally lower than for the Philadelphia issues, again indicating that these coins circulated widely in the western states during the 19th century. The 1860-S date tops the rarity list of San Francisco mint issues and is very difficult to obtain in higher grades. The 1872-S seems to be on everyone's want list and is another date that is very difficult to find. The 1878-S date is scarce but more often available in higher circulated grades. The 1864-S quarter has the lowest average grade of any of the San Francisco mint issues. This issue has long been recognized as a rare date in the series that is very difficult to locate in higher circulated grades.

Table 4

San Francisco Mint Issues

Rank	Date	Total Number of Pieces	Median Grade	Average Sheldon Numerical Grade
1.	1860-S	12	high Fine	27.33
2.	1872-S	13	low VF	27.08
3.	1878-S	14	low XF	35.50
4.	1871-S	15	low VF	29.43
5.	1866-S	17	medium VF	28.67
6.	1867-S	18	low VF	24.50
7.	1864-S	20	medium Fine	20.85
8.	1861-S	21	medium VF	29.07
9.	1869-S	22	low VF	27.18
10.	1859-S	23	low VF	23.71
11.	1865-S	23	medium VF	26.76
12.	1868-S	25	low VF	22.12
13.	1856-S	26	high Fine	22.98
14.	1873-S	27	low VF	28.16
15.	1857-S	28	low VF	28.42
16.	1862-S	28	high Fine	23.71
17.	1858-S	30	medium Fine	21.33
18.	1874-S	31	low VF	24.40
19.	1855-S	38	high Fine	23.76
20.	1888-S	41	high VF	31.84
21.	1891-S	45	low VF	26.64
22.	1875-S	46	medium VF	29.15
23.	1877-S	60	medium VF	28.06
24.	1876-S	61	high VF	31.20

Carson City Mint Issues

The rarity ranking and grade statistics for the Carson City issues are given in Table 5. The rarest Carson City date is certainly the 1873-CC No Arrows quarter. But this date is so rare that it is unobtainable by most collectors of the series. Only two examples of this date were reported, one an uncirculated specimen and the other an unverified AG specimen. For this reason this date was not included in the rarity scale and no grade statistics were calculated. The rarest obtainable Carson City date would be the 1873-CC With Arrows quarter with a total of nine specimens reported. This issue has the lowest average grade of any date in the quarter series and is very difficult to obtain in higher grades. All four of the early Carson City dates are very rare with low average grades indicating extensive circulation in the early west.

Table 5
Carson Clty Mint Issues

Rank	Date	Total Number of Pieces	Median Grade	Average Sheldon Numerical Grade
-	1873-CC NA	2	-	-
1.	1873-CC WA	9	low VG	12.27
2.	1870-CC	12	low Fine	20.66
3.	1871-CC	15	medium Fine	22.56
4.	1872-CC	17	medium Fine	21.38
5.	1875-CC	35	low VF	26.10
6.	1878-CC	53	low VF	26.73
7.	1877-CC	70	low VF	24.89
8.	1876-CC	76	medium VF	27.90

Finally, I would once again like to thank all of those members who participated in the survey. If you have any comments on the survey results or observations on the Seated quarter series, I would be happy to hear from you. I can be contacted as follows: Larry Briggs, P.O. Box 187, Lima, Ohio 45802.

