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incorrect. There have been useful Gobrecht Journal articles dealing with some issues, and informative discussions in online chat boards.

My first serious numismatic focus was to assemble a high grade date set of middle and late date large cents (1816-1857). At the time, I thought trying to collect examples from all the die pairs (based on excellent guide books by Wright and Grellman) was a bit nutty. Having completed that, and nearly the date/mint Seated half dime set, the idea of collecting half dime die pairs and die states appealed to me. It seemed like it would be a fun long-term challenge, since the discovery of undocumented things is a very real possibility.

It was around that time that I became active on the Liberty Seated chat boards, and "met" Clint Cummins, who is working on better guides to the date/mint issues of the Liberty Seated Half Dime series. I have found the guides he has made available so far to be very helpful. And as I search for and acquire additions to my collection, I have provided information to Clint for updates to his guides. Indeed, I have discovered several previously undocumented die pairs, and helped with working out some other details.

I currently own 797 Liberty Seated Half Dimes. I finished the 70-coin date/mint registry set in 2017, and shortly before then started the pursuit of die pairs and die states. The number of acquisitions (including registry coins, a few registry upgrades, proofs, patterns, and mostly the die pairs and die states) from 2017 to 2024 by year are: 2017, 33; 2018, 57; 2019, 108; 2020, 150; 2021, 109; 2022, 90; 2023, 58; 2024, 72. Two of the 2017 purchases were from eBay, but I didn't really start sourcing from eBay seriously until 2019, when the annual total doubled, and peaked in 2020. Since then, it has been getting harder to find decent, affordable examples of things I don't already have.

Nevertheless, there are many still to be obtained. In my tracking spreadsheet, I have entries for 1002 unique die pairs and notable die states, based on Valentine, Blythe, Clint's guides, and my observations of auction house and dealer offerings. That total includes proofs and patterns. I have examples of 604 of those 1002, and therefore have 193 duplicates, many of which are different die states that are not dignified with their own entries.

As Clint's work progresses, he and I and other contributors are finding that some Valentine varieties do not really exist as unique die pairs or notable die states. On the other hand, for some issues, e.g., Philadelphia issues of the mid-1850s, there surely are many more than Valentine and others have identified so far. Thus, I think there are more than 400 still to be acquired. That should keep me busy for a while.

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