The Latest News on Liberty Seated Half Dimes by Clint Cummins and Alan Welty LSCC # 2621 and # 2169

Clint: The latest news on Liberty Seated half dimes is that Alan Welty discovered a new 1848-O die marriage, which we have designated V-9. It is a new large O reverse where the O is lower than on other reverses. It is paired with the V-5 obverse, which has a die line under the pole that Alan discovered. He also showed that the V-5 obverse is not used with V-2, V-3 and V-4, because it fails differently.

I was able to confirm the new V-9 by finding 3 additional examples. We discussed it a bit in late December on the PCGS forum: https://forums.collectors.com/discussion/1109939/1848-o-half-dime-a-new-die-marriage We also discussed adding some more accurate die states for V-2, including a remarriage which Alan discovered.

I should have an updated 1848-O attribution guide (see chart below) ready on the <u>Liberty Seated Half Dime Attribution Guide</u> website sometime this month (see link below). And pretty soon I should have the updated 1871 guide, and some new guides like 1860-O and 1855-O.

https://sites.google.com/view/clintcummins/half-dime-attribution-guide

1848-	O die pairs	rev. 2024-12-26		Reverse	die.state														
			O size	medium					large		small sl. low center		large sl. low right			large low center	small middle left	large low right	
			0 vert	middle left				low sl. right											
	Horizontal Date		O horiz																
				above	N E1 T3 F E3 A3 Lstem	RI joined	heavy break leaf R of	dentil cud above		cud Rstem	cud	UNITED tops, ME	cud	file marks under		AT joined IT ERIC		LDS K4 K5 ED, rot -18	
Obv	Position - pendant	_		E3	Rstem	at base	DIME	T1 E1		А3	ED	tops	ME	S1	ATES	weak		deg.	clash
Die	above	Obv. description		A.1	A.2	A.3	A.4	A.5	B.1	B.2	B.3	C.1	C.2	D.1	D.2	D.3	E	F	G
1	left side upright	EDS RP 48 W	1.1	2	2a	2b		2c				2 3							
		rim cuds K12 - K1, C S2-S3, S9-S13	1.2									4	4b						
		rim cuds K11 - K1	1.3					2				2 2		3	3a	3b	ا ا		
2	right edge upright	stars outlined	2.1			8	8a		1										
		stars not outlined	2.2					i k		1A	1b	2 9							
3	right edge serif	date left, no clash	3.1					5				3 9		8 8	2	7			
		clash L+R of head, E under arm	3.2														6		
4	left side upright	line in drapery right of pole	4									5 0						5	9

Alan: Those of you who know me or have heard of me know that I have been specializing in Liberty Seated Half Dime die pairs and notable die states. I got into this in part because documentation of such things has is not as good as it is for many other series of U.S. coinage including other denominations of Liberty Seated. We have things like Valentine's 1930 book, and Blythe's 1991 book, and work by Breen, but they are far from complete, and some of the information presented is not definitive and some is

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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.