



Young Numismatist's Monthly Discussion

The "Half Dollars" of the 20th Century

1. When (what year) did the U.S. Mint first produce a fifty cent (half dollar) coin? Who was President at that time? How many years was that design produced?
2. Which "half" was first minted in the late 19th Century and continued into the 20th? What is the "common" name for that design and which years was it produced (from which year, until which year)?
3. Which mints produced coins that final year? Which mint produced the fewest coins?
4. Which design replaced it and who designed that coin? Did he design any other of our U.S. coins, and which ones?
5. What were the design changes to the half dollars minted in 1917?
Are there ANY proofs for this year? How many "standard" varieties are there for this year?
6. NO half dollars were produced for the years 1922, 1924, 1925, 1926, 1930, 1931, or 1932. Why do you think that is?
7. Which coins might be considered the "keys" to this series?
8. What was the final year for this design and which mints produced coins that year? How many proofs were minted?
9. If federal law stated that a coin's design not be changed for 25 years, why were Franklins (1948-1963) discontinued early?
10. What was the first and only year the composition of the Kennedy (circulation strike) half was 90% silver?