

# Collecting Coins on a Budget

by Thomas Coulson

Coin collecting has often been referred to as the hobby of kings. Because of this, many potential collectors perceive that the hobby of coin collecting is too expensive to pursue. However, building an impressive coin collection is surprisingly affordable! For a few dollars' a day that a person might spend on snacks or refreshments, a collection of coins with beauty, significance, and lasting value can be assembled. Along the way, the collector can experience the excitement and challenge of pursuit and build new friendships with collectors of similar interests. A completed collection will afford the collector true satisfaction and money saved that might otherwise have been consumed.

The following article contains several suggestions of impressive coin collections that can be formed for mere pocket change. Some can be completed for only one dollar a day! There are a wide range of options sure to interest just about every kind of collector. The completed results will yield countless hours of entertainment and an impressive display that will surely be worth the effort!

## Collections you can build for \$1 per day

If you can devote the cost of a small coffee or soda a day, you can build a \$1,000.00 collection in three years and have nearly \$2,000.00 collected in five years. Here are some fascinating collections you can form for just \$1.00 per day!

### ➤ Walking Liberty Half Dollar Short Set (1941-1947), MS-63 to MS-64

Cost to complete the collection: \$1,500.00 to \$1,700.00

Approximate time to complete the collection: 4 to 5 years.

The Walking Liberty Half Dollar is one of the most beautiful coins ever produced by the United States Mint. 'Walkers' (as they are commonly known) have been popular with collectors since their debut in 1916. A complete collection of mint-fresh Walkers is beautiful and impressive to see. However, most of the early Walking Liberty Halves (issued before 1934) are scarce and expensive in uncirculated grades. An affordable option for those wishing to collect Walking Liberty Half Dollars is purchasing the later date coins issued after 1940. Later date coins are available and reasonably priced in uncirculated condition as many were saved. All twenty of the issues struck from 1941 to 1947 are easily found. Collectors can enjoy the beauty of the



1943-S Walking Liberty Half Dollar MS64  
PCGS



1947 Walking Liberty  
Half Dollar

Walking Liberty Half Dollar series without spending a fortune on the coins by focusing on acquiring these late date coins.

To complete this set, buy PCGS (Professional Coin Grading Service) or NGC (Numismatic Guaranty Company) certified coins in MS63 to MS64 Grades. With a dollar a day budget, most of the coins in the collection can be acquired at a frequency of one every two to three months. The Philadelphia Mint coins are the most common and

probably the first ones to buy. Shop for coins that have nice strikes and frosty luster and try to match appearance from coin to coin. The biggest challenge to completing the collection will be finding well struck specimens of the 1941-S and 1944-S Walking Liberty Halves. These two dates are commonly found with poor strikes, especially at the center skirt lines. If you can locate a coin that has a solid strike, buy it! Be willing to pay modest to moderate premiums for coins that are well struck.

For more information about collecting Walking Liberty Half Dollars, please refer to [How to Collect Walking Liberty Half Dollars](http://www.liberty-coinservice.com) in the learning Center section tab at [www.liberty-coinservice.com](http://www.liberty-coinservice.com).

### ➤ **Walking Liberty Half Dollar Long Set (1934-1947), Almost Uncirculated**

Cost to complete the collection: \$1,500.00 to \$1,900.00

Approximate time to complete the collection: 4 to 5 years

The long short set (1934-1947) is similar to the short set described above. It contains thirty-six beautiful Walking Liberty Halves. In order for this set to be affordable on a dollar a day budget, the collector must be willing to buy slightly circulated coins rather than uncirculated specimens. Almost Uncirculated coins will not be so lustrous or detailed, but are

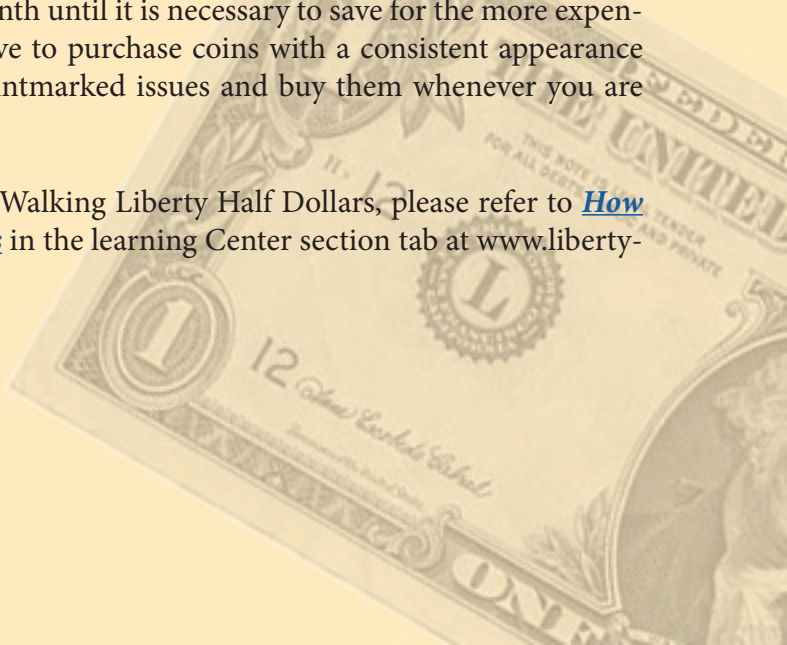


*Walking Liberty Half Dollar Short Set*

still quite attractive. Many of the mintmarked issues of the 1930's can be difficult to find even in an almost uncirculated grade. The 1934-S, 1935-D and S, 1936-S, 1937-D and S can be especially hard to find. The 1938-D issue (mintage 491,600) is one of the lowest mintage Half Dollars of the 20th Century. The low mintage was known early on, however, and many higher-grade coins were saved. To complete this set, start with the easy, later date coins first. Most of the 1940's issues can be bought in this grade for \$25 to \$30. Buy one a month until it is necessary to save for the more expensive coins.

As with any collection, strive to purchase coins with a consistent appearance when possible. Look for the earlier mintmarked issues and buy them whenever you are lucky enough to find one that is nice.

For more information about collecting Walking Liberty Half Dollars, please refer to [How to Collect Walking Liberty Half Dollars](http://www.liberty-coinservice.com) in the learning Center section tab at [www.liberty-coinservice.com](http://www.liberty-coinservice.com).



## ➤ Braided Hair Half Cent (1849-1857), Extremely Fine to Almost Uncirculated

Cost to Complete the collection: \$1,100.00 to \$1,250.00

Approximate time to complete the collection: 4 years



1851 Braided Hair  
Half Cent EF

Braided Hair Half Cents form the end of the curious obsolete Half Cent series. United States Half Cents, first issued in 1793, were based on the comparably sized British Half Penny that circulated in Colonial British America. The denomination was never particularly popular or needed. Though Half Cents were somewhat of an anachronism by the 1850's, a small number were issued for circulation. A fun fact: All the circulating Braided Hair Half Cents ever struck have a face value of less than \$2,700.00! Think about that. You could have *bought them all* in the 1850's for less than \$2,700.00! As a result of the small emissions, these coins are quite scarce today. Many were cleaned or damaged too, so nice, high grade uncleaned and undamaged pieces are even tougher to find. Though Braided Hair Half Cents are scarce, they are also very affordable. This little group of eight coins offers excellent value, historic interest and the challenge of pursuit!

To acquire these coins, look for attractive, chocolate brown coins free of scratches bumps or discoloration. (These coins were made of pure copper, so they are very soft and were prone to damage during the course of circulation.) Corrosion is also a common problem plaguing early U.S. copper coinage that was stored improperly or buried. Be sure to avoid coins that are porous due to corrosion. In the suggested grade range, a collector can purchase one of these half cents every four or five months. Most coins in the set cost \$100.00 to \$150.00. It often may take the full four to five months to find a suitable coin!



1857 Braided Hair  
Half Cent

## ➤ U.S. Two Cent Pieces (1864-1872), Very Fine to Extremely Fine

Cost to Complete the collection: \$1,650.00 to \$1,950.00

Approximate time to complete the collection: 4 years



1870 Two Cent VF

Few people outside of the numismatic community realize that the U.S. Mint once struck a Two Cent coin. The denomination originated late in the Civil War at a time when coins of any kind were scarce in circulation. The U.S. Mint took the idea of the Two Cent coin from private tokens of the same size that had been made to circulate in lieu of the absent Federal coinage. Though popular at first, demand for the coin soon waned after the Civil War and the introduction of copper nickel three cent pieces and five cent pieces which proved to be more popular. After a run of only eight years, the Two Cent coin was discontinued for regular circulation.

Because the Two Cent series is so short, it is fairly easy to collect. Only the 1864 Small Motto variety (which is really more of a pattern issue) and the 1872 issue are scarce and expensive. The remainder of coins are plentiful and simple to locate. There is also an 1873



Proof only issue which is quite expensive. Most collectors will opt to complete the series through 1872. The Two Cent Series is an historic and fun collection that will also be a great conversation piece for your friends who will be amazed that such an odd coin once existed!

Though the Two Cent coins were made of more durable bronze as compared to the Half Cents, they still exhibit many of the same issues with damage and corrosion. Two Cent coins are readily available and cheap, so be sure to screen out any coins with problems. The 1864 to 1866 issues can be bought for about \$25 to \$35 each. The 1867 through 1869 coins are slightly more. The 1870 and 1871 issues are quite a bit scarcer and will cost more. Nice specimens of these dates might cost \$100 to \$150. As mentioned earlier, the 1864 Small Motto and 1872 issues are the toughest to find. These might cost \$600 to \$1,000 each. Most of the collection can be completed within a year. The expensive coins will require some saving and time to acquire. Once the collection is complete through 1872, a collector might consider purchasing the 1873 Two Cent Piece. The 1873 issue will cost more than all the others combined; it will require some earnest saving and ambition to take the extra step.

For more information about collecting Two Cent Pieces, please refer to [How to Collect Two Cents](#) in the learning Center section tab at [www.libertycoinservice.com](http://www.libertycoinservice.com).

### ➤ U.S. Silver Eagles (1986-Date), Uncirculated

Cost to Complete the collection: \$1,350.00 to \$1,500.00

Approximate time to complete the collection: 4 years

The Silver Eagle series offers the collector beauty and value. The Silver Eagle obverse design was patterned after Adolph Weinman's Walking Liberty Half Dollar design which is generally considered to be one of the most beautiful coins ever struck by the United States Mint. Add to the beauty the one ounce of pure silver content each Silver Eagle contains and collectors will appreciate why these lovely large coins have become so popular. Most Uncirculated Silver Eagles can be purchased for less than twice their silver value. This means that the collector is not only building a handsome collection but also an appreciable store of silver by collecting these coins. With the \$1.00 per day budget, a collector can purchase about one Silver Eagle a month on average.



2017 Silver American Eagle



1986 American Silver Eagle MS69 NGC

Silver Eagles may be best collected in PCGS or NGC certified holders with the grade of MS-69. These graded coins can often be found for a small premium over the price of an ungraded coin. Buying a certified coin will help ensure that the specimen you acquire is a nice problem-free piece. Coins in certified holders are also protected from exposure to air and other agents that will cause tarnish. Also, there are many Silver Eagle issues (especially the ones from 1994 to 1998) that have spotting and staining problems that occurred during production. Purchasing a carefully inspected MS-69 graded coin will eliminate spotting and discoloration problems encountered on un-certified Silver Eagles.

The alternative to collecting certified Silver Eagles would be filling an album with uncertified coins. This is a popular way to approach the collection as well. If you are purchasing uncertified coins be careful to select coins that are nearly mark-free and unspotted.

### ➤ Franklin Half Dollars (1948-1963), Brilliant Uncirculated

Cost to complete the collection: \$750.00 to \$850.00

Approximate time to complete the collection: 2 to 2 ½ years

The 35 coin Franklin Half Dollar Series is one of the easiest to collect in uncirculated condition. The Franklin Half Dollar, issued from 1948 to 1963 reminisces a golden age of both United States History and numismatics. Franklin Halves are a favorite coin among dealers and coin promoters because of their availability and low price. Most of the coins in the set can be purchased in a lovely, frosty uncirculated condition for less than \$20.00. Only a few of the earlier issues such as the 1949 P-D and S coins, the 1950 P and D issues, the 1951-D, 1952-S, and 1953-S coins cost more. When collecting the set, attempt to find coins with nice, evenly matched white luster to produce a consistent look when the collection is finished. Many Franklin Half Dollar collections lack uncirculated key date coins. Be careful to acquire choice uncirculated specimens of the 1949 and 1950 issues. Even though these coins are common, a well matched completed uncirculated Franklin Half Dollar set is still an impressive looking collection.



1953-S Franklin Half Dollar MS-63



Franklin Half Dollar Whitman Album

For more information about collecting Franklin Half Dollars, please refer to [How to Collect Franklin Half Dollars](#) in the learning Center section tab at [www.libertycoinsservice.com](http://www.libertycoinsservice.com).



## Collections you can build for \$3 per day

If you can save \$3.00 per day for a coin collection, you can have \$1,000.00 invested in a collection within one year. In three years, your collection could grow to over \$3,000.00; and in five years, almost \$5,500.00!

### ➤ Flying Eagle and Indian Cents (1857-1909), Very Fine

Cost to complete the collection: \$5,200.00 to \$6,000.00

Approximate time to complete the collection: 5 years



1864 Indian  
Cent VF

Flying Eagle and Indian Cents have been enjoyed by generations of coin collectors. In earlier times, collectors were reminded of youth when an Indian Cent might have been a first encounter with money. Others have been drawn to Indian Cents for their visual connection to the Old West. Production of Indian Cents tell interesting tales about the Nation's History in that era too. Many of the coins in the collection are inexpensive; which makes the Indian Cent an excellent series for beginners.

For budget minded collectors, coins that grade very fine are perfect to buy. Usually they are only a little more expensive than the much more worn good graded coins, yet they are far more attractive. Higher grade coins cost enough more to put the collection out of reach of budget buyers. To start this collection, purchase the issues after 1887. Most Indian Cents of this era can be bought for less than \$10.00 each. The Civil War Dates and the coins issued from 1880 to 1886 are the next group to buy. The coins struck from 1866 to 1878 and



1877 Indian  
Cent

the 1908-S and 1909-S are the most expensive coins in the series. The 1877 Indian Cent is the trophy of any Indian Cent collection. A nice Very Fine specimen will cost around \$1,500.00, or about a year's worth of saving on a budget. Save for these and shop carefully for choice coins. Like other bronze and copper coins, it is important to be selective when buying. Copper is prone to corrosion and discoloration. Many coins look nice at a glance and exhibit corrosion upon closer inspection. As with any collection the goal is to purchase evenly matched coins. For copper coins, place extra emphasis on finding perfect chocolate brown, uncleaned pieces. By following these simple rules, a collector can assemble a beautiful Indian Cent collection.

For more information about collecting Indian Cents, please refer to [How to Collect Flying Eagle and Indian Cents](http://www.libertycoinservice.com/How-to-Collect-Flying-Eagle-and-Indian-Cents) in the learning Center section tab at [www.libertycoinservice.com](http://www.libertycoinservice.com).



## ➤ Walking Liberty Half Dollars (1916-1947), Fine to Very Fine

Cost to complete the collection: \$3,000.00 to \$5,000.00

Approximate time to complete the collection: 3 to 5 years



1919-D Walking Liberty  
Half Dollar VF-35

The Walking Liberty Half Dollar series is great for the budget collector. The design is artistic and looks impressive in the format of a cohesive collection. The coins represent good value given the relative scarcity for the price. While most coins in the set are easy to find, many of the issues from the 'teens and 'twenties will be challenging. Most surviving coins of that era are extensively worn, cleaned, or otherwise damaged. The Walking Liberty Half Dollar collection offers beauty, value and the intrigue of pursuit.

Assembling a complete collection in a grade range of fine to very fine will be fun. As mentioned, most are easy to find and cost no more than \$10.00 or \$15.00 each. Most of the collection can be formed in the first year. The challenge lies in the harder to find early issues. Attractive, uncleaned coins of 1919 and 1921 are the most difficult. Other dates from 1916 to 1923 are tricky to locate too. The key to building an attractive set is selecting specimens with a consistent appearance.

For more information about collecting Walking Liberty Half Dollars, please refer to [How to Collect Walking Liberty Half Dollars](http://www.liberty-coinservice.com) in the learning Center section tab at [www.liberty-coinservice.com](http://www.liberty-coinservice.com).

## ➤ Liberty Nickels (1883-1912), Extremely Fine to Almost Uncirculated

Cost to complete the collection: \$4,500.00 to \$5,500.00

Approximate time to complete the collection: 4 to 5 years



1893 Liberty  
Nickel EF-45

Liberty Nickels are common and unremarkable in low grades. Most Liberty Nickels entered circulation and stayed there for decades. Because so many are worn, Liberty Nickels have a reputation as a boring coin to collect. However, this is untrue about collecting higher grade Liberty Nickels. Only a small number were noticed early on and saved for some reason; perhaps a birth or another special event. To encounter one of these nicely preserved coins amongst a sea of worn out ones is exciting. It sends one back in time to wonder how it travelled through a century or more unscathed.

Finding nice, uncleaned and undamaged Liberty Nickels in extremely fine to about uncirculated grades will be hard. Even though this is a 'budget collection' it is by no means simple to complete. The 1883 No Cents variety is very common and inexpensive. Beyond that coin, no issue is easy to find on a regular basis. The 1900's dated coins are more available than the early issues. The 1883 with cents variety appears more frequently than other early dates because it was saved as a first-year coin. The scarce 1885 and 1886 issues are hard to find and always in demand because of their key date status. Financial turmoil in 1894 result-

ed in few nickels of that year being saved. The 1912-D and 1912-S issues (the first nickels not issued at the Philadelphia Mint) are difficult to locate too.

For more information about collecting Liberty Nickels, please refer to [How to Collect Liberty Nickels](http://www.libertycoinsservice.com) in the learning Center section tab at [www.libertycoinsservice.com](http://www.libertycoinsservice.com).

## ➤ Canada Silver Dollars (1935-1967), Brilliant Uncirculated

Cost to Complete the Collection: \$4,500.00 to \$5,000.00

Approximate time to complete the collection: 4 to 5 years

Classic Canadian Silver Dollars have much to offer the budget collector. The Voyageur Design is beautifully executed on these large silver dollars. There are also several commemorative issues and varieties to keep the series interesting. Though many of the 1930's and 1940's dates are scarce, most of the coins are quite affordable. Only a handful of dates sell for over \$40.00. Though there are several expensive coins, there are no prohibitive rarities outside the reach of a dedicated collector.



1935 Canada Silver Dollar



1958 Canada Silver Dollar

This collection can be assembled systematically by acquiring the late dates first and working backwards. The 1957 to 1967 issues could be bought all in a single purchase. These generally can be had in nice uncirculated condition for \$15 to \$20 each. For fun variety, there are three commemorative coins in this grouping: the 1958 British Columbia, 1964 Charlottetown, and 1967 Centennial issues. There are a couple very rare 1966 and 1967 varieties (1966 small beads and 1967 'diving goose'), but these are generally not included as part of the standard collection. The coins from 1949 to 1957 are typically inexpensive but somewhat more difficult to find. The 1955 'Arnprior' Variety, which has an interesting story of its own is the key to this group and it will cost a bit north of \$100.00. Once the later dates have been found, the early dates can be bought one at a time. The issues for 1935 through 1937 and the 1939 Royal Visit issue are common. The 1938, 1945 and 1946 issues are scarcer and will range in price from about \$100.00 to \$400.00. In 1947, there were three major varieties. The 7 in the date can be either blunt or pointed. Upon the independence of India, a maple leaf was added to the right of the date to denote this change. Only 21,000 of these were issued and they are popular. They represent excellent value at the \$500.00 level. These last several dates here will require some saving and planning for the collector on a budget.



1964 Canada Silver Dollar

The finishing piece to the collection is the key date 1948 dollar. Only 18,000 of these coins were struck. If it were part of the U.S. Morgan Dollar Series it would undoubtedly sell in the



six-figure range. The scarce 1948 Dollar can be had in an attractive uncirculated grade for around \$2,000.00. Though expensive, it is worthwhile to save for this coin as it represents wonderful value!

For more information about collecting Canadian Dollars, please refer to [How to Collect Canadian Dollars](http://www.libertycoinservice.com/How-to-Collect-Canadian-Dollars) in the learning Center section tab at [www.libertycoinservice.com](http://www.libertycoinservice.com).

## Collections you can build for \$5 per day

If you can save \$5.00 per day, (the cost of a cheap fast food lunch) you can have about \$1,825.00 in one year and over \$9,000.00 in five years. In five years' time, you can assemble a very impressive collection!

### ➤ Eight Piece U.S. Gold Type Set, MS-63 to MS-64

Cost to Complete the Collection: \$8,500.00 to 9,500.00

Approximate time to complete the collection: 5 years



1906 \$2.50 Liberty Quarter Eagle



1899 \$5 Liberty Half Eagle



1892-S \$10 Liberty Eagle



1907 \$20 Liberty Double Eagle

Is it possible to collect U.S. Gold coins on a budget? Absolutely! The eight piece U.S. Gold Type set is an excellent way to do so. The set consists of the four 'Liberty' type gold coins issued from 1838 to 1908. These include the \$2.50 Quarter Eagle, \$5.00 Half Eagle, \$10.00 Eagle and \$20.00 Double Eagle. The remaining four coins are the 'Indian' type gold coins issued from 1907 to 1933. These include the three Indian designs (\$2.50, \$5.00, \$10.00) and the Saint Gaudens \$20.00. The coins in this collection are attractive frosty uncirculated pieces. As a bonus, completing the collection yields the collector over 3 ½ ounces of pure gold! This is a nice amount of residual value to hold.



1909 \$2.50 Indian Quarter Eagle



1909-D \$5 Indian Half Eagle



1932 \$10 Indian Eagle



1916-S \$20 Saint Gaudens Double Eagle

Since these coins are fairly expensive (the cheapest cost around \$350.00), collectors will need patience to save enough money to buy a piece. It is best to select one coin at a time and find a nice specimen of that type. U.S. Gold should be purchased in PCGS or NGC certified holders to ensure owning specimens that are accurately graded. Additionally, it is smart to be selective when purchasing these coins. Be sure to buy specimens free of copper spots. Copper spots are naturally occurring blemishes in a gold coins surface caused by uneven distribution of the copper alloy. While copper spots are natural, the numismatic market tends to discount them. There is also significant variance in the quality of U.S. Gold coins of a common grade. Purchase coins with nice, frosty luster and relatively minimal marks. Search for dates that are somewhat scarce yet sell for the same price or only small premiums to the most common dates. Utilizing PCGS and NGC Population reports is an excellent way to determine the relative scarcity of a coin. Since you will be saving for months to buy a coin, take the time and be sure to get a good one.

The price of gold can affect the cost of completing this collection. At present, U.S. Gold coins are inexpensive. Most common U.S. Gold coins are priced at the lowest premiums in decades. A rise in a price of gold or increased demand for U.S. Gold could raise the price of completing the collection.

### ➤ **Morgan Dollar Date Set (1878-1921), AU-58 to MS-63**

Cost to Complete the Collection: \$8,000.00 to 8,500.00

Approximate time to complete the collection: 5 years

The Morgan Dollar Series is arguably the most popular U.S. Coin series to collect. Both serious and casual collectors love these big, beautiful historic coins. Morgan Dollars were saved in vast quantities as a reserve coin of the U.S. Treasury. As a result, most of the dates in this series are inexpensive even in attractive uncirculated grades.



1883 Morgan Dollar MS-63

Collecting a date set of Morgan Dollars involves purchasing one specimen of each date from 1878 to 1904 and 1921. The date set is a more realistic goal for collectors that want a collection of Morgan Dollars but cannot afford mint state examples of the scarce date and mintmark issues that may cost thousands or even tens of thousands of dollars each. Most dates of the Morgan Dollar series can be acquired for about \$60 to \$75 each. At this rate, the bulk of the collection can be completed in fairly short order. The 1893, 1894 and 1895 dates will be the most expensive ones to purchase; with the 1895 date far and away the most expensive. (To finish this set in the budgeted price range, one will need to settle for a nice AU-58 example of the 1895-S Morgan Dollar). When assembling the Morgan Dollar Date set, an extra goal would involve acquiring one of each mint issuing Morgan Dollars (Philadelphia, Carson City, San Francisco, New Orleans, and Denver. Additionally, paying a bit extra for a 1903-O Morgan Dollar would enrich the interest of the collection. The 1903-O Morgan Dollar was once the rarest and most expensive coin in the series. Thanks to a discovery of a treasury hoard of this date in 1962, a nice specimen of this once legendary rarity can be bought for less than \$500.00.

Completing a date set of Morgan Dollars in Mint State (or near Mint State) will be a satisfying and fantastic accomplishment. Though these coins are priced within reach of most diligent collectors, few working on such a set strive to find consistently matched mint state coins.

Below is a suggested list of coins to complete an uncirculated Morgan Dollar date set:

1878-S	1884	1890	1896	1902-O
1879-S	1885	1891	1897-S	1903-O
1880-S	1886	1892-O	1898	1904-O
1881-S	1887	1893	1899-O	1921-D
1882-S	1888-O	1894-O	1900	
1883-CC	1889	1895-S (AU-58)	1901-O	

For more information about collecting Morgan Dollars, please refer to [How to Collect Morgan Dollars](http://www.libertycoinservice.com/How-to-Collect-Morgan-Dollars) in the learning Center section tab at [www.libertycoinservice.com](http://www.libertycoinservice.com).

### ➤ **Peace Dollars (1921-1935), MS-63**

Cost to complete the collection: \$10,000 to 10,500.00

Approximate time to complete the collection: 5 to 6 years

The Peace Dollar debuted in 1921 as a tribute to the end of hostilities of World War I. It was also the result of the Pittman Act of 1918, which mandated the purchase and coining of 270,000,000 ounces of silver to replace the roughly equal number of Morgan Dollars that were melted and sold abroad in 1918. This is fascinating history to explore! Nearly all the silver purchased pursuant to the Pittman Act was coined into Peace Dollars.



1926 Peace Dollar MS-63

As was the case with Morgan Dollars, many of these coins were not needed in commerce and spent their non-collection lives residing in bank vaults. Most Dates are easily found in mint condition. The 1922 through 1925 Philadelphia Mint coins can all be bought for under \$50.00 in uncirculated condition. The 1922- D and S and 1923 D and S issues are fairly scarce, though they do not cost appreciably more than the Philadelphia Mint coins. There are several issues that are tricky to find in a nice mint state grade and will require some saving to purchase. These are the 1921, 1924-S, 1925-S, 1926-D and nearly all issues from 1927 to 1935 except for the 1927 Philadelphia issue. The key to the series is the 1934-S, which will cost as much as all the other coins combined. A completed set of mint state Peace Dollars is an impressive sight. Like the Morgan Dollar Series, few collectors maintain the discipline to select consistently attractive mint state coins. To encounter a complete truly uncirculated set of Peace Dollars is a rare and exciting event.



## ➤ America the Beautiful 5 Ounce Silver Quarters (2010-2021)

Cost to Complete the Collection: \$7,000.00 to \$7,500.00

Approximate time to complete the collection: 5 years

The America the Beautiful 5 Ounce Silver Quarters highlight national parks and historic sites throughout the United States. The program is currently midway through its run and many wonderful designs have been featured so far. The huge 5 ounce silver format is a fantastic tableau to display artists' work on these coins. This series has beautiful designs, historic and relevant content, and silver bullion.

An additional bonus has been the low mintages of several issues. Many have developed significant premiums over their bullion value. The series is still four years short of its terminal issue.



*Mt. Hood National Forest*

To collect the America the Beautiful 5 Ounce Silver Statehood Quarters, save up money and purchase the new issues when they are released. There are five per year and each one can be bought for about \$110.00 to \$120.00. Buying these would cost the equivalent of about \$60.00 per month or \$2.00 per day. Use the additional three dollars a day to purchase back issues when possible. Back issues are more expensive. Most can be obtained in the \$120.00 to \$150.00 range; though some fetch \$200.00 to over \$300.00. The price quoted above relates to the regular issue uncirculated issues. Another option would be to collect the special 'burnished' issues that are sold directly from the U.S. Mint. These are usually somewhat scarcer than the uncirculated issues and cost slightly more. Once you have completed the collection, you will have 280 ounces of pure silver!

For more information about collecting America the Beautiful 5 Ounce Silver Quarters, please refer to [How to Collect America the Beautiful 5 Ounce Silver Quarters](http://www.libertycoinsservice.com/learn-center/how-to-collect-america-the-beautiful-5-ounce-silver-quarters) in the learning Center section tab at [www.libertycoinsservice.com](http://www.libertycoinsservice.com).

## ➤ United States Fractional Currency (1862-1876), Very Fine

Cost to Complete the Collection: \$6,800.00 to 7,500.00

Approximate time to complete the collection: 4 years

Fractional Currency is a fascinating remnant of the monetary crisis that was borne out of the Civil War. By the War's outbreak in 1861, circulating coinage had largely vanished from circulation. The situation was exacerbated by the imbalance in the valuation of gold relative to silver which had already driven much of the circulating silver coinage out of circulation years before the Civil War began. To help fill this void of coinage created by the war's uncertainty and valuation issues, the government introduced this small denomination



*1863 Fifteen Cents Fractional Currency*

paper currency with representations of postage stamps to denote value of the pieces. Fractional Currency was printed in denominations we would consider unusual today. Notes existed in three, five, ten, fifteen, twenty-five, and fifty cent denominations!

Fractional Currency fulfilled its purpose by circulating extensively during the War. The currency outlived the War by over a decade, too. There were five different series of Fractional Currency issues from 1862 to 1875. Base metal coinage slowly returned to circulation in the mid 1860's with the introduction of the two, three, and five cent pieces. This spelled the need for some of the smaller denomination notes. The valuation imbalance of gold to silver still existed throughout the 1860's and silver coins were rarely seen in circulation at that time. By the early 1870's however, vast quantities of silver from the great Comstock Lode reached commerce and gradually appeared in the form of coinage. By 1875, the purpose Fractional Currency served to provide a circulating medium in a period of austerity no longer existed. Many of the notes were worn beyond practical use and often filthy. There was no more need for the small notes after the fifth issue was released that year.



*1863 Three Cents Fractional Currency*

This historic background makes Fractional Currency intriguing to collect. Notes are often difficult to find. Many coin dealers do not have extensive stocks. Collectors may have to look to shows or dealing with paper money specialists to find all but the most common issues. In spite of their relative scarcity, Fractional Currency notes are often reasonably priced. This is especially so when compared to other U.S. banknotes of the era. Many notes can be collected for under \$100.00 when found and quite a few are under \$50. There are several expensive notes that will require some saving,

too. Though once a collector has purchased most of the common notes, scarce notes may not become available any faster than the collector can save up money for them.

