

NEWS & NOTES *continued*

INSTANT CLASSICS

Twain Commems

U.S. Mint will produce coins honoring the popular Mississippi author

➤ LAST NOVEMBER, the U.S. Mint unveiled designs for 2016 commemorative gold and silver coins honoring American author and humorist Samuel Langhorne Clemens, better known as Mark Twain. Emblematic of Twain's legacy, the motifs were carefully chosen based on his classic works, such as *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*.

Proof and uncirculated versions of each coin will be struck. The gold obverse features a portrait of Twain, while the reverse shows a steamboat cruising the Mississippi River. The silver obverse depicts Twain holding a pipe, with protagonists Huck Finn and Jim on a raft in the background; the reverse profiles several characters from the author's stories.

The original bill, H.R. 2453, was authorized in 2012. Several amendments to the legislation were passed, the first of which stipulates that a surcharge of \$35 per gold coin and \$10 per silver issue be added to the sales price and distributed to the Mark Twain House and Museum in Hartford, Connecticut; the University of California, Berkeley; Elmira College in New York; and the Mark Twain Boyhood Home and Museum in Hannibal, Missouri. The second amendment ensures the coin program will not result in any net cost to the government.

The 21.59mm, \$5 gold has a mintage of up to 100,000; the 38.1mm, \$1 silver issue is limited to 350,000. Visit www.usmint.gov for release dates.



PHOTOS: U.S. MINT & WIKIMEDIA.ORG/ANDREW BALET

▲ Now a museum, Mark Twain's boyhood home in Hannibal, Missouri (shown here), is one of the recipients from the surcharges of the coins' sales. Below are the gold and silver designs for the commemoratives to be released this year.

