

# EVOLUTION OF THE U.S. SILVER DOLLAR

Created by:

Lane J. Brunner, Ph.D.

Rod Gillis Numismatic Educator

# Spanish Eight Reale



# First United States Mint

- ▣ Mint Act of April 2, 1792
- ▣ Philadelphia was only location
- ▣ Mint officials had to post \$10,000 bond  
(Five times the Director's annual salary!)
- ▣ First coins struck in 1793
- ▣ Only copper cents and half-cents

# First Silver Coins

- ▣ Congress lowered bond to \$6,000
- ▣ March 1794 silver dollars were struck
- ▣ Dies prepared in 1793 by Robert Scot

# Coinage Design

- ▣ An impression emblematic of Liberty
- ▣ Inscription of the word LIBERTY
- ▣ Year of coinage
- ▣ Representation of an eagle
- ▣ Inscribed UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
- ▣ No denomination
- ▣ HUNDRED CENTS ONE DOLLAR OR UNIT

# 1794 Flowing Hair Dollar



# Dollar Composition

- ▣ 1485/1664 silver and 179/1664 copper
- ▣ Fineness of 0.8924
- ▣ Assayer Albion Cox complained
- ▣ Director David Rittenhouse allowed for higher fineness of 0.900 (illegal!)
- ▣ Depositors lost money on transaction

# Production

- ▣ Total of 2,000 pieces struck
- ▣ One pair of dies
- ▣ All struck in one day
- ▣ Net mintage of 1,758
- ▣ 120-130 surviving examples



# 1795-1798 Draped Bust Dollars

- ▣ New obverse design after one year
- ▣ Design change corresponded with new Mint Director Henry William DeSaussure
- ▣ Matured Liberty
- ▣ Buxom Roman Matron
- ▣ Philadelphia socialite Ann Willing Bingham
- ▣ Reverse design slightly refined
- ▣ Still no denomination

# 1795 Draped Bust Dollar



# 1798-1804 Draped Bust Dollars

- ▣ Dollar remained the flagship denomination
- ▣ Improved technology and quality
- ▣ Obverse design now with 13 stars
- ▣ Reverse was a heraldic eagle
- ▣ Iconography “blunder”



# 1804 Dollar



# King of US Coins

- ▣ Mint reports of dollars produced in 1804
- ▣ Coins were struck in 1834 for diplomats
- ▣ Later restrikes in 1850's
- ▣ All are unofficial "fantasy" pieces
- ▣ 15 known specimens
- ▣ In 1999 Childs specimen sold for \$4.14 M

# 1836-39 Gobrecht Dollars

- ▣ No dollars produced since 1803
- ▣ Coins did not circulate
- ▣ Primarily bullion depositors
- ▣ Large number exported
- ▣ 1831 authorization was given for dollars
- ▣ 1835 preparation began to coin dollars
- ▣ Christian Gobrecht adopted designs of Thomas Scully and Titian Peale

# Gobrecht Dollar





# Seated Liberty Dollars

- ▣ Obverse design similar to Gobrecht dollar
- ▣ Inspired by Britannia on British coppers
- ▣ Liberty in Grecian robe supporting Union shield with LIBERTY inscribed
- ▣ Figure holds a pole with a Liberty cap
- ▣ Reverse design similar to half dollars
- ▣ Design adopted for all circulating silver coinage

# Seated Liberty Dollars



# 1873-1885 Trade Dollars

- ▣ Comstock silver mine
- ▣ Germany demonetizes silver
- ▣ Declining market price for silver
- ▣ “Crime of 1873” stopped dollar production
- ▣ Created a Trade dollar for international use
- ▣ Trade dollar had 420 grains 0.900 fine silver
- ▣ US dollar (412.5 gr) and Mexican 8R (416 gr)

# Trade Dollar



# 1878-1921 Morgan Dollar

- ▣ Very popular collectible today
- ▣ Minors lobbied Congress since 1873
- ▣ Bland-Allison Act of 1878 required Treasury to purchase 2-4 million ounces of silver each month
- ▣ Coin was designed by George T. Morgan
- ▣ Philadelphia teacher Anna Willess Williams
- ▣ Unwanted by the public

# Morgan Dollar



# 1921-1935 Peace Dollar

- ▣ Produced to celebrate peace after WWI
- ▣ Pittman Act of 1918 stated Treasury could melt up to 350 million silver dollars for bullion or subsidiary coins
- ▣ The Mint must strike replacements
- ▣ Great for silver miners
- ▣ National competition won by Anthony de Francisci (wife Teresa was the model)

# Peace Dollar





# 1964 Peace Dollar



# 1971-78 Eisenhower Dollar



# 1979-1999 Susan B. Anthony



# 2000-Date Golden Dollar



# Presidential Series 2007-2016

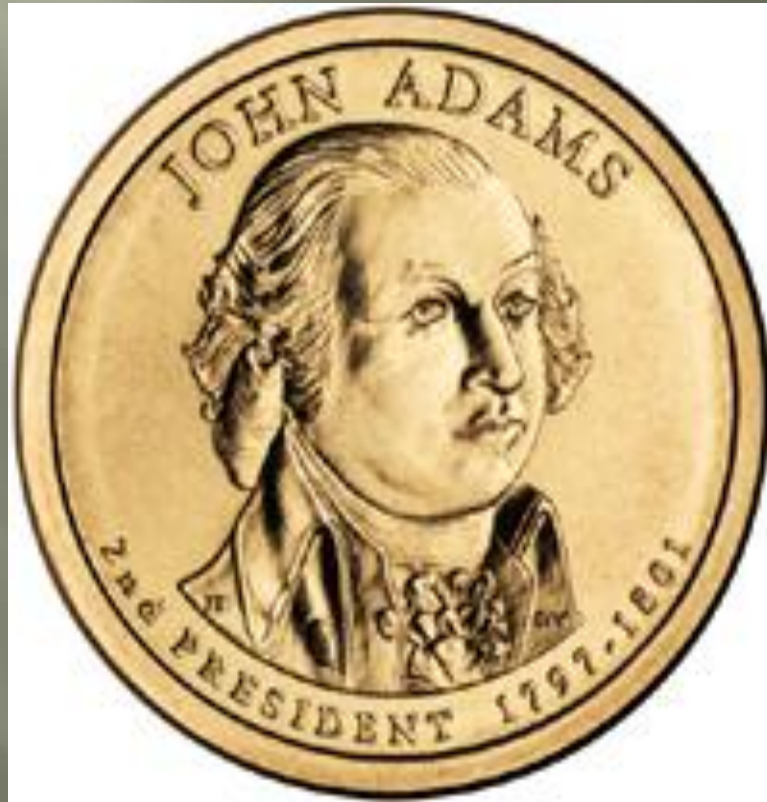
## President George Washington



FROM: U.S. MINT

# Presidential Series 2007-2016

## President John Adams



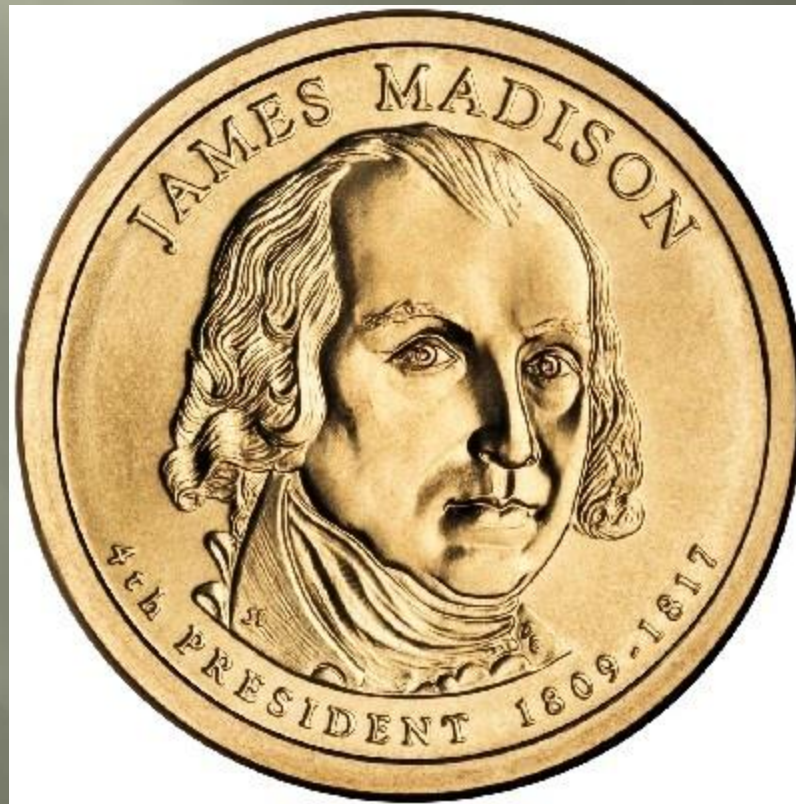
# Presidential Series 2007-2016

- ▣ President Thomas Jefferson



# Presidential Series 2007-2016

## President James Madison





# Presidential Series 2007-2016

President James Monroe



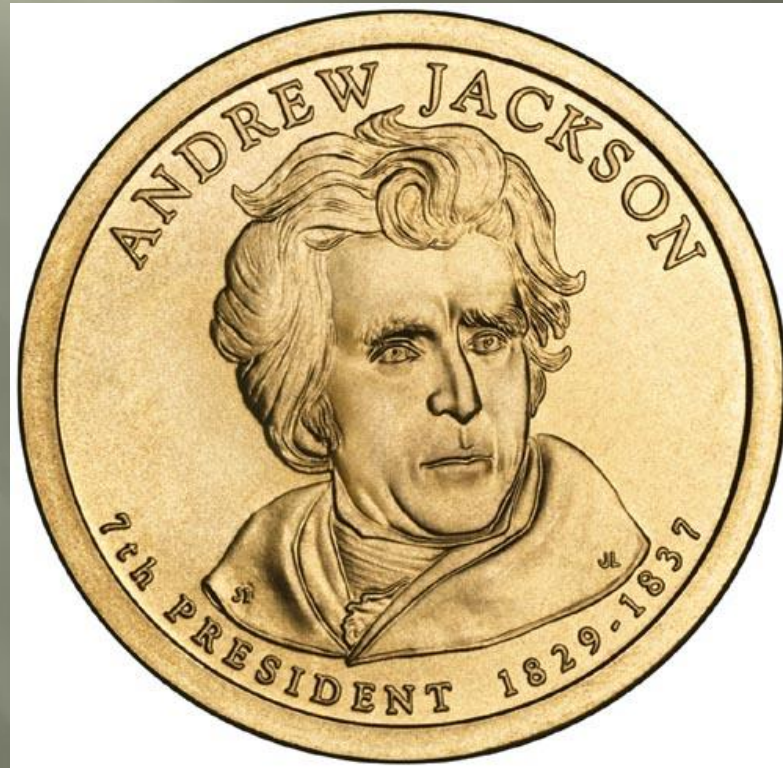
# Presidential Series 2007-2016

President John Quincy Adams



# Presidential Series 2007-2016

## President Andrew Jackson



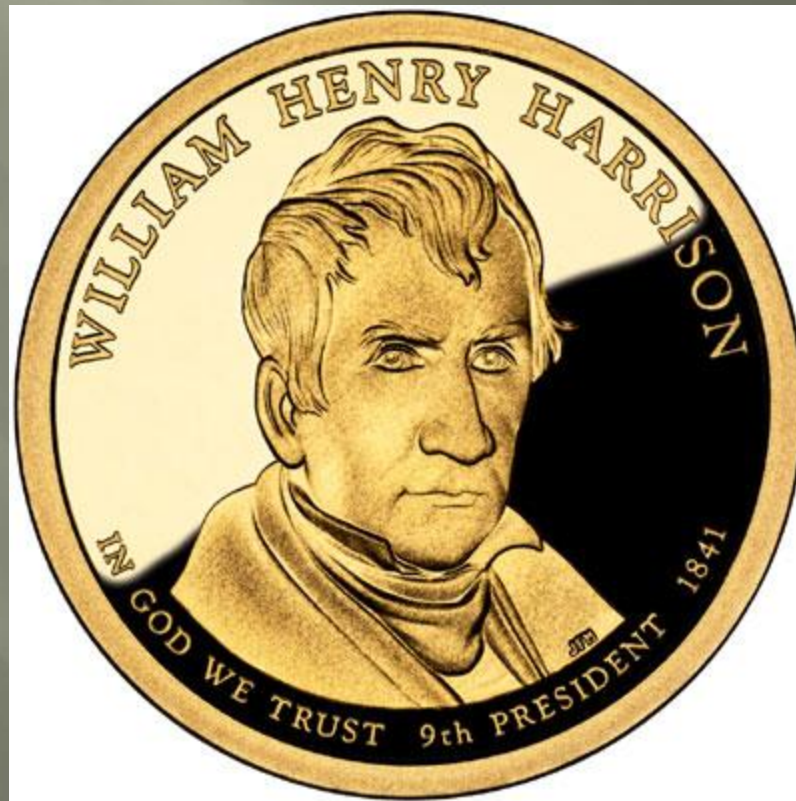
# Presidential Series 2007-2016

## President Martin Van Buren



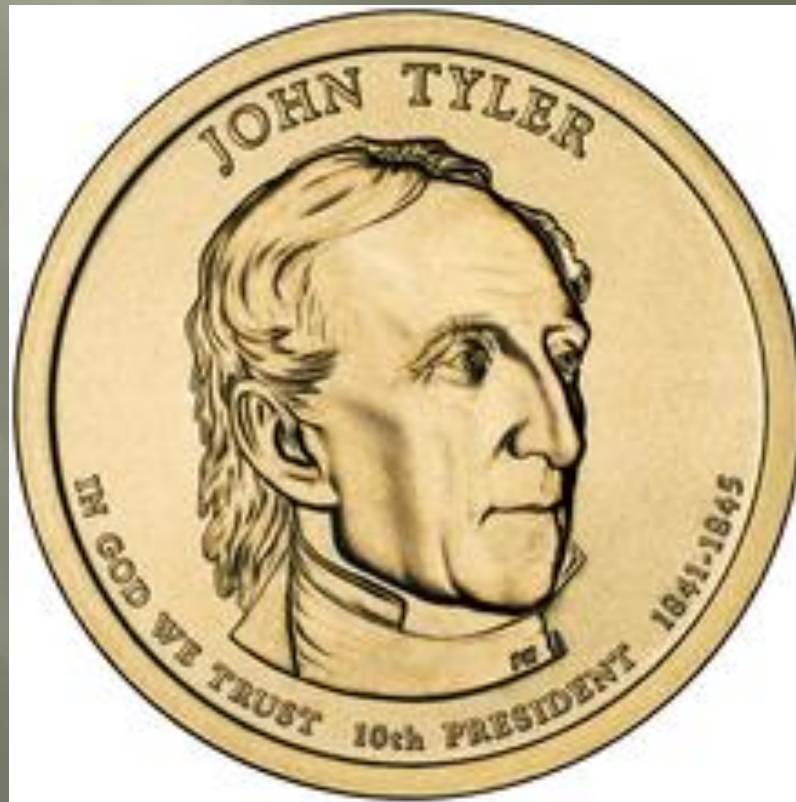
# Presidential Series 2007-2016

## President William Henry Harrison



# Presidential Series 2007-2016

## President John Tyler



# Presidential Series 2007-2016

## President James Polk



# Presidential Series 2007-2016

Zachary Taylor





# Presidential Series 2007-2016

Millard Fillmore



# Presidential Series 2007-2016

Franklin Pierce



# Presidential Series 2007-2016

James Buchanan



# Presidential Series 2007-20016

Abraham Lincoln



# Presidential Series 2007-2016

Andrew Johnson



# Presidential Series 2007-2016

Ulysses S. Grant

