

# Collector's Journal

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## 2014 Warren G. Harding Presidential Dollar

*Twenty-Ninth in the Presidential Dollars Collection*

The Warren G. Harding Presidential Dollar is the first of four unique Presidential Dollars issued by the U.S. Mint in 2014. It also begins the eighth year of the ongoing coin program that honors the Presidents in the order in which they served.

As a result, the Harding coin is the 29th overall in the Presidential Dollars series because Harding was the 29th President. This coin will be followed in 2014 with the coins for the 30th through 32nd Presidents: Calvin Coolidge, Herbert Hoover, and Franklin D. Roosevelt, respectively.

Presidential Dollars are the first commemorative Dollar coin series issued for circulation. The series features only deceased Presidents, so at the time the Harding coin was released in early 2014, the series was scheduled to end with the Ronald Reagan coin. Jimmy Carter, George H.W. Bush, Bill Clinton, George W. Bush, and Barack Obama were still living at that time and therefore were not scheduled to be included on Presidential Dollars.

Each Presidential Dollar is minted in a limited edition of about 13 weeks. Once production ends, the coin can never be made again. Presidential coins are struck in uncirculated quality at both the Philadelphia Mint ("P" mint mark) and the Denver Mint ("D" mint mark); the mint mark is found on the edge, along with the year of issue and the motto "E Pluribus Unum."

The portrait of Harding on the coin was based on a photograph of Harding taken a few days after he won the Republican nomination for President in 1920. The portrait shows Harding dressed in formal attire and with a familiar steely glare. At the time of his Presidency, many people believed Harding was right for the job because he "looked" like a President.

The inscriptions under Harding's portrait include the notation "29th President" and "1921-1923" to indicate the dates of his Presidency. The reverse of all Presidential Dollars is a common design depicting the Statue of Liberty and the denomination "\$1."



### Warren G. Harding

Warren G. Harding was born on November 2, 1865 – shortly after the end of the Civil War – near Marion, Ohio. He made a name for himself in Marion as the publisher of the city's newspaper before embarking on a career in politics.

Following election to the Ohio state senate and serving as Ohio's lieutenant governor, Harding set his sights on higher offices and won election to the U.S. Senate in 1914. One of the nation's most prominent Republicans, he was nonetheless a dark horse candidate for the party's Presidential nomination in 1920. When the main candidates were unable to win a majority of votes, Harding emerged as the unexpected victor.

Promising a return to normalcy after World War I, Harding won a landslide victory over Democrat James M. Cox to become the 29th President. The early 1920's was an era of prosperity, and Harding was popular for his policies such as lower taxes and high tariffs that encouraged economic growth and protected American businesses.

The stress of the Presidency took its toll on Harding's well-being, however, and he took a trip to Alaska and the western United States in the summer of 1923 in an effort to restore his health. While in San Francisco, California, he died on August 2 – making his the fourth-shortest Presidency in history. He was buried in his hometown of Marion, Ohio.

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