

Collector's Journal

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2007 John Adams Presidential Dollar

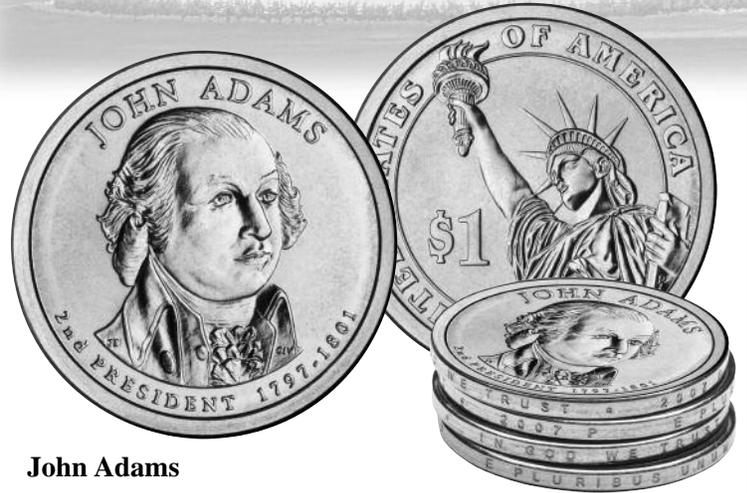
Second in the Presidential Dollars Collection

The John Adams Dollar is the second coin in the U.S. Mint's historic Presidential Dollars series. It was released in May 2007 and was restricted to a mintage of about three months. Coins are issued in the order in which the Presidents served. Adams was the second President, so his coin is the second in the collection following the George Washington coin in early 2007. Only one coin is issued at a time; when production started for the Adams coin, production ended forever for the Washington coin.

Four Presidential Dollars will be issued each year until all non-living Presidents have been featured on unique coins. The additional coins for 2007 are Thomas Jefferson (third President) and James Madison (fourth President). At the time the series started in 2007, it was scheduled to feature 39 Presidents from Washington to Gerald Ford plus Ronald Reagan. Jimmy Carter, George H.W. Bush, Bill Clinton, and George W. Bush were still alive, but they – and any future Presidents – may be included in the collection if they die before the series is scheduled to end in 2016.

Although there are 39 Presidents in the series, there will be 40 coins. Each President is featured on just one coin, regardless of the length of his service. However, Grover Cleveland will be featured on two coins because he served two non-consecutive terms (1885-1889 and 1893-1897).

The Adams Dollar depicts a portrait of John Adams that is based on the official portrait by John Trumbull that hangs in the White House. The reverse is standard for all Presidential Dollars; it shows the Statue of Liberty. Presidential Dollars are struck in an alloy of .770 copper, .120 zinc, .070 manganese, and .040 nickel. They are the same size, composition, and golden color as the Sacagawea Golden Dollar.



John Adams

John Adams was born on October 30, 1735, in Braintree (now Quincy), Massachusetts. He graduated from Harvard College in 1755 and began to practice law in Boston three years later. In 1775 he was a delegate to the Second Continental Congress, and in 1776 he was on the committee that drafted the Declaration of Independence.

Although Adams did not fight in the American Revolution, he served as a diplomat in Europe and helped win support for the American cause. In 1789, he was elected as America's first Vice President. He served two terms under George Washington before seeking the Presidency in 1796.

In the 1796 election, Adams narrowly defeated Thomas Jefferson by three electoral votes. He was inaugurated as America's second President on March 4, 1797. When the federal government moved to Washington, D.C., in 1800, Adams became the first President to live in the White House. The most significant event of his Presidency was avoiding war with France.

Jefferson defeated Adams in the 1800 election. Following his defeat, Adams retired to his home in Massachusetts. He died there on July 4, 1826 – the precise 50th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. His last words were allegedly "Thomas Jefferson still survives," although he had no way of knowing that Jefferson had died just a few hours earlier.

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