

Collector's Journal

A Service of Collectors Alliance

2007 Thomas Jefferson Presidential Dollar

Third in the Presidential Dollars Collection

The Thomas Jefferson Dollar is the third coin in the U.S. Mint's Presidential Dollars series. Presidential Dollars are issued in the order in which the Presidents served, so the Jefferson coin is the third coin because Jefferson was the third President. The first two coins honored George Washington and John Adams, the first two Presidents.

Each coin in the Presidential Dollars series is a limited edition of about three months. The Jefferson coin was released in August 2007. The fourth and final Presidential Dollar in 2007 will be the James Madison coin, which will be released about November 2007. Four coins are issued each year; the four coins for 2008 will be James Monroe, John Quincy Adams, Andrew Jackson, and Martin Van Buren – the 5th through 8th Presidents, respectively.

The Presidential Dollars series was authorized by the Presidential \$1 Coin Act. In addition to the Presidential Dollars, the Act requires the U.S. Mint to produce a matching First Spouse gold \$10 coin struck in one-half ounce of 24-karat gold. Each First Spouse gold coin honors the President's wife during his term of service. A bronze medal featuring the same First Spouse design will also be issued for each President's wife. In the case of Thomas Jefferson, the First Spouse gold coin and medal will feature an image of Liberty because Jefferson's wife died before he became President.

The Jefferson Dollar depicts a portrait of Thomas Jefferson that is based on the official White House portrait by Rembrandt Peale. The reverse shows the Statue of Liberty. The edge is inscribed with the motto "In God We Trust" as well as "E Pluribus Unum," "2007," and the mint mark. Presidential Dollars are the only currently circulating coins that do not include the word "Liberty" in the design.



Thomas Jefferson

Thomas Jefferson was born on April 13, 1743, in Shadwell, Virginia. In 1769, he was elected to the Virginia House of Burgesses and began building his home at Monticello in Virginia, and three years later he married Martha Wayles Skelton.

Jefferson represented Virginia in the Continental Congress, and in 1776 he drafted the Declaration of Independence. After returning to Virginia, he served in the Virginia General Assembly, was elected governor of Virginia, and wrote the state constitution. In 1784, Congress appointed him the U.S. minister to France. He remained in France until 1789, when he accepted the position of Secretary of State in President George Washington's cabinet.

Jefferson ran for President in 1796 and was declared Vice President when received the second-most electoral college votes after John Adams. Four years later, Jefferson and Aaron Burr had an equal number of electoral college votes, but the House of Representatives chose Jefferson as President. He won reelection in 1804.

The major achievement of Jefferson's Presidency was the Louisiana Purchase in 1803 that almost doubled the size of the United States. Jefferson also commissioned the Lewis and Clark Expedition to explore the western lands in 1804 to 1806. Jefferson died on July 4, 1826 – the same day that John Adams died and the 50th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.

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