

Collector's Journal

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2008 John Quincy Adams Presidential Dollar

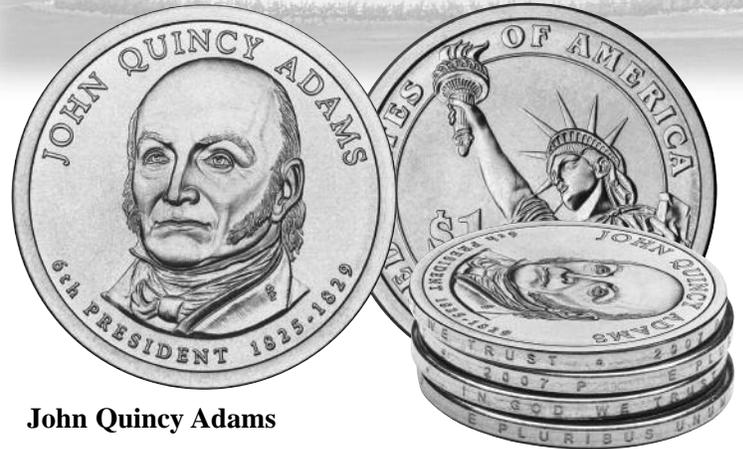
Sixth in the Presidential Dollars Collection

The John Quincy Adams Presidential Dollar was the second of four Presidential Dollars to be issued in 2008. It was also the sixth coin in the overall collection, because Adams was the sixth President and coins are issued in the order in which the Presidents served. The coin was preceded in 2008 with the James Monroe coin and will be followed by the Andrew Jackson and Martin Van Buren coins. Each coin is struck for about three months before production starts on the next coin.

The obverse design of each Presidential Dollar features a unique portrait of the President. Many of the designs are based on the official White House portraits, although the designers also consult other painting and sketches in order to arrive at historically accurate portraits. The image of Adams was based on the official White House portrait by George P.A. Healy. The portrait was completed in the 1830's – just a few years after Adams left office. It shows Adams with a bald head but with his distinctive sideburns.

All Presidential Dollars show the same reverse design of the Statue of Liberty. The Statue of Liberty represents the concept of liberty. As a result, this is the first Dollar coin that does not include the word "Liberty" as part of the design.

The 2008 Presidential Dollars will likely be the last with the motto "In God We Trust" as part of the edge design. Congress mandated that the motto be moved from the edge to the obverse or reverse, and it is expected that the first coins with the revised design will be issued in 2009. Meanwhile, the 2008 John Quincy Adams Presidential Dollar was struck with the edge inscriptions "E Pluribus Unum," "In God We Trust," the year of issue, and the mint mark.



John Quincy Adams

John Quincy Adams was born on July 11, 1767, in Braintree (now Quincy), Massachusetts. He was the son of John Adams, the second President, and he was the first President whose father was also a President.

Adams was a child during the American Revolution. His father was a U.S. minister to Europe, and he accompanied his father to Europe during the war years. He was also his father's secretary before returning to the United States in 1785 to attend Harvard College.

Following his graduation from Harvard, Adams practiced law in Boston and was a minister to Europe under Presidents George Washington, John Adams, and James Madison. In addition, he served in the U.S. Senate and was Secretary of State for President James Monroe.

In 1824, Adams ran for President. Although Andrew Jackson easily won the popular vote, he did not have a majority of the electoral college vote. The U.S. House of Representatives decided the election in Adams' favor. As President, he proposed a network of highways and canals to stimulate the economy. He also encouraged scientific expeditions.

Adams ran unsuccessfully for reelection in 1828, losing to Jackson. He returned to Massachusetts, and in 1830 he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. The first former President to serve in Congress, he remained in the House until his death on February 23, 1848.

Collectors Alliance • 1942 Swarthmore Avenue • Lakewood, NJ 08701

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