

Collector's Journal

A Service of Collectors Alliance

2009 William Henry Harrison Presidential Dollar

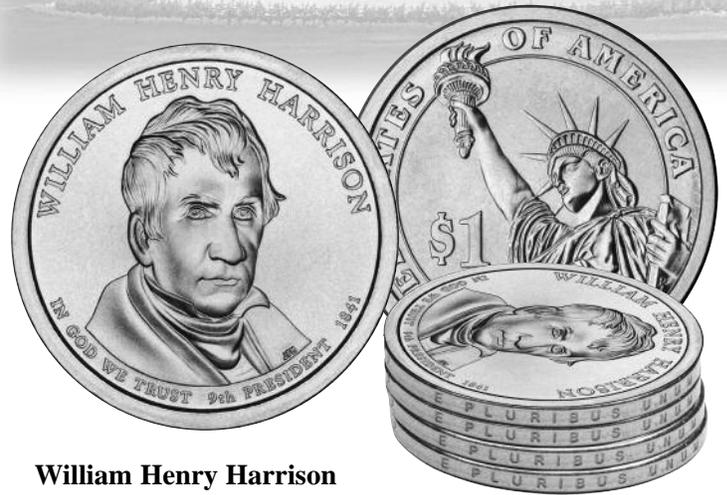
Ninth in the Presidential Dollars Collection

The William Henry Harrison Dollar is the first of four Presidential Dollars issued in 2009. It was released on February 19, 2009. Harrison was the ninth President of the United States, although he served for only 32 days in 1841.

Four Presidential Dollars are released each year, in the order in which the Presidents served. The collection started in 2007 with the first four Presidents (George Washington, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, and James Madison) and continued in 2008 with the fifth through eighth Presidents (James Monroe, John Quincy Adams, Andrew Jackson, and Martin Van Buren). The three additional coin in 2009 will be for the 10th through 12th Presidents (John Tyler, James Knox Polk, and Zachary Taylor).

Each Presidential Dollar is a one-time-only coin that is struck for only about three months before production starts on the next coin. Once the production period is over, no more coins can be struck. As a result, many of the coins, especially from the early years of the collection, will become increasingly difficult to find in original Brilliant Uncirculated condition as the collection continues through the years. A matching series of First Spouse \$10 gold coins is issued to honor the women who served as First Ladies. The gold coins are released on the same schedule as the Presidential Dollars.

The Harrison Dollar depicts a portrait of William Henry Harrison based on the official White House portrait by Eliphalet Frazer Andrews. This was the first Presidential Dollar to feature the motto "In God We Trust" as part of the obverse design; the 2007 and 2008 coins included the motto as part of the edge inscriptions. The edge of the 2009 and later coins includes stars in place of the motto. The reverse of the coin shows the Statue of Liberty.



William Henry Harrison

William Henry Harrison was born on February 9, 1773, in Berkeley, Virginia. The last President born before the American Revolution, he came from a powerful political family. His father signed the Declaration of Independence in 1776 and was Governor of Virginia, while his grandson, Benjamin Harrison, was President from 1889 to 1893.

Harrison had a successful military career before turning to politics. He joined the U.S. Army in 1791 and served on America's western frontier before being named secretary of the Northwest Territory in 1798. The following year, he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives from the Northwest Territory, and in 1801 he became the first governor of the Indiana Territory. In 1811, he suppressed a Native American uprising at Tippecanoe, Indiana, and was known as "Old Tippecanoe" from then on.

After his term as Governor, Harrison served in the U.S. House and U.S. Senate. In 1836, he was the Whig candidate for President, losing to Martin Van Buren. Four years later, he beat Van Buren to become the first Whig President. Although his inauguration ceremony on March 4, 1841, was held in a bracing storm, he gave a speech that lasted 1 hour 45 minutes. He caught pneumonia during the ceremony and died on April 4, 1841. He was the first President to die in office, and he served the shortest term of any President.

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