

# Collector's Journal

A Service of Collectors Alliance

## 2009 Zachary Taylor Presidential Dollar

### *Twelfth in the Presidential Dollars Collection*

The Zachary Taylor Dollar is the fourth and final Presidential Dollar issued by the U.S. Mint in 2009. It was released in the fall of 2009, following the Presidential Dollars for William Henry Harrison, John Tyler, and James Knox Polk. The Taylor coin was also the 12th overall in the Presidential Dollars series; Taylor was the 12th President, and the coins are issued in the order in which the Presidents served.

Four coins are issued each year until the collection is complete, although only deceased Presidents can be featured on the coins. The series will continue in 2010 with four new coins to honor the 13th through 16th Presidents: Millard Fillmore, Franklin Pierce, James Buchanan, and Abraham Lincoln, respectively.

The obverse of each coin shows the name and portrait of the featured President, as well as the order of his Presidency and the dates of his term in office. Starting in 2009, the obverse also includes the motto "In God We Trust." Unlike all other currently circulating coins, the word "Liberty" does not appear on the Presidential Dollars. Instead, the reverse depicts the Statue of Liberty to represent "Liberty." The edge includes incuse lettering (i.e. lettering that is sunk into the surface): "E Pluribus Unum," the year of issue, and the mint mark ("P" for the Philadelphia Mint or "D" for the Denver Mint). "In God We Trust" was also featured on the edge on 2007 and 2008 coins.

The portrait on the Zachary Taylor Dollar is based on an engraving of Taylor by Alexander Hay Ritchie that was first published in 1848, shortly before Taylor became President. The original engraving, which is owned by the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., shows a half-length image of Taylor in a military uniform and holding a telescope in his right hand.



#### Zachary Taylor

Zachary Taylor was born on November 24, 1784, in Montebello, Virginia. A military hero, he was the first President who had not served in either the Continental Congress or the United States Congress. He represented Louisiana when elected President, becoming the first President elected from a state west of the Mississippi River.

Taylor grew up on his family's plantation near Louisville, Kentucky, and he joined the military in 1808. He remained in the military for 40 years, serving in several remote outposts on the American frontier and fighting in the War of 1812, the Black Hawk War in 1832, and the second Seminole War that started in 1837.

Following decisive victories in the Mexican War in 1846 and 1847, Taylor became known as "Old Rough and Ready." His successes helped the United States acquire much of the American Southwest and made him a national hero. In 1848, he received the Whig party nomination for President. He won a close election to become America's 12th President.

Despite owning slaves himself, Taylor opposed the admission of new states that allowed slavery. The issue of slavery threatened to divide the nation, but Taylor vowed to preserve the Union, even at the cost of war against southern states if they decided to secede. His Presidency ended prematurely, however, when he died after only 16 months in office on July 9, 1850.

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