

Collector's Journal

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2009 John Tyler Presidential Dollar

Tenth in the Presidential Dollars Collection

The John Tyler Dollar is the second of four Presidential Dollars issued in 2009. It was released in the spring of 2009, following the William Henry Harrison coin; it will be followed by the James Knox Polk and Zachary Taylor coins to complete the third year of Presidential Dollars.

The Presidential Dollars series started in 2007, and four coins are issued each year. The coins are issued in the order in which the Presidents served. Tyler was the 10th President, so the Tyler Presidential Dollar is the 10th coin in the series. Each coin is struck for only about three months before production starts on the next coin.

According to the 2005 Presidential \$1 Coin Act, each non-living U.S. President will be featured on a separate legal tender One Dollar coin. The coins are the same size and are struck in the same golden alloy as the Sacagawea Dollars that were first issued in 2000.

At the time of issue of the Tyler Presidential Dollar, only 39 of the 44 Presidents were scheduled to be featured on Presidential Dollars. Grover Cleveland will be featured on two coins because he served two non-consecutive terms (1885-1889 and 1893-1897). Jimmy Carter, George H.W. Bush, Bill Clinton, George W. Bush, and Barack Obama were still alive and therefore ineligible to be included in the collection.

Each Presidential Dollar is struck for circulation at both the Philadelphia Mint ("P" mint mark on the edge) and the Denver Mint ("D" mint mark). Starting in 2009, the motto "In God We Trust" was moved from the edge to the obverse design.

The John Tyler Presidential Dollar features a portrait of President John Tyler based on the official White House portrait by George P.A. Healy. The portrait was completed in 1859, almost 15 years after Tyler's single term in office came to an ignominious end.



John Tyler

John Tyler was born on May 29, 1790, in Charles City County, Virginia. After graduating from the College of William and Mary, he embarked on a career in law and served in the Virginia House of Delegates, the U.S. House of Representatives, the U.S. Senate and – like his father – as Governor of Virginia.

A fierce opponent of President Andrew Jackson, Tyler was an early member of the Whig party that was established in opposition to Jackson. Tyler was elected Vice President in 1840 as a Whig. President William Henry Harrison died just 32 days after inauguration in 1841, so Tyler became President on April 6, 1841. He was the first Vice President to become President through the death of the sitting President.

Tyler championed states' rights and a limited federal government, a position that put him at odds with most of Congress. All but one member of his Cabinet resigned over his veto of a national bank bill, and he was expelled from the Whig party. Nonetheless, he oversaw the annexation of Texas and the admission of Florida to statehood while serving just one term in office. In 1844, he was the first President to marry while in office.

Tyler was elected to the Confederate House of Representatives in 1861 during the Civil War, but he died on January 18, 1862, before taking his seat.

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