

Collector's Journal

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2011 Ulysses S. Grant Presidential Dollar

Eighteenth in the Presidential Dollars Collection

The second of four Presidential Dollars issued in 2011 honors Ulysses S. Grant, who was the 18th President. The coin was released in May 2011. It followed the Andrew Johnson coin and will be followed by the coins for Rutherford B. Hayes and James A. Garfield.

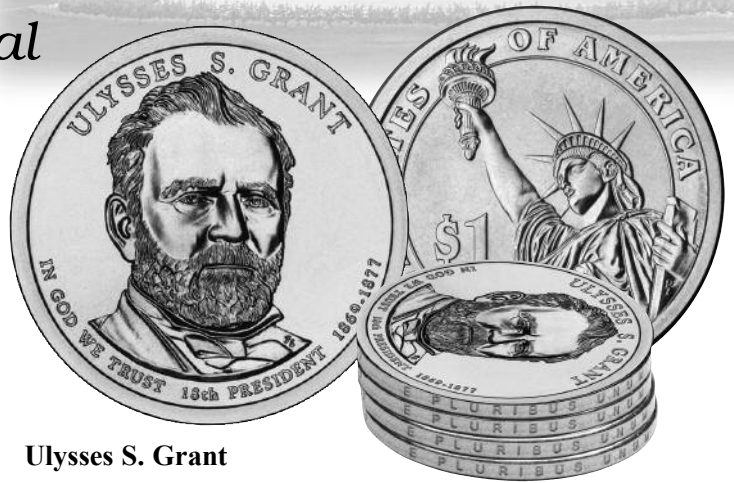
The Presidential Dollars are issued in the order in which the Presidents served, so the Grant coin was the 18th in the series because Grant was the 18th President. Four coins are issued each year. The first coin, in 2007, was for George Washington, the first President.

According to the legislation that authorized the coins, only non-living Presidents can be included in the series. As of early 2011, this meant that the series was scheduled to end in 2016 with coins for Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford, and Ronald Reagan. Should another President die prior to the end of the series, he will also be included.

Regardless of the length of a President's term or how many terms he served, each President will be featured on only one coin. The exception is Grover Cleveland, who is the only President to serve two non-consecutive terms (1885-1889 and 1893-1897) and who will be honored on two coins.

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). The reverse of all Presidential Dollars is the same image of the Statue of Liberty, which fulfills the legal requirement that U.S. coins feature the word "liberty" or an image emblematic of "liberty."

The portrait of Grant on the coin was based on contemporary photographs of Grant. The most famous images of Grant as President were taken by Mathew Brady, the most accomplished photographer of his era. Brady had a studio in Washington, D.C., and photographed many prominent people.



Ulysses S. Grant

Ulysses S. Grant was a national hero from the Civil War, but he had no political experience when he was elected President in 1868. Born on April 27, 1822, in Point Pleasant, Ohio, he attended the U.S. Military Academy at West Point – where he adopted the name Ulysses S. Grant instead of his given name Hiram Ulysses Grant.

Grant fought in the Mexican War under future President Zachary Taylor and Presidential candidate Winfield Scott. He resigned from the Army in 1854, but he proved unsuccessful in farming and business. When the Civil War started in 1861, he took command of a volunteer regiment in Illinois and quickly rose through the ranks as a military leader. Following major victories at Vicksburg, Mississippi, and Chattanooga, Tennessee, President Abraham Lincoln promoted him to commander of all Union armies. On April 9, 1865, he accepted the Confederate surrender that ended the war.

In 1868, Grant won the Republican nomination for President and easily won the election to become 18th President. He won a second term in 1872. While generally low-key as President, his administration was tarnished by scandals. At the end of his Presidency, he embarked on a two-year trip around the world, meeting dignitaries such as Queen Victoria and Pope Leo XIII. His *Memoirs*, which was completed only days before he died on July 23, 1885, was a national best-seller.

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