

Collector's Journal

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2012 Grover Cleveland Presidential Dollar

Twenty-Second in the Presidential Dollars Collection

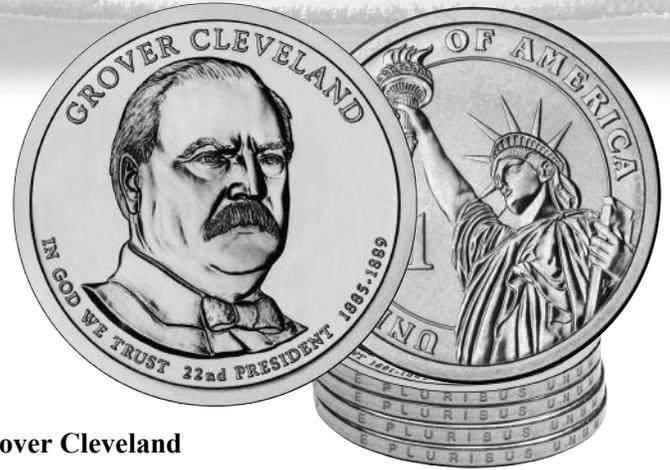
The second of four Presidential Dollars issued in 2012 honors Grover Cleveland, the only President who served two non-consecutive terms. His first term, which is honored on this coin, was from 1885 to 1889, while his second term, which will be honored on the fourth Presidential Dollar of the year, was from 1893 to 1897. This coin was released in the late Spring of 2012.

Cleveland is the only President to be featured on two different Presidential Dollars because he was the 22nd and 24th President. All other Presidents are featured on only one coin, regardless of the length of their service – from William Henry Harrison's 32 days to Franklin D. Roosevelt's record of more than 12 years.

The Cleveland coin followed the Chester A. Arthur coin and will be followed by the Benjamin Harrison and the second Grover Cleveland coins. Four coins are released each year, and each coin is a limited edition of only about 13 weeks. 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).

Weighing about 260 pounds, Cleveland was one of the heaviest Presidents. In addition to his size, he was known for his drooping mustache and his ubiquitous bow tie. The portrait on this coin highlights his corpulent appearance as well as his distinctive mustache and bow tie. It was based primarily on a photograph taken in New York in 1892, between his two terms as President.

The notation "22nd President" and "1885-1889" under Cleveland's portrait indicate that this is the coin for his first term as President. The second Cleveland coin will feature a different portrait that also dates to 1892, but it identifies Cleveland as the "24th President." The reverse design is the same on all Presidential Dollars: the Statue of Liberty with the denomination noted as "\$1."



Grover Cleveland

Grover Cleveland was born on March 18, 1837, in Caldwell, New Jersey. He was raised in upstate New York and became a renowned lawyer in Buffalo, New York, after being admitted to the New York bar in 1859. He also had political aspirations, and he held a series of positions such as an assistant district attorney of Erie County and sheriff of Erie County before winning election as mayor of Buffalo in 1881 and Governor of New York in 1882.

Based on his reputation as a strong, trustworthy leader, Cleveland was selected as the Democratic party's nominee in the upcoming Presidential election. In an extremely close contest, he was elected as America's 22nd President. He was the first Democrat elected President since before the Civil War.

During his Presidency, Cleveland married 21-year-old Frances Folsom, becoming the only President married at the White House. As President, he was perhaps best known for vetoing numerous bills that would have provided fraudulent pensions to Civil War veterans and for forcing railroads to return 81 million acres of unused Western land to the federal government. His most prominent appearance, though, was on October 28, 1886, when he dedicated the Statue of Liberty.

In 1888 when he ran for reelection, Cleveland won the popular vote but lost the electoral college vote – and therefore the election – to Benjamin Harrison.

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