

Collector's Journal

A Service of Collectors Alliance

2012 Benjamin Harrison Presidential Dollar

Twenty-Third in the Presidential Dollars Collection

The Benjamin Harrison Dollar is the third Presidential Dollar released in 2012. Issued in the summer of 2012, it was preceded by the Chester A. Arthur and Grover Cleveland coins; it will be followed by the final Presidential Dollar of 2012, which will also honor Grover Cleveland.

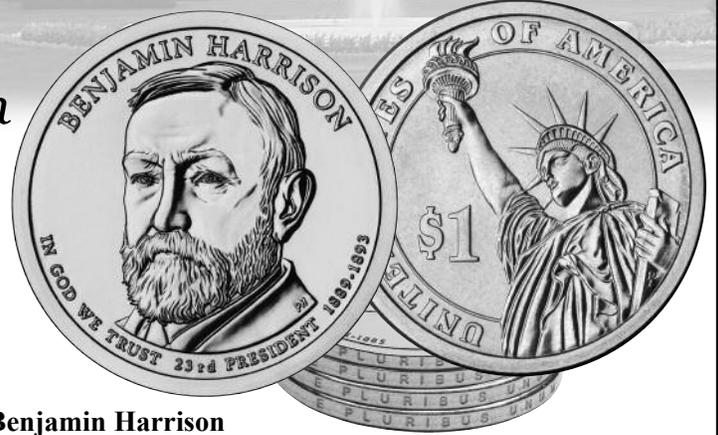
The Harrison Dollar is the 23rd coin in the overall series. Harrison was the 23rd President and the coins are issued in the order in which the Presidents served.

Each coin in the Presidential Dollars series is released separately. The extremely limited mintage is restricted to about 10 weeks per coin – and once the production period is over, no more coins can ever be struck. The 2012 coins are being struck exclusively for collectors. No coins are scheduled to be released into circulation, making it even harder for most people to find the coins and assemble complete collections.

The portrait of Harrison on the coin is based on contemporary photographs, especially a studio portrait taken by the Pach Brothers of New York City in 1896. At the time of the photograph, Harrison had been out of office for about three years. He is shown as a distinguished elder statesman, sporting a neatly-trimmed beard.

The Presidential Dollars series started in 2007. Four coins are issued each year, and only one coin is issued for each President; Grover Cleveland is the exception, because he is the only President to serve two non-consecutive terms and will therefore be honored on two different coins. He is considered both the 22nd and 24th President. Only Presidents who have been deceased for at least two years are eligible to be featured in the series.

Presidential Dollars are struck in Uncirculated condition at both the Philadelphia and Denver Mints. The two different versions can be identified by the mint mark ("P" for Philadelphia or "D" for Denver) on the edge.



Benjamin Harrison

Benjamin Harrison was born on August 20, 1833, in North Bend, Ohio. He was the grandson of the ninth President, William Henry Harrison, and the great-grandson of his namesake, Benjamin Harrison, who signed the Declaration of Independence in 1776.

After attending Miami University in Ohio and practicing law in Indianapolis, Harrison served in the Civil War with the 70th Volunteer Infantry and rose to the rank of colonel. Following the Civil War, he returned to Indianapolis and became one of the city's most respected lawyers. He was defeated in a bid to become Governor of Indiana in 1876, but he started his political career in 1881 when he took a seat in the U.S. Senate. As a Senator, he championed the causes of Native Americans, homesteaders, and Civil War veterans.

In 1889, the Republican party selected Harrison as their Presidential candidate. He lost the popular vote to incumbent President Grover Cleveland, but he won the election by claiming the most electoral college votes. During his Presidency, he supported the Pan American Union, encouraged the United States to annex Hawaii, and attempted to regulate monopolies. Six new states were admitted to statehood during his Presidency – the most under any President.

In the 1892 election, Harrison faced Cleveland again. This time, Cleveland comfortably defeated Harrison to reclaim the Presidency. Harrison retired to Indianapolis, where he died on March 13, 1901.

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