

Collector's Journal

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2013 Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Dollar

Twenty-Sixth in the Presidential Dollars Collection

The second of four Presidential Dollars issued in 2013 honors Theodore Roosevelt. Released in the Spring of 2013, it was preceded by the William McKinley coin and will be followed by the coins for William H. Taft and Woodrow Wilson to complete the set of four 2013 coins.

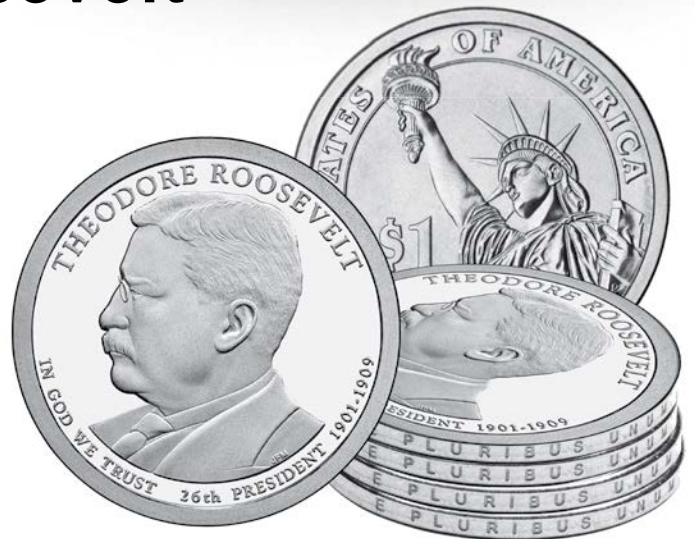
Presidential Dollars are issued at the rate of four coins per year and in the order in which the Presidents served. Theodore Roosevelt was the 26th President, so the Theodore Roosevelt coin is the 26th in the overall series.

The U.S. Mint's Presidential Dollars started in 2007 as a tribute to America's Presidents. According to the legislation that authorized the series, coins can be issued only for Presidents who have been deceased for at least two years prior to the issuance of the coin. As a result, Presidents Jimmy Carter, George H.W. Bush, Bill Clinton, George W. Bush, and Barack Obama were ineligible to be included in the series at the time the Theodore Roosevelt coin was issued. The series is scheduled to end with the Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford, and Ronald Reagan coins in 2016.

The profile portrait of Roosevelt on the coin was based on photographs that were taken at about the time of his Presidency between 1901 and 1909. Although barely discernable, the image shows small but distinctive "pince-nez" eyeglasses that rest on Roosevelt's nose and are not supported by side arms. Roosevelt generally wore this type of eyeglasses. He also sported a mustache throughout his adult life, and his mustache is unmistakable on this coin.

Also featured on the coin are the motto "In God We Trust" – which was moved from the edge to the obverse in 2009 – and inscriptions identifying the order and dates of Roosevelt's Presidency.

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.



Theodore Roosevelt

Theodore Roosevelt was born into a wealthy family on October 27, 1858, in New York City. His first political office was in the New York State Assembly in 1882, but following his wife's death in 1884 he spent two years ranching and hunting in North Dakota. After returning to New York, he held various positions in city government, including police commissioner.

In 1898, Roosevelt became a national hero when he organized the "Rough Riders" volunteer regiment to fight in Cuba in the Spanish-American War. He was elected Governor of New York later in 1898, and in 1900 he was elected Vice President under William McKinley. When McKinley was assassinated in 1901, he became the nation's youngest President at age 42, and he won reelection in 1904.

As President, Roosevelt fought business monopolies, championed construction of the Panama Canal, won the Nobel Peace Prize for mediating the Russo-Japanese War, and crusaded for national forests and other land to be set aside for public use. One of his greatest legacies was inspiring the transformation of America's coins, commissioning great artists and sculptors to produce memorable designs. His favorite proverb was "Speak softly and carry a big stick."

Roosevelt left office in 1909, but he ran for President again in 1912 as the Progressive ("Bull Moose") party candidate, coming second to Woodrow Wilson. He died on January 6, 1919.

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