

# Collector's Journal

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## 2013 William H. Taft Presidential Dollar

*Twenty-Seventh in the Presidential Dollars Collection*

The William H. Taft Dollar is the third of four Presidential Dollars released in 2013. Issued in the summer of 2013, it was preceded by the William McKinley and Theodore Roosevelt coins; it will be followed by the final Presidential Dollar of 2013, which will honor Woodrow Wilson.

The Taft Dollar is the 27th in the overall series because Taft was the 27th President and the coins are issued in the order in which the Presidents served. Like all other coins in the series, it is being struck in a limited edition of only about three months. When production ends, no more coins can be made.

Presidential Dollars, which were first made in 2007, were initially intended as circulating coins. Starting in 2012, though, the coins were no longer released into circulation. They are now available only through limited outlets, making it more difficult for the collector who wishes to assemble a complete collection.

The reverse of all Presidential Dollars features the Statue of Liberty, which fulfills the legal requirement that all coins show an image "emblematic of liberty." U.S. coins are also required to include the word "Liberty," but Presidential Dollars are specifically exempted in the authorizing legislation because the Statue of Liberty "adequately conveys the concept of Liberty."

The portrait of Taft on the coin was based on photographs taken at about the time of his Presidency – including one that was taken in December 1908, shortly after he won the Presidency but before he was inaugurated. Taft's most distinguishing features were his weight – at about 330 pounds, he weighed more than any other President – and his mustache. Both his weight and his mustache are captured in the image on the coin.

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.



### *William H. Taft*

William H. Taft was born on September 16, 1857, in Cincinnati, Ohio. His father, Alphonso Taft, was Attorney General and Secretary of War under President Ulysses S. Grant.

After graduating from Yale, Taft returned to Ohio and worked his way through judiciary appointments before becoming a federal circuit judge in 1892. In 1900, President William McKinley appointed him chief civil administrator in the Philippines, a territory the U.S. recently acquired through the Spanish-American War. President Theodore Roosevelt made him Secretary of War in 1904 and groomed him as his successor.

Taft won the Presidential election in 1908. Among the highlights of his Presidency were the admission of New Mexico and Arizona as new states, the 16th Amendment creating a federal income tax, and the planting of cherry trees in Washington, D.C. However, Taft alienated and antagonized both Democrats and Republicans, including Roosevelt, and he was defeated in his bid for reelection in 1912.

Following the Presidency, Taft was a professor of law at Yale, and in 1921 President Warren G. Harding appointed him Chief Justice of the Supreme Court – a position to which he aspired his entire life. He was the only President to become a Supreme Court justice, and he remained on the court until shortly before his death on March 8, 1930. He was the first President buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

Collectors Alliance • 1942 Swarthmore Avenue • Lakewood, NJ 08701

Call TOLL FREE 1-800-997-9843

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