

# Collector's Journal

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## 2015 Harry S. Truman Presidential Dollar

### *Thirty-Third in the Presidential Dollars Collection*

The Harry S. Truman Presidential Dollar is the first of four unique Presidential Dollars issued by the U.S. Mint in 2015, the ninth year of the ongoing coin program. It is also the 33rd overall in the Presidential Dollars series because Truman was the 33rd President. This coin will be followed in 2015 with the coins for the 34th through 36th Presidents: Dwight D. Eisenhower, John F. Kennedy, and Lyndon B. Johnson, respectively.

Presidential Dollars are issued only for deceased Presidents, and the collection is expected to come to an end in 2016 with the coins for Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford, and Ronald Reagan. Initially, there was uncertainty concerning the Reagan coin. Reagan was preceded by Jimmy Carter, who in early 2015 was still alive and therefore ineligible to be included. Since the coins are issued "in the order of the period of service," it was feared that skipping over Carter would not technically conform to the terms of the legislation. In early 2015, though, the U.S. Mint announced it would include Reagan.

Each Presidential Dollar is minted in a limited edition of about 13 weeks. Once production ends, the coin can never be made again. Presidential coins are struck in uncirculated quality at both the Philadelphia Mint ("P" mint mark) and the Denver Mint ("D" mint mark); the mint mark is found on the edge, along with the year of issue and the motto "E Pluribus Unum."

The portrait of Truman on the coin was based on photographs of Truman, particularly a photograph taken in 1947 while Truman was President and which became his official White House portrait. He is wearing wire-rimmed eyeglasses, which he rarely removed due to bad eyesight dating back to childhood and which became his trademark look.

The inscriptions under Truman's portrait include the notation



"33rd President" and "1945-1953" to indicate the dates of his Presidency. The reverse of all Presidential Dollars is a common design depicting the Statue of Liberty and the denomination "\$1."

#### **Harry S. Truman**

Harry S. Truman was born on May 8, 1884, and grew up in Missouri. Due to bad eyesight, he was unable to attend West Point. Instead, he worked odd jobs, including running the family farm from 1906 to 1917 and serving in the U.S. Army in France in World War I.

In 1919, Truman opened a men's clothing shop in Kansas City. When the business failed, he moved into the public sector, first as a judge, then winning election to the U.S. Senate in 1934. He became a powerful Senator, and in 1944 President Franklin D. Roosevelt selected him as his Vice Presidential candidate to replace Henry A. Wallace.

Roosevelt won the election, but Truman was Vice President for less than three months when Roosevelt died on April 12, 1945. At this point, World War II was almost over and Germany surrendered on May 7. Truman gave the go-ahead to drop atomic bombs on Japan in August, forcing Japan's surrender and ending the war.

Truman won election to a full term in 1948 but declined to run again in 1952. As President, he supported peace through the United Nations, NATO, and the Marshall Plan to rebuild war-torn Europe, but he also presided over the Korean War and the "Cold War" with the Soviet Union. He died on December 26, 1972, and is buried in Independence, Missouri.

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