

Collector's Journal

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2015 John F. Kennedy Presidential Dollar

Thirty-Fifth in the Presidential Dollars Collection

The John F. Kennedy Dollar is the third of four Presidential Dollars released in 2015. It was also the 35th coin in the overall series because the coins are issued in the order in which the Presidents served and John F. Kennedy was the 35th President.

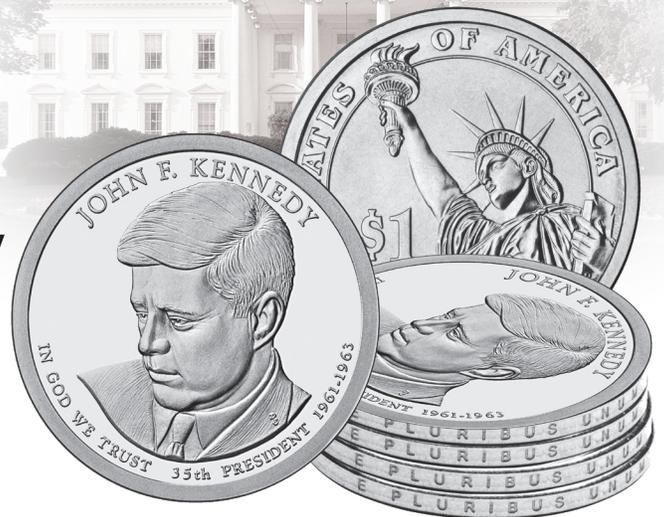
Issued in the summer of 2015, this coin was preceded by the Harry S. Truman and Dwight D. Eisenhower coins; it will be followed by the final Presidential Dollar of 2015, which will honor Lyndon B. Johnson.

The Presidential Dollars series started in 2007 with the coin for George Washington, the first President. When complete, the series will form a comprehensive history of the Presidency – and of the United States – from the beginning to Ronald Reagan's term that ended in 1989. The series is scheduled to end with Reagan in 2016, since only deceased Presidents can be included and Jimmy Carter, George H.W. Bush, Bill Clinton, George W. Bush and Barack Obama were still alive in early 2015.

The production period for each Presidential Dollar is limited to only about 13 weeks. Only one coin design is struck at a time, so even the coins for exceptionally popular Presidents like Kennedy can not be reissued once the limited production period is over.

The portrait of Kennedy on the coin was inspired by the official White House portrait of Kennedy by artist Aaron Shikler that hangs in the Entrance Hall of the White House; it is a mirror-image of the original portrait. The pose is distinctive, because it shows Kennedy looking down instead of directly ahead as is customary. The portrait was commissioned by Kennedy's widow, Jacqueline Kennedy, after Kennedy's death and was completed in 1970.

The inscription "35th President" and the dates "1961-1963" under the portrait are the order and dates of Kennedy's Presiden-



cy, respectively. 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.

John F. Kennedy

John F. Kennedy was born into a prominent family on May 29, 1917, in Brookline, Massachusetts. After graduating from Harvard in 1940, he joined the Navy. In 1943, he was severely injured when his patrol torpedo boat was rammed by a Japanese destroyer in the South Pacific during World War II. Despite his injuries, Kennedy heroically saved his crew and was awarded the Purple Heart and the Navy and Marine Corps Medal.

Upon returning home from the war, Kennedy served three terms in the U.S. House of Representatives before being elected to the U.S. Senate in 1952. He married Jacqueline Bouvier in 1953, and in 1957 he was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for writing *Profiles in Courage*.

In 1960, Kennedy was selected as the Democratic Presidential candidate, and he defeated Republican Vice President Richard Nixon in the November election. He was the youngest person elected President and the first Catholic President.

As President, Kennedy encouraged Americans to "Ask not what your country can do for you – ask what you can do for your country." He established the Peace Corps, supported the civil rights movement, and encouraged the space program. He also battled the Soviet Union in the "Cold War" and narrowly avoided nuclear war during the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962. He was assassinated on November 22, 1963, in Dallas, Texas, and is buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

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