

Collector's Journal

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2016 Ronald Reagan Presidential Dollar

Thirty-Ninth in the Presidential Dollars Collection



The Ronald Reagan Presidential Dollar is the third and final Presidential Dollar issued by the U.S. Mint in 2016. It followed the 2016 coins for Richard M. Nixon and Gerald R. Ford, and it was released by the U.S. Mint in the summer of 2016.

The Ronald Reagan coin is also the final Presidential Dollar in the overall series, since the series is restricted to deceased Presidents and all other Presidents after Reagan were still alive at the time the last coins were announced; the President immediately preceding Reagan – Jimmy Carter – was also still alive, which is why the series jumps from the 38th President (Gerald R. Ford) to the 40th President (Reagan).

The Presidential Dollars series started in 2007 and was the first coin series to honor America's Presidents. The coins were issued in the order in which the Presidents served and at the rate of four per year (but just three in 2016), starting with George Washington as the first President. Each President was honored on one coin, regardless of the length of his term in office or the number of terms he served; two coins were issued for Grover Cleveland, however, because he served two nonconsecutive terms and was therefore the 22nd and 24th Presidents.

The portrait of Reagan on this coin was based on contemporary photographs. It shows Reagan with his distinctive smile that became a trademark of his Presidency. The portrait was revealed on February 6, 2016 – the precise anniversary of Reagan's birth. At the same time, the U.S. Mint announced the design of the Nancy Reagan coin in the First Spouse gold coin series; because Reagan is the final Presidential Dollar, Nancy Reagan is the final coin in the First Spouse series.

Each Presidential Dollar is a limited edition of only about 12 weeks. Coins are struck in uncirculated condition at both the

Philadelphia Mint ("P" mint mark on the edge) and the Denver Mint ("D" mint mark). The common reverse design of all coins is the Statue of Liberty.

Ronald Reagan

Ronald Reagan was born on February 6, 1911, in Tampico, Illinois. After graduating from Eureka College in Illinois in 1932, he moved to Iowa and developed a national reputation as a radio sports broadcaster.

In 1937, Reagan moved to California and appeared in more than 50 films. His best-known movies included *Knute Rockne*, *All American* (1940), *Kings Row* (1942, nominated for an Academy Award for Best Picture), *Bedtime for Bonzo* (1951), and *Hellcats of the Navy* (1957). He also acted in numerous television dramas and hosted *General Electric Theater* from 1954-1962.

As president of the Screen Actors Guild in the 1950's, Reagan fought against the perceived Communist threat in Hollywood. His fame and conservatism propelled him to two terms as Governor of California from 1967 to 1975. In 1980, he won the Republican nomination for President and defeated incumbent Jimmy Carter to become the 40th President; he won reelection in 1984.

During his Presidency, Reagan oversaw a period of unprecedented prosperity, increased national defense, and achieved his goal of reducing the role of government in people's lives. At the same time, he sought to destroy Communism – famously challenging Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to "tear down this wall" in Berlin – and improve relations with the Soviet Union.

Reagan retired in California and was later diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. He died on June 5, 2004.

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