

= Eisenhower dollar =

The Eisenhower dollar is a one @-@ dollar coin issued by the United States Mint from 1971 to 1978 ; it was the first coin of that denomination issued by the Mint since the Peace dollar series ended in 1935 . The coin depicts President Dwight D. Eisenhower on the obverse , with both sides designed by Frank Gasparro .

In 1965 , the Mint had begun to strike copper @-@ nickel clad coins instead of silver , due to rises in bullion prices . No dollar coins had been struck in thirty years , and none , initially , were minted in the new metal . Beginning in 1969 , legislators sought to reintroduce a dollar coin into commerce . After Eisenhower died in March of that year , there were a number of proposals to honor Eisenhower with the new coin . While these bills generally commanded wide support , enactment was delayed by a dispute over whether the new coin should be in base metal or 40 % silver . In 1970 , a compromise was reached to strike the Eisenhower dollar in base metal for circulation , and in 40 % silver as a collectible . President Richard Nixon signed legislation authorizing the new coin on December 31 , 1970 .

Although the collector 's pieces sold well , the new dollars failed to circulate to any degree , except in and around Nevada casinos , where they took the place of privately issued tokens . There are no dollars dated 1975 ; coins from that year and from 1976 bear a double date 1776 @-@ 1976 , and a special reverse by Dennis R. Williams in honor of the bicentennial of American independence . Beginning in 1977 , the Mint sought to replace the Eisenhower dollar with a smaller @-@ sized piece . Congress authorized the Susan B. Anthony dollar , struck beginning in 1979 , but that piece also failed to circulate . Due to their modest cost and the short length of the series , sets of Eisenhower dollars are becoming more popular among collectors .

= = Background = =

The silver dollar had never been a popular coin , circulating little except in the West ; it served as a means of monetizing metal and generally sat in bank vaults once struck . The Peace dollar , the last circulating dollar made of silver , was not struck after 1935 , and in most years in the quarter century after that , the bullion value of a silver dollar did not exceed 70 cents . In the early 1960s , though , silver prices rose , and the huge stocks of silver dollars in the hands of banks and the government were obtained by the public through the redemption of silver certificates . This caused shortages of silver dollars in the western states where the pieces circulated , and interests there sought the issuance of more dollars .

On August 3 , 1964 , Congress passed legislation providing for the striking of 45 million silver dollars . This legislation was enacted as coins vanished from circulation as the price of silver rose past the \$ 1 @-@ 29 per ounce at which silver coins were worth more as bullion than as currency . The new pieces were intended to be used at Nevada casinos and elsewhere in the West where " hard money " was popular . Numismatic periodicals complained that striking the dollars was a waste of resources . The law had been passed at the urging of the Senate Majority Leader , Mike Mansfield ( Democrat ? Montana ) , who represented a state that heavily used silver dollars . Despite the efforts of Mint Director Eva Adams and her staff to persuade him , Senator Mansfield refused to consider any cancellation or delay and on May 12 , 1965 , the Denver Mint began striking 1964 @-@ D Peace dollars ? the Mint had obtained congressional authorization to continue striking 1964 @-@ dated coins into 1965 .

A public announcement of the new pieces was made on May 15 , 1965 , to be met with a storm of objections . Both the public and many congressmen saw the issue as a poor use of Mint resources at a time of severe coin shortages , which would only benefit coin dealers . On May 24 , one day before a hastily called congressional hearing , Adams announced that the pieces were deemed trial strikes , never intended for circulation . The Mint later stated that 316 @-@ 076 pieces had been struck ; all were reported melted amid heavy security . To ensure that there would be no repetition , Congress inserted a provision in the Coinage Act of 1965 forbidding the coinage of silver dollars for five years . That act also removed silver from the dime and quarter , and reduced the silver content

of the half dollar to 40 % .

= = Inception = =

In 1969 , Nixon administration Mint Director Mary Brooks sought the reissuance of the dollar coin . By this time , rising bullion prices threatened the continued use of silver in the Kennedy half dollar , but Brooks hoped to maintain the dollar as a silver coin . Brooks ' proposal for a new silver dollar was opposed by the chairman of the House Banking Committee , Wright Patman , who had been convinced by Nixon 's predecessor , Lyndon Johnson , to support the continued use of silver in the half dollar against his better judgment .

On March 28 , 1969 , former president Dwight D. Eisenhower ( nicknamed " Ike " ) , a former World War II general , died . Soon after his death , New Jersey Representative Florence Dwyer , like Eisenhower a Republican , suggested that the proposed dollar coin bear his likeness . She spoke to Democratic Missouri Representative Leonor Sullivan , who agreed that the dollar should bear a portrait of Eisenhower as " equal time " to the half dollar , which bore the likeness of Democratic president Kennedy . A bill was filed by Connecticut Congressman Robert N. Giaimo to authorize an Eisenhower dollar , to be struck without silver content . The Joint Commission on the Coinage , drawing members from the administration and from Congress , including Giaimo , recommended the dollar in spring 1969 . It also called for the elimination of silver from the half dollar , and for the transfer from the Treasury to the General Services Administration ( GSA ) of quantities of rare silver dollars , so they could be sold . Giaimo noted that the coin would be useful in casinos , which were striking their own tokens in the absence of circulating dollar coins , and in the vending industry , which was starting to sell higher @-@ priced items .

On October 3 , 1969 , the House Banking Committee passed legislation for a silverless Eisenhower dollar , with Patman stating that he hoped to have it approved by the full House in time for the late president 's birthday on October 14 . On October 6 , the bill 's sponsors lost a procedural vote which would have allowed for no amendments . While some representatives spoke against the manner in which the legislation was to be considered , Iowa Congressman H. R. Gross objected to the base @-@ metal composition of the proposed coin : " You would be doing the memory of President Eisenhower no favor to mint a dollar made perhaps of scrap metal . " Both houses voted on October 14 , Eisenhower 's birthday . Although the House passed the administration @-@ backed bill for a base metal dollar , the Senate passed the bill as amended by Colorado Senator Peter Dominick , calling for the piece to be minted in 40 % silver . Instrumental in the passage of the Senate amendment was a letter from Mamie Eisenhower , recalling that her husband had liked to give silver dollars as mementoes , and had gone to some effort to obtain coins struck in the year of his birth , 1890 . Idaho Senator James McClure stated , " It is somehow beneath the dignity of a great president like General Eisenhower to withhold silver from the coin . " On October 29 , 1969 , Texas Representative Robert R. Casey introduced legislation to honor both Eisenhower and the recent Apollo XI Moon landing . These provisions would become part of the enacted bill authorizing the Eisenhower dollar . Casey originally wanted the mission theme of Apollo XI , " We came in peace for all mankind " to appear on the coin ; when the Mint informed him there was not room for that inscription , he settled for requiring that the reverse design be emblematic of that theme .

In March 1970 , the two houses reached a compromise whereby 150 million dollars would be struck in the 40 % silver alloy for collectors and others . The circulating dollar , though , would have no silver and would be struck in larger quantities . The 47 @.@ 4 million troy ounces of silver needed to strike the collectors ' pieces would come from bullion already held by the government . The compromise was worked out by McClure and other congressional Republicans , with the aid of Brooks , an Idahoan . McClure described the deal as " a lot less than the country deserves , but a lot more than it appeared we would get " . The reason for having a collector 's edition with silver was to avoid the hoarding which had driven the Kennedy half dollar from circulation .

Although the compromise passed the Senate in March 1970 , it was blocked in the House by Representative Patman , who was determined to end silver in the coinage . The Senate passed the bill again in September , this time attaching it as a rider to a bank holding company bill sought by

Patman . The bill , which also included provisions to eliminate silver from the half dollar and to transfer the rare silver dollars to the GSA , was approved by a conference committee and passed both houses . Nixon had intended to let the bill pass into law without his signature . When aides realized that as Congress had adjourned , not signing the bill would pocket veto it , Nixon hastily signed it just before midnight on December 31 , 1970 , only minutes before the deadline .

= = Design = =

For Mint Chief Engraver Frank Gasparro , the opportunity to put Eisenhower on a coin was the fulfillment of a longtime dream . On June 19 , 1945 , Gasparro had been one of more than 4 million people who gathered in New York to watch a parade in honor of the Allied victory in Europe . Although Gasparro , then an assistant engraver at the Mint , only saw a glimpse of General Eisenhower , he stepped back from the crowd and sketched the general 's features . That sketch served as the basis of his design for the obverse . Gasparro consulted with the late president 's widow , Mamie Eisenhower , as to the designs of both sides of the coin ; the former First Lady was presented with a galvano ( a metallic model used in the coin design process ) by Brooks and Gasparro on January 1 , 1971 . Gasparro wrote in 1991 that he had six weeks to complete the work beginning in mid @-@ November 1970 , that his extensive research into eagles over the years was a great help in creating the reverse , and that his sketches were adopted without change . The chief engraver was not given full freedom of design ; he was instructed to have the layout of the obverse resemble that of the Washington quarter .

Before the legislation passed , Gasparro had prepared two reverses , the one actually used , and a reverse with a more formal heraldic eagle , which numismatic historian and coin dealer Q. David Bowers finds reminiscent of pattern coins prepared in the 1870s . At Congress 's insistence , the chief engraver created a design in commemoration of the Apollo XI lunar landing , based on the mission patch conceived by astronaut Michael Collins and others . Bowers deems the choice of the lunar landing " a stroke of genius " , allowing the dollar , which would be little @-@ used in commerce , to be a commemorative both of Eisenhower and of the Moon mission . The reverse depicts an eagle ( representing the lunar lander , Eagle ) swooping low over the Moon 's surface , holding an olive branch , token of peace , in its claws .

The use of Collins ' mission patch design had initially been opposed by some government officials because of the fierce expression of the eagle ; Gasparro 's initial concept met similar objections . The Mint Director recalled that Gasparro had gone to the Philadelphia Zoo to look at eagles , and on his return had prepared a design which she felt emphasized the eagle 's predatory nature . Brooks informed Gasparro that the eagle was " too fierce , too warlike , a little too aggressive " and asked that the expression be made friendlier . Gasparro , who reportedly was unhappy at having to change the eagle , described the final version as " pleasant looking " . The State Department also feared that the eagle 's expression might offend , and sought a neutral visage . The distant Earth may be seen above the bird , and there are 13 stars in honor of the original states .

Bowers deems the bust of Eisenhower " well modeled " by Gasparro , and notes that the fact that the eagle on the reverse holds only an olive branch , rather than arrows as well ( token of war ) , " meant that the public would like the design " . Nevertheless , he notes that Eisenhower 's stern expression was widely criticized as not typical of a man noted for geniality . Numismatic author David Lange opines that " the Eisenhower dollar is one of the poorest products to emanate from the U.S. Mint " . Lange writes that Gasparro had designed only one side of the coin for the Kennedy half dollar and Lincoln Memorial reverse for the cent , " the Eisenhower dollar was his design alone and should have served as a showcase for his talent . Sadly , it is a mediocre design that reveals his typically unnatural treatment of Ike 's hair and the eagle 's feathers . " Some collectors complained after the release that the Earth was not fully shown , not realizing that Gasparro had carefully followed the mission badge . The chief engraver responded by clarifying the design .

= = Release = =

Two prototype dollars were struck at the Philadelphia Mint on January 25 , 1971 ; they were subsequently destroyed . Striking such large pieces of tough copper @-@ nickel proved destructive to the Mint 's dies , and Gasparro repeatedly used the Janvier reducing lathe to lower the relief to be used on the circulation strikes and the uncirculated silver clad coins . The chief engraver altered the resulting master die directly to restore at least some of the detail which was lost as the relief was lowered . The proof coins struck at San Francisco , nevertheless , remained in high relief . This meant that in 1971 and for much of 1972 ( until better @-@ quality steel was used in the dies ) , the uncirculated strikes had a lower relief , less detailed surface , compared with the proof coins . Proof coins are struck slowly , and generally multiple times , to bring out the full detail . Striking of Eisenhower dollars for circulation began at Denver on February 3 , apparently without any ceremony ; minting at Philadelphia also began early in the year , although Bowers , in his comprehensive encyclopedia of silver and clad dollar coins , does not record a specific date . The first Eisenhower dollars in 40 % silver , with an uncirculated finish , were struck at the San Francisco Assay Office ( today the San Francisco Mint ) on March 31 , 1971 ; Brooks ceremoniously operated the presses . The first coin struck was for presentation to Mamie Eisenhower ; the second to David Eisenhower ( grandson of Dwight and Mamie Eisenhower ) and the third to David Eisenhower 's father @-@ in @-@ law , President Nixon .

On January 29 , 1971 , the Mint announced the prices for the 40 % silver pieces which would be struck at San Francisco : \$ 3 for uncirculated specimens and \$ 10 for mirror @-@ surfaced proof pieces , with orders to be taken by mail beginning on July 1 , with a limit of five of each per customer . Order forms for the public were shipped to 44 @,@ 000 post offices and 33 @,@ 000 banks , with instructions not to hand them out until June 18 . The Mint returned some orders for being sent in too early . Mint sets of the circulating coinage for 1971 did not include the Eisenhower dollar .

The first proof strikes , at San Francisco , took place in July . The proof pieces were sold in a plastic holder inside a brown box with a gold eagle seal ; the uncirculated silver pieces were encased in pliofilm inside a blue envelope . These were dubbed " brown lkes " and " blue lkes " and are still known by those terms . On July 27 , 1971 , President Nixon presented the first piece to be struck to Mamie Eisenhower at a White House ceremony . Sales of the 40 % silver pieces were ended on October 8 ; the first proof coins were mailed to collectors on October 14 , President Eisenhower 's birthday .

The circulation version of the Eisenhower dollar , the largest clad coin ever attempted by the Mint , was released through banks on November 1 , 1971 . Many were obtained by collectors ; there was sufficient demand that many banks imposed a limit of one coin per customer . The clad pieces were struck from coinage strip purchased by the Mint from contractors . Many were not well @-@ struck , causing collectors to search through rolls in search of better specimens . An oil film was found on a large number of specimens ; this was removed by collectors .

From the start , the coin failed to circulate . In 1976 , a Treasury study done in conjunction with a private @-@ sector firm found that the Eisenhower dollar had a near @-@ 100 percent attrition rate , that is , almost always , a coin was used in only one transaction , and then stopped circulating . ( by comparison , the attrition rate of the quarter was close to zero ) This was because of the coin 's large size , its weight , and the lack of potential uses for it . Even so , it was successful in replacing private @-@ issue tokens in Nevada casinos . According to numismatist Randy Camper , about 70 % of Eisenhower dollars were used in casinos . Although the vending machine industry lobbied for the Eisenhower dollar , they converted few machines to take the pieces . Lange recalled , " The fact is that these coins never circulated outside of casinos and nearby areas , and I don 't recall ever seeing a vending machine that accepted them . "

= = Production = =

= = = Early years ( 1971 ? 1974 ) = = =

The Mint struck over 125 million of the Eisenhower dollars in 1971 , more than doubling its largest

annual production for a dollar coin . Despite an increased mintage in 1972 to over 170 million , and despite what CoinAge magazine termed " near @-@ heroic measures on the part of the Mint " , the piece did not circulate . In a 1974 article for CoinAge , numismatist Clement F. Bailey noted , " the circulation value of the coin has been nil " . Many Eisenhower dollars were put aside as souvenirs by non @-@ collectors . Nevertheless , the silver coins sold so well that in October 1971 , Mint Director Brooks warned that orders for 1971 @-@ S proof dollars would not all be filled until well into 1972 . She ascribed the delay to the large public demand and to production difficulties which she indicated had been corrected . More than 11 million of the 1971 @-@ S silver pieces were sold , in proof and uncirculated , with nearly 7 million in proof . In May 1972 , Treasury Secretary John Connally , testifying before a Senate committee , described the profits the Mint had made on the silver version of the Eisenhower dollar as " just unconscionable " , with the average profit on a silver coin at \$ 3 @. @ 89 , and expected to increase as production became more efficient . Mint officials felt that reducing the price would anger those who had already purchased the pieces .

The 1972 silver pieces were again struck at San Francisco . Sales dropped considerably , to just under 2 @. @ 2 million specimens in uncirculated and 1 @. @ 8 million in proof . The part @-@ silver 1972 @-@ S Eisenhower dollars were available for sale by mail order , with the ordering period from May 1 to July 15 for the proof coins and August 1 to October 16 for the uncirculated version .

With ample supplies of Eisenhower dollars , the Federal Reserve had no need to order any in 1973 , and none were struck for circulation . The 1973 and 1973 @-@ D were the first Eisenhower dollars struck for inclusion in mint sets , and were , in theory , only available that way . Many 1973 and 1973 @-@ D are known in circulated condition , leading to speculation that the 230 @, @ 798 pieces which were reported melted after the Mint failed to sell as many mint sets as anticipated , were in fact released into circulation . John Wexler , Bill Crawford , and Kevin Flynn , in their volume on Eisenhower dollars , deny this , citing a 1974 letter from Assistant Director of the Mint for Public Services Roy C. Cahoon , which stated that all 1973 Eisenhower dollars from unsold mint sets were melted . The 1973 @-@ S was struck for inclusion in base @-@ metal proof sets , as well as for the regular " blue lkes " and " brown lkes " . Sales of the part @-@ silver pieces dipped to a total of just under 2 @. @ 9 million . The coin was struck again for circulation in 1974 , was included in mint sets and proof sets , and was available in proof and uncirculated silver clad from San Francisco . Congress ordered that some of the money from the sale of 1974 @-@ S silver pieces be used to support Eisenhower College in Seneca Falls , New York . Coin collectors felt that this set a bad precedent , but about \$ 9 million was paid to the college between 1974 and 1978 , but despite the infusion of money , the college closed its doors in 1982 .

= = = Bicentennial issue ( 1975 ? 1976 ) = = =

The United States had issued commemorative coins between 1892 and 1954 , as a means for fundraising for organizations deemed worthy of federal support . A sponsoring organization would be designated in the authorizing legislation , and was permitted to buy up the issue at face value , selling it to the public at a premium , and pocketing the difference . Various problems with the issues , including mishandling of distributions and complaints that public coins should not be used for private profit , resulted in firm Treasury Department opposition to such issues , and none were struck after 1954 .

The American Revolutionary Bicentennial Commission ( ARBC ) was established by Congress in 1966 as an oversight body for the 1976 two @-@ hundredth anniversary of American independence ( the " Bicentennial " ) . In 1970 , its coins and medals advisory committee recommended the issuance of a special half dollar , and subsequently the committee sought the temporary redesign of circulating American coins . Brooks and the Mint initially opposed legislation to effect these proposals , but eventually Brooks supported legislation to redesign the reverses of the quarter , half dollar and dollar coins , and to issue special collector 's sets in silver clad . Legislation to authorize this was signed by President Nixon on October 18 , 1973 . By the terms of this legislation , coins of these denomination minted for delivery after July 4 , 1975 and before December 31 , 1976 would

bear special reverses , and also be dated 1776 ? 1976 . A total of 15 million sets ( 45 million ) coins in all would be struck in silver clad for sale to the public at a premium .

The reverse designs for the three Bicentennial coins were determined by a design competition open to the public . This competition closed in January 1974 , and in March , a design submitted by 22 @-@ year @-@ old art student Dennis R. Williams was selected for the dollar . Williams , the youngest person to that point to design a U.S. coin , had submitted a design depicting the Liberty Bell superimposed against the Moon . Gasparro slightly modified the design , simplifying the features visible on the lunar surface , and altering the lettering and the bell . Williams and the designers of the other denominations operated the presses to strike the first coins on August 12 , 1974 ; a set of these prototypes was later given to the new president , Gerald Ford . Williams ' design was liked by the public but attracted criticism in the numismatic community as the Liberty Bell had been previously used on coinage ( for example , on the Franklin half dollar ) . Fearing that a low @-@ mintage 1975 piece would be hoarded , the Mint obtained legislation in December 1974 allowing it to continue coining 1974 @-@ dated pieces until it began coinage of Bicentennial pieces .

The Bicentennial dollars were the first of the three denominations to be struck for distribution to the public ; these were coined beginning in February 1975 . The silver pieces were struck at San Francisco beginning on April 23 , 1975 . The Mint found that the copper nickel dollar was striking indistinctly , a problem not seen with the silver pieces . Brooks called a halt in production to allow Gasparro to modify the dies ; the most noticeable change is that the revised issue , or Type II as it came to be known , have narrower , sharper lettering on the reverse . All silver pieces ( struck only at San Francisco ) are Type I ; all three mints struck both Type I and Type II copper nickel pieces . All dollars included in 1975 proof sets are Type I ; all those included in 1976 proof sets are Type II . The first Bicentennial dollars were released into circulation on October 13 , 1975 . Over 220 million were struck . The Bicentennial design was not used after 1976 ; sets of silver clad Bicentennial coins were sold by the Mint until sales were finally closed at the end of 1986 .

One proof Bicentennial coin in silver clad and lacking a mint mark , similar to the dollar in the prototype set given to President Ford , is known . This piece supposedly came from a cash register drawer at the Woodward & Lothrop department store in Washington , D.C. Thomas K. DeLorey , who was then a reporter for Coin World , spoke to the discoverer and was suspicious of the story , thinking it more likely the coin was surreptitiously obtained from the government . He declined to question the origin then , fearing it might be seized and lost to the numismatic community . The piece brought almost \$ 30 @,@ 000 by private sale in 1987 .

= = = Final years and replacement ( 1977 ? 1978 ) = = =

By 1975 , the Treasury was concerned about the drain on resources from striking the dollar , which did not circulate . It engaged a private firm to study the six current denominations of U.S. coinage , and make recommendations . The firm concluded in its report that the Eisenhower dollar was too large and heavy to circulate effectively , but if the diameter was reduced by about a third , and the weight by two @-@ thirds , it might be used . That report found that " the Eisenhower dollar has not been widely accepted by the public because of its large size and weight " . In January 1977 , just prior to leaving office , Ford 's Treasury Secretary , William E. Simon , proposed the elimination of the cent and half dollar , and a reduction in size of the dollar . According to Bowers , the Treasury had come to believe that a coin as large as the Eisenhower dollar simply would not circulate in the United States .

The Mint struck pattern pieces of the smaller size , with various shapes and compositions . An 11 @-@ sided coin was considered , which would have differentiated it from the quarter , but the patterns would not work in vending machines . Such exotic metals as titanium were considered before the Mint decided on the standard clad composition . Gasparro prepared , for the circulating pieces , a design showing Liberty with flowing hair , similar to early American coins .

As the Eisenhower dollar awaited its demise , approximately 50 million per year were struck , using the eagle design for the reverse . In both years , the majority coined were at Denver . No silver

collector's edition was issued ; the blue and brown lites ended with 1974 .

The new Treasury Secretary , Michael Blumenthal supported Gasparro's design in testimony before Congress ; Wisconsin Senator William Proxmire dubbed Blumenthal's position a " cop @-@ out " . Proxmire refused to introduce the bill , which would have left the choice of design up to Blumenthal or his successor , instead introducing his own legislation , to commemorate early women's rights leader Susan B. Anthony . Many in the new Congress and in the Carter Administration were social progressives , and supported women's lib . Ohio Representative Mary Rose Oakar also introduced legislation for a Susan B. Anthony dollar in October 1978 ; it proceeded rapidly through Congress and was signed by President Jimmy Carter . Gasparro was given photographs of Anthony and told to reproduce her appearance exactly on the coin . Anthony's stern expression caused some to dub it the " Susan B. Agony " dollar . The Eisenhower dollar's reverse was used for the Anthony dollar . Convinced that the public would hoard the new pieces , the Mint Bureau produced half a billion before its official release to the public on July 2 , 1979 . It need not have worried ; the public quickly rejected the new coin as too close in size and weight to the quarter dollar , and production for circulation ceased after 1980 . Mint Director Stella Hackel Sims stated , " people are accustomed to the Eisenhower dollar , but in time , they'll become accustomed to the Susan " . Attempts were made to give the new smaller dollars out as change in postal transactions , and to force their use by U.S. military personnel in Europe ; both failed .

= = Collecting = =

Collected by date and mint mark , no Eisenhower dollar is rare , and a complete set may be acquired without difficulty . However , many were badly struck , without full detail , especially in 1971 and 1972 , and the pieces acquired nicks , or " bag marks " from contact with each other soon after striking . Although lower @-@ grade silver coins can be melted , this is not practical for Eisenhower dollars due to the lack of precious metal content , and dealers often try to get any premium they can on face value . Completing a set of highest @-@ grade specimens may be difficult and expensive , especially for the 1971 and 1972 from Philadelphia or Denver , which were not sold in mint sets , and thus only came to collectors through banks . A 1973 @-@ D piece , tied with ten other specimens for the finest known of that date and mint mark in near @-@ pristine MS @-@ 67 condition sold in June 2013 for \$ 12 @,@ 925 . According to numismatic writer Steve Reach , " as more people submit modern @-@ era coins like Eisenhower dollars for third @-@ party certification , the true rarity of many issues in top @-@ grades is becoming clear . "

Some of the 1971 @-@ D pieces exhibit a variety in which ( among several differences ) the eagle lacks brow lines , these have been dubbed by Eisenhower dollar specialists the " Friendly Eagle Pattern " . The 1972 dollar struck at Philadelphia is broken down into three varieties , which were made as Gasparro adjusted the design to take advantage of better steel being used in the Mint's dies . A midyear change in the design was announced by Brooks at the American Numismatic Association's 1972 convention in New Orleans , although she did not state exactly what was being changed . The three varieties may be differentiated by examining the depiction of the Earth on the reverse . Type I dollars show the Earth somewhat flattened , Florida pointing to the southeast , with the islands mostly to the southeast of the tip of the peninsula . The Earth is round and Florida points to the south on the Type II , with a single , large island to the southeast . The Type III is similar to the Type II , except that there are two islands directly to the south of the peninsula . The Type II is from a single reverse die , used in March 1972 , and erroneously placed in service at Philadelphia ? it is identical to and should have been used for the silver proof strikes at San Francisco . The Type III was placed in service , replacing the Type I , in September 1972 . The Type I is most common ; the Type III design was used in 1973 and after . The 1972 Type II is expensive in top grades , as is the 1976 ? 1976 Type I from Philadelphia , which was only available in mint sets .

Some 1971 @-@ S proof pieces ( and a few uncirculated 1971 @-@ S ) have the serifs at the foot of the " R " in " LIBERTY " missing ; this is dubbed the " peg leg " variety . The serifs are missing on all 1972 @-@ S , both uncirculated and proof . After the Mint obtained better steel for dies , the serifs returned for all of the remaining non @-@ Bicentennial coinage , from all mints , though the

leg of the R was shortened , and also for the Type II Bicentennial ( the Type I lacks serifs on the R ) . Gasparro was often trying to improve the detail of Eisenhower 's head during the coin 's tenure , and as the R is the letter closest to it , these changes were most likely made in an effort to improve the flow of metal as the coins were struck .

In 1974 and again in 1977 , the Denver Mint struck a small number of pieces on silver @-@ clad planchets , or blanks . Both times , these came from planchets which had been shipped from the San Francisco Assay Office to Denver . The first ones in 1974 were found independently by two Las Vegas blackjack dealers . The 1974 planchets were initially intended to be used for " brown Ike " proof strikings ; Mint policy then was that rejected silver proof planchets were to be used for uncirculated " blue Ikes " , but these were placed in the bin for rejected copper @-@ nickel proof planchets , intended to be shipped to be coined for circulation at Denver . The 1977 pieces resulted from pieces rejected for Bicentennial silver proof use , which were again placed in the wrong bin ( they should have been melted , as the Mint was no longer striking silver uncirculated Eisenhower dollars ) . Between 10 and 20 of each date are known . Wexler , Crawford , and Flynn report an even rarer 1776 @-@ 1976 @-@ D dollar in silver , but state that none have been offered at auction or submitted to the major coin grading services .

Bowers notes that the Morgan dollar ( struck between 1878 and 1921 ) was not widely collected at the time , only to become very popular later , and suggests that one day , the turn of the Eisenhower dollar will come . Numismatist Charles Morgan said of the Eisenhower dollar in 2012 @,@

It stands today as the greatest achievement in clad coinage in U.S. history . It was the most technically challenging coin ever attempted ... Researching the Eisenhower Dollar is vital for numismatic historians who want to understand what the post @-@ silver era was like . The Eisenhower Dollar was a noble failure . In this respect , it truly is a perfect collectible coin .

= = Mintage figures = =