

= Sacagawea dollar =

The Sacagawea dollar (also known as the " golden dollar ") is a United States dollar coin that has been minted every year since 2000 , although not released for general circulation from 2002 through 2008 and again from 2012 onward due to its general unpopularity with the public and low business demand for the coin . These coins have a copper core clad by manganese brass , giving them a distinctive golden color . The coin features an obverse by Glenna Goodacre . From 2000 to 2008 , the reverse featured an eagle design by Thomas D. Rogers . Since 2009 , the reverse of the Sacagawea dollar has been changed yearly , with each design in the series depicting a different aspect of Native American cultures .

The coin was first suggested as a replacement for the Susan B. Anthony dollar , which proved useful for vending machine operators and mass transit systems despite being unpopular with the public . The Statue of Liberty was originally proposed as the design subject , but Sacagawea , the Shoshone guide of the Lewis and Clark expedition , was eventually chosen .

The new dollar coin was heavily marketed by the Mint in a series of print , radio , and television advertisements , as well as Mint partnerships with Walmart and Cheerios . However , the Sacagawea dollar did not prove popular with the public , and mintage dropped sharply in the second year of production . Production of Sacagawea dollars continued , since 2007 in parallel with the U.S. Presidential dollars . In 2012 , mintage numbers were reduced by over 90 % , in line with a similar reduction for the Presidential Dollars , due to large stockpiles of unused dollar coins .

The Mint planned to issue the Sacagawea design in 22 @-@ karat gold as well , but this idea was quickly abandoned after the Mint 's authority to strike the coins was questioned , and the Mint has retained ownership of the few such coins produced . Soon after initial production of the dollar , it was noticed that a few of the dollar coins were erroneously struck with the obverse of a state quarter and the normal reverse .

= = Background = =

Due to the limited circulation of the Eisenhower dollar , it was decided in the 1970s that a smaller dollar coin might prove more useful to the public . On September 26 , 1978 , Congress approved legislation to provide for a smaller dollar coin to be minted , which would depict Susan B. Anthony , a prominent American suffragette . These new dollars also proved unpopular , due in large part to their similarity in size and metallic composition to the quarter @-@ dollar . Since there was little interest in the coin as a circulating medium , most were placed in United States Mint and Federal Reserve vaults throughout the country , and mintage ceased after 1981 .

Despite their initial lack of popularity , by the late 1990s the Treasury 's supply of small dollar coins began to dwindle due to their widespread use in vending machines (including more than 9 @,@ 000 stamp machines situated in post offices across the United States) and mass transit turnstiles . Beginning in 1997 , several bills were introduced to Congress with the intent of resuming mintage of small @-@ sized dollar coins to keep up with demand . On March 20 of that year , Arizona Republican Representative Jim Kolbe introduced legislation calling for more dollar coins to be minted . Four months later , on July 24 , Republican Representative Michael Castle of Delaware , a member of the House Subcommittee on Domestic and International Monetary Policy , also introduced legislation , calling for the Statue of Liberty to be the subject of the design . On October 21 , Minnesota Republican Rod Grams introduced a bill in the Senate , also calling for the mintage of a newly designed dollar coin . The final legislation authorizing the design and production of a new dollar coin was based on Grams ' bill . Also on October 21 , in a hearing before the House Financial Services Subcommittee on Domestic and International Monetary Policy , Trade , and Technology , Treasury Department officials gave their support for a new dollar coin , recommending that it be gold @-@ colored with a distinctive edge , to make it easily distinguishable from the quarter @-@ dollar . During this hearing , Philip N. Diehl , then Director of the Mint , estimated that it would take thirty months to begin production of the new coin .

The United States Senate approved the necessary legislation on November 9 , 1997 , and the

House of Representatives did the same on November 13 . On December 1 President Bill Clinton signed the 50 States Commemorative Coin Program Act , which became Public Law 105 @-@ 124 . Section four of the act , which is entitled " United States \$ 1 Coin Act of 1997 " , provided for a new dollar coin to be struck , stating in part : " The dollar coin shall be golden in color , have a distinctive edge , have tactile and visual features that make the denomination of the coin readily discernible " . The act also gave authority to the Secretary of the Treasury to resume production of the Susan B. Anthony dollar until production could begin on the new dollar coin . In total , more than 41 million Susan B. Anthony dollars were struck bearing the date 1999 .

= = Design history = =

= = = Subject selection = = =

Though the United States \$ 1 Coin Act of 1997 required a change in composition and edge , it did not dictate what was to appear on the coin . To determine this , Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin appointed a nine @-@ member Dollar Coin Design Advisory Committee . Rubin , who had the authority to select the coin 's design as Secretary of the Treasury , specified that the coin should depict a representation of one or more women and could not depict a living person . The committee was chaired by Philip N. Diehl , a role that did not include a vote on the designs . They met in Philadelphia in June 1998 , listening to seventeen concepts submitted by members of the public , and reviewing many more suggestions received by telephone , mail and email . On June 9 , 1998 , the committee recommended Sacagawea , the Shoshone guide of the Lewis and Clark Expedition , for the design of the new coin . Despite the committee 's choice of Sacagawea , Castle advocated that the Statue of Liberty be depicted , as per his earlier legislation . In a letter to the House of Representatives , Castle explained his objection , stating that the " goal in creating a new dollar coin is to make it more distinctive with a popular design that would encourage its wider use by the public . " Between November 18 and 22 , 1998 , the General Accounting Office conducted a poll on behalf of Castle . The object of the poll was to determine which design the public would find more desirable . In total , 65 percent preferred the Statue of Liberty , 27 percent preferred Sacagawea , two percent believed that either was acceptable , three percent said neither was acceptable , and an additional three percent had no opinion . Despite Castle 's objection , Sacagawea was ultimately chosen as the subject of the coin .

= = = Initial design selection = = =

Invitations were sent to 23 artists with guidelines as to what their designs should depict . The obverse was to depict a representation of Sacagawea , and the reverse an eagle symbolizing peace and freedom . Another guideline requested artists " be sensitive to cultural authenticity , and try to avoid creating a representation of a classical European face in Native American headdress . " In November and December 1998 , members of the Native American community , teachers , numismatists , historians , members of Congress , various government officials and others were invited by the United States Mint to review the submitted proposed designs . Six obverse and seven reverse designs were originally selected for further consideration .

After the Mint conducted a series of polls and focus groups , three obverse and four reverse designs were selected as finalists . The Mint received approximately 90 @,@ 000 e @-@ mails in reference to the design selection process . In response to the large amount of feedback generated , Diehl stated that the internet has " allowed us to conduct a public outreach program of unprecedented scope to measure opinions of the designs . " All seven of the selected designs were forwarded to the United States Commission of Fine Arts ; the Commission chose an obverse design depicting Sacagawea with her infant son , Jean Baptiste Charbonneau , as designed by sculptor Glenna Goodacre . Goodacre chose Randy 'L He @-@ dow Teton to model for Sacagawea , of whom there are no known contemporary portraits , to help the artist capture the features of a young

Native American woman . The chosen reverse , designed by Mint sculptor @-@ engraver Thomas D. Rogers , depicted a soaring eagle .

= = = Native American redesign = = =

On September 20 , 2007 , Pub.L. 110 ? 82 , known as the Native American \$ 1 Coin Act , was signed by president George W. Bush . The act specified in part that the one dollar coin shall depict " images celebrating the important contributions made by Indian tribes and individual Native Americans to the development of the United States and the history of the United States . " The act also called for the removal of the date from the obverse and " E PLURIBUS UNUM " from the reverse of the coin , opting instead to add them to the edge . At this time the mintmark was also moved to the edge .

The program requires that the reverse of the dollar depict a new design every year . In order to determine which design to depict on the coins , officials from the United States Senate Committee on Indian Affairs , the Native American Caucus and the National Congress of American Indians , the consulting organizations for the program , appoint a liaison to the United States Mint . Between twelve and fifteen themes are selected after consultation with the National Museum of the American Indian and the Smithsonian Institution . At this point , the consulting organizations supply the Mint with written comments regarding the themes . The suggestions are then sent to the Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee , where a theme is recommended . After reviewing the recommendations and input from the contributing organizations , the selected theme is finalized , at which point designs are produced that represent the theme . Once designs are created , the consulting organizations and the National Museum of the Native American are consulted , and the designs are sent to the Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee for approval . Based on all comments and recommendations received , the Mint selects a final design that is recommended to the Secretary of the Treasury for approval .

The first coin in the Native American series , issued in 2009 , was designed by Mint sculptor @-@ engraver Norman E. Nemeth , the subject being the spread of Three Sisters Agriculture . It depicts a Native American woman planting seeds in a field populated with corn , beans and squash . Above the woman is the inscription " UNITED STATES OF AMERICA " , and below is " \$ 1 " .

The design selected for the 2010 reverse was designed by Artistic Infusion Program artist Thomas Cleveland and depicts the Hiawatha belt surrounding five stone @-@ tipped arrows , along with the inscriptions " UNITED STATES OF AMERICA " , " \$ 1 " , " HAUDENOSAUNEE " and " GREAT LAW OF PEACE " . The subject of the design is the " Great Tree of Peace " .

The reverse of the 2011 dollar depicts the hands of the Supreme Sachem Ousamequin and Plymouth Colony Governor John Carver holding a ceremonial pipe , along with the inscriptions " UNITED STATES OF AMERICA " , " \$ 1 " , and " WAMPANOAG TREATY 1621 " . The coin was designed by Artistic Infusion Program artist Richard Masters and engraved by Mint sculptor ? engraver Joseph Menna . The design subject is treaties with tribal nations .

The theme for the reverse of the 2012 dollar is " Trade Routes of the 17th Century " and the design depicts the profile of a Native American man and a horse in the foreground and a group of galloping horses in the background . This reverse design was created by Thomas Cleveland as part of the Artistic Infusion Program and engraved by Mint sculptor ? engraver Phebe Hemphill .

The 2013 dollar commemorates the Treaty with the Lenape in 1778 , the first formal treaty between the United States and a Native American tribe . The coin depicts a turkey , a howling wolf , and a turtle ? symbols of the Lenape . Its design was created by Susan Gamble as part of the Artistic Infusion Program , and engraved by Phebe Hemphill .

The 2014 dollar depicts a Native American man clasping a ceremonial pipe while his wife holds a plate of provisions , including fish , corn , roots and gourds . In the background is the stylized image of the face of William Clark 's compass , displaying " NW " for " northwest . " It bears the inscriptions " UNITED STATES OF AMERICA " and " \$ 1 , " as required by law .

The reverse design of the 2015 dollar depicts Mohawk ironworkers . According to the U.S. Mint , the coin commemorates Kahnawake and Akwesasne Mohawk ironworkers who contributed to the

building of New York City skyscrapers . The inscriptions on the reverse read " UNITED STATES OF AMERICA , " " \$ 1 " and " MOHAWK IRONWORKERS . " It was designed by artist Ronald D. Sanders .

According to an August 29 , 2014 , U.S. Mint press release , the design selected for use on the 2016 coins commemorates Code talkers from World Wars I and II . Designed by Thomas D. Rogers , it includes the inscriptions " UNITED STATES OF AMERICA , " \$ 1 " , " WWI " and " WWII " and depicts two helmets used by American fighting forces in the 20th century ? the Brodie helmet of World War I , and the M1 helmet of World War II ? along with two feathers which combine to form a V , " symbolizing victory , unity , and the important role that these code talkers played . "

On October 7 , 2015 , the Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee recommended new designs for 2017 and 2018 . These were , respectively , Sequoyah and Jim Thorpe , the latter over an outline of his ancestor Chief Black Hawk .

= = Production and release = =

After her obverse design was approved , Goodacre visited the Philadelphia Mint engraving department six times in order to finalize the designs . Rogers ' reverse design was also modified before production began . In his original proposal , mountainous scenery was depicted beneath the flying eagle ; this was removed and the positions of other reverse design features were altered before Rubin gave final approval . The composition selected for the new coin included a cladding of manganese brass (containing about 77 % copper , 12 % zinc , 7 % manganese , and 4 % nickel) over a pure copper core . This composition was chosen because it would give the coin a distinctive golden color while being electromagnetically identical to its predecessor , the copper @-@ nickel Susan B. Anthony dollar . The first official striking of the Sacagawea dollar took place on November 18 , 1999 , during a ceremony in which dignitaries and other invited guests each struck individual examples of the coins . Because the coins were struck before 2000 , it was not legal to release them during the first strike ceremonies . Instead , the coins were saved and later sent to the dignitaries who struck them . Full @-@ scale production began shortly after the ceremonial striking .

For her work creating the obverse of the Sacagawea dollar , Goodacre received a \$ 5 @,@ 000 commission ; she requested that it be paid in dollar coins . The coins paid to Goodacre were struck on specially burnished blanks to give them a finish unique to that striking . Diehl and other Mint dignitaries personally delivered the coins to Goodacre on April 5 , 2000 . A similar specially burnished finish was used on the 75 @,@ 000 2000 @-@ D dollars included in the Millennium Coin & Currency sets . Soon after release of the new coins , it was discovered that they tarnished quickly once in circulation . In April 2001 the Mint began testing an experimental rinse that would inhibit the tarnishing ; however , the rinse was used only in that year .

= = = Marketing = = =

The act authorizing the dollar coin also provided for the Secretary of the Treasury to " adopt a program to promote the use of such coins by commercial enterprises , mass transit authorities , and Federal , State , and local government agencies . " The Mint 's initial advertising campaign , consisting of an estimated 1 @,@ 600 television , radio and print advertisements and partnerships with the national retail chain Wal @-@ Mart and the General Mills company , cost approximately \$ 41 million . The television ads consisted of the head of George Washington superimposed upon a body , voiced by actor Michael Keaton , discussing the merits of the new dollar coin .

Beginning in January 2000 , the Mint began sending dollar coins to Wal @-@ Mart and Sam 's Club stores across the United States in order to help promote and circulate the coins . In total , \$ 100 million worth of the dollars were shipped to the stores as part of the promotion . Some store owners criticized the Mint 's partnership with Wal @-@ Mart and Sam 's Club as being unfair to smaller retailers . In response , Diehl noted that " every retailer and commercial establishment has the right to carry the Golden Dollar . The Mint 's agreement with Wal @-@ Mart is designed to encourage all retailers and commercial businesses in the nation to use the new Golden Dollar in everyday

transactions . "

During this time , the Mint began a partnership with the General Mills company , in which 10 @,@ 000 @,@ 000 boxes of Cheerios cereal would contain a 2000 @-@ dated Lincoln cent as a prize , one in every 2 @,@ 000 boxes would contain a new Sacagawea dollar and one in every 4 @,@ 400 would hold a certificate redeemable for 100 Sacagawea dollars . It was later discovered that the dollars included in every 2 @,@ 000 boxes were in fact early strikes , differing from those ultimately issued for circulation by the number of tail feathers on the eagle . Approximately 5 @,@ 500 of the coins were included in the boxes of cereal .

= = = Gold dollars = = =

In 1999 , the Mint struck a number of Sacagawea dollars in .9167 fine (22 @-@ karat) gold . During the initial production of the coins , they were denominated at five dollars in order to help the public distinguish them from their circulating counterparts . The plan was to sell gold versions of the coins to collectors . On March 20 , this plan was halted when some Congressmen questioned the authority of Mint officials to strike the coins in a composition different from what had already been authorized . Full @-@ scale coin production never took place even though the Mint maintained that it did have authority to do so , as the coins would be considered numismatic items and not regular @-@ issue coins . Similar gold coins were also struck , this time bearing the denomination of one dollar and a " W " mint mark , signifying that the coins were struck at the West Point Mint . In total , 39 such coins were struck , twelve of which were found to be of adequate quality , while the rest were eventually destroyed . Unlike those denominated at five dollars , the one dollar pieces were " struck to commemorate the historic flight of the Space Shuttle Columbia in July 1999 " , according to Former Mint Director Ed Moy . The twelve surviving gold dollars were sent into space aboard Columbia on mission STS @-@ 93 in July 1999 . Following the return of the shuttle , the coins were placed in storage at Fort Knox , where they remained until 2007 , when they were exhibited at the American Numismatic Association World 's Fair of Money in Milwaukee , Wisconsin . After the event , the coins were returned to Fort Knox ; however , the Mint is currently planning to loan the coins to various museums throughout the country .

= = = Mule error = = =

In May 2000 , an error coin bearing the George Washington obverse design of a U.S. state quarter and the eagle reverse of a Sacagawea dollar was discovered in a roll of dollar coins purchased from a bank in Mountain Home , Arkansas . The undated coin , known as a double @-@ denomination mule , was the first of eleven discovered and authenticated . Mint officials estimate that the coins , which bear the ' P ' mint mark for Philadelphia , were struck from late April to early May 2000 . They were produced on dollar @-@ coin planchets clad with manganese bronze , not quarter planchets with copper @-@ nickel cladding .

Following the initial discovery , a bin containing several thousand of the error coins was impounded at the Philadelphia Mint , and all such coins within it were ordered melted . Some of the coins that had been released were eventually tracked back to a coin @-@ wrapping facility near Philadelphia . Employees at the wrapping facility were instructed to watch for any of the coins ; those discovered were turned over to the Mint .

A subsequent federal investigation into the incident found that the error coins had been struck accidentally , but two former Mint employees were guilty of selling some of the dollars , resulting in imprisonment and fines for both individuals . In 2002 , Mint officials announced that two of the ten coins then reported had entered circulation through legal channels , but the other eight were of dubious origins and might be seized . However , as of 2011 , the federal government has not attempted to seize the eight examples considered of dubious origin .

As of August 2011 , eight of the eleven error coins , including the one initially discovered in Arkansas , are owned by a New Mexico collector who purchased them between 2000 and 2003 , paying as high as \$ 75 @,@ 000 for a single specimen . Of the other three documented mules , one

is owned by its discoverer , a Missouri collector , another was purchased by an unnamed collector , and the third , first reported in 2011 , was purchased in 2011 by a Chicago dealer from an individual who had owned the coin for about ten years . Sale prices as high as \$ 200 @,@ 000 have been reported . Three different die combinations have been identified among the eleven available error coins .

= = Reception = =

The coin received mixed reviews from the nation 's senators . In an interview with Associated Press columnist Suzanne Gamboa , Republican Senator Phil Gramm of Texas described United States currency as " crummy " . Gramm , who was one of the senators who voted for the bill containing the legislation that authorized it , praised the design of the Sacagawea dollar as being an improvement over the other coin designs then in production . Despite his praise of the design , Gramm condemned the Mint 's approach to marketing the coin , stating that if the United States Mint were the Franklin Mint , they would be " sued for deceptive advertisement . " He also noted his belief that the Mint had repeated the earlier mistakes of the Susan B. Anthony dollar by issuing a coin that was tailored to the requests of the vending machine industry rather than the average consumer . Texas Republican Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison criticized both the Sacagawea design as well the coin 's size in relation to the other coins in circulation at the time . Hutchison felt that the new coin lacked the necessary heft to easily distinguish it from the lower denominations , and that the dollar , as well as the other coins and currency then in circulation " looks like play money . " Senators Mike DeWine of Ohio and Byron Dorgan of North Dakota , Republican and Democrat respectively , praised the design and the distinctiveness of the golden color .

The series proved unpopular in everyday commerce . Mintage dropped by 90 % the following year . From 2002 through 2008 , Sacagawea dollars were only struck for sale to collectors . The Federal Reserve Bank ordered none of the Native American series after their issuance beginning in 2009 . In December 2009 , it was noted by a Federal Reserve official that there were currently 857 @,@ 000 @,@ 000 @-@ dollar coins (including Presidential dollars) in government storage vaults , an amount estimated to satisfy the demand for twelve years .

Despite their unpopularity in the United States , the coins proved popular for commerce in El Salvador and Ecuador , nations that use the United States dollar .

= = Mintage figures = =

= = Coin and Currency Sets = =

Besides the annual proof and uncirculated sets , Sacagawea dollars with special finishes have also been inserted into several mint packages . These include the following :