



UNITED STATES MINT NEWS & VIEWS

HENRIETTA HOLSMAN FORE, DIRECTOR
AUGUST 2004

KEELBOAT NICKEL EXPANDS WESTWARD JOURNEY NICKEL SERIES™

On August 2, 2004, the second new 5-cent coin (nickel) of the year was released into circulation, continuing the Westward Journey Nickel Series™ and the commemoration of the bicentennials of the Louisiana Purchase and the Lewis and Clark expedition. The reverse, pictured here, features a rendition of the 55-foot keelboat, in full sail, that transported expedition members and their supplies as they traveled through the rugged, uncharted American West in search of a northwest passage to the Pacific Ocean. During the month, the United States Mint and the Treasury Department participated in two commemorative events during which thousands of rolls of new keelboat nickels were exchanged and put into circulation.



The first of these took place on the grounds of Fort Atkinson State Park, very near the place where Lewis and Clark participated in the first Tribal Council with American Indian leaders whom they met along their journey. Then, on August 20th, Iowa Senator Chuck Grassley joined United States Treasury Secretary John Snow at the 150th Iowa State Fair in Des Moines to honor the remarkable event captured on our Nation's newest nickel.

TEXAS QUARTERS IN CIRCULATION



Nearly 3,000 fellow Texans joined Governor Rick Perry and United States Mint Director Henrietta Holsman Fore in launching the Texas commemorative quarter-dollar coin on June 10, 2004. The ceremony took place outside the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum in

the state's capital, Austin.

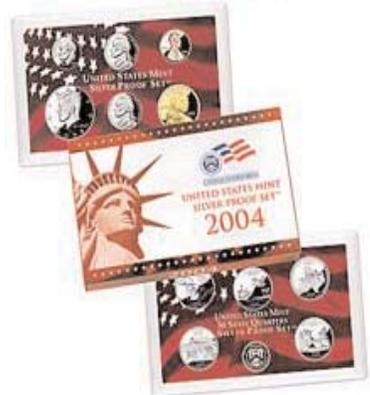
A mariachi band entertained the crowd leading up to the 9:30 a.m. ceremony, and a local Girl Scout troop led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. During her speech, Director Fore explained the importance of the 50 State Quarters® Program to the Nation, and that Texas' quarter was the 28th to be released. She then donned a cowboy hat and proclaimed, "Today, we are all Texans," a statement that brought the crowd to its feet in applause.

After placing the Texas quarter-dollar on the official 50 State Quarters coins map, Governor Perry and Director Fore walked to a nearby booth to give Texas quarters to children under 18 years old. A local bank stayed busy for several hours, exchanging more than \$47,000 in Texas quarters.

UNITED STATES MINT 11-COIN SILVER PROOF SET AVAILABLE JULY 22!

The United States Mint recently announced the release of the 2004 United States Mint Silver Proof Set™, featuring the first two nickels in the Westward Journey Nickel Series. The set went on sale July 22, 2004, and sales are expected to be brisk.

The United States Mint Silver Proof Set includes 90-percent silver proof versions of the Roosevelt dime, the Kennedy half-dollar and the five 2004-dated quarters issued in the 50 State Quarters Program, representing Michigan, Florida, Texas, Iowa and Wisconsin. The set also includes proof versions of the Lincoln cent, the two new coins in the Westward Journey Nickel Series, and the Golden Dollar featuring Sacagawea, who accompanied Lewis and Clark on their expedition.



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THE UNITED STATES MINT AT THE WORLD'S FAIR OF MONEY®

The United States Mint recently attended World's Fair of Money®, sponsored by the American Numismatic Association (ANA). This year's convention was held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, August 18-22, and featured a wide range of exhibits to showcase some of the hobby's most acclaimed rarities, items seldom gathered in one place and at one time.

Director Fore and Associate Director for Sales and Marketing Gloria Eskridge participated in an open forum with collectors and dealers on Saturday, August 21. Similar forums held at recent state quarter launches have proven to be both lively and well attended.

The United States Mint was well represented throughout the event, with displays ranging from the latest commemorative coin programs to a complete art gallery featuring all 144 2005 Westward Journey Nickel Series™ designs submitted through the Artistic Infusion Program. There was also an exhibit by the United States Mint's Education Initiative team that included two computers for demonstrating the many exciting games that have been developed as an integral part of this initiative.

The Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee and the Mint Directors Conference each held business meetings during the course of the convention.

United States Mint products were available for purchase all five days, and an internet-ready laptop computer was made available for customers to order any product that was not on hand.

VIRTUAL TOUR DEBUTS

The United States Mint is proud to launch the virtual tour, an online multimedia presentation that documents, from start to finish, the remarkable process of minting United States coinage. The tour can be viewed as a streaming video or as a slideshow featuring still photographs. Both options feature audio narrative as well as text and offer the viewer a brief history of the United States Mint, in addition to the extensive explanation of the design and manufacturing process.

IOWA QUARTER READY FOR EARLY SEPTEMBER LAUNCH EVENT



The United States Mint is preparing to launch the Iowa Quarter, 29th in the popular 50 State Quarters Program. Two events are scheduled for the day of launch, September 3, 2004. One will take place on the steps of the Capitol in Des

Moines and the other in Mount Pleasant, hometown of Iowa Governor Tom Vilsack.

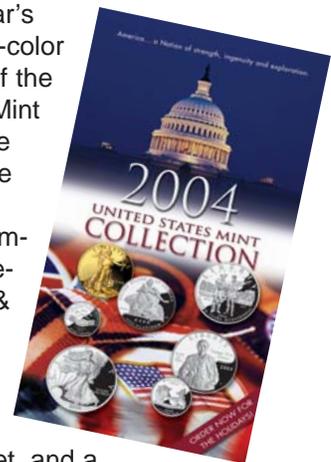
Iowa was admitted into the Union on December 28, 1846, and claims among its native sons the 35th President of the United States, Herbert Hoover, as well as the renowned artist Grant Wood, whose painting entitled "Arbor Day" provided the inspiration for the quarter's reverse.

AND COMING SOON...

THE 2004 UNITED STATES MINT CATALOG

Once again, this year's catalog is a striking, full-color collection featuring all of the genuine United States Mint products available to the public. In addition to the regular annual sets, the 2004 catalog features limited-edition products created around the Lewis & Clark Bicentennial and Thomas Alva Edison Commemorative Coins.

The stunning two-coin Legacies of Freedom set, and a new six-coin Westward Journey Nickel Series set, featuring both 2004 designs, one each struck with P, D and S mintmarks, are also featured in the catalog.



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