



UNITED STATES MINT
Department of the Treasury
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IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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United States Mint Unveils New Nickel Designs for 2004
Nation to Get Two New Nickel Designs in One Year

WASHINGTON— The nation is getting not one newly-designed nickel for 2004 but two. United States Mint Director Henrietta Holsman Fore unveiled the two new designs for the reverse (tails side) of the 2004-dated nickels today in a news conference at United States Mint headquarters in Washington. The obverse (heads side) will remain the current image of President Thomas Jefferson in 2004. This is the first time in 66 years that the design of America's 5-cent coin has changed. The current nickel design was introduced in 1938.

Americans will see the first newly-designed nickel in the spring of 2004 and the second design will circulate in the fall of 2004. President Bush signed legislation on April 23, 2003, authorizing the redesign of the nickel through 2005 to commemorate the bicentennials of the Louisiana Purchase and the Lewis and Clark expedition.

"This is a historic moment for the nation -- the first change in our nickel in 66 years," said Director Fore. "These nickels honor President Thomas Jefferson and commemorate the 200th anniversary of the Louisiana Purchase, the momentous agreement that doubled the size of our country and the remarkable expedition of Lewis and Clark, who journeyed more than 8000 miles from Virginia to the Pacific Ocean and back to see the lands and the people of the Western frontier. "

An image of President Jefferson will remain on the obverse throughout the nickel series and his home of Monticello will return to the reverse in 2006, although both the obverse and reverse may not be the current images of Jefferson and Monticello.

A rendition of the Jefferson Indian Peace Medal will be depicted on the reverse of the first nickel that will be minted in the spring. The Peace Medals, bearing the likeness of President Jefferson on one side and symbols of peace and friendship on the other, were presented ceremonially to Native American Chiefs and other important leaders. The clasped hands were meant to signify peace. The inscriptions "Louisiana Purchase" and "1803" on this 2004 nickel commemorate the bicentennial of President Jefferson's historic land purchase from France in 1803.

On the second nickel that will begin circulation in the fall, the reverse image will be an angled view of the keelboat with full sail that transported the Lewis and Clark expedition members and supplies as they traveled the rivers of the Louisiana Territory in search of a northwest passage to the Pacific Ocean. Captains Meriwether Lewis and William Clark are in full uniform in the bow.

The United States Mint will not produce the current Jefferson nickel design in 2004. The 2003-dated Jefferson nickels will go on sale today at 12:00 noon (Eastern Time) in two-roll sets (40 coins per roll) at the United States Mint web site, www.usmint.gov. The two-roll sets will include one Philadelphia and one Denver mintmark coin roll each. Bags of 1,000 coins will also go on sale.

Created by Congress in 1792, the United States Mint is the manufacturer of legal tender coinage for the United States. In FY 2002, the United States Mint manufactured more than 14 billion coins and generated revenue of \$1.8 billion.

For more information, please visit www.usmint.gov. For digital photographs of the designs for the new 2004 nickels, please visit: <http://usmint.gov/pressroom>

VIDEO AVAILABLE

Satellite feed date: November 6, 2003
Feed time: 1430-1445 EDT (02:30-02:45 PM)
Satellite: Telstar 5 (C-Band)
Transponder: 15
Orbital Slot: 97 Degrees West Longitude
Downlink: 4000 (Vertical)
Pathing: Tape Payout at Grace Digital Media-Telstar 5/C 15

Satellite feed date: November 7, 2003
Feed time: 0400-0415 EDT (04:00-04:15 AM EDT)
Satellite: Telstar 5 (C-Band)
Transponder: 15
Orbital Slot: 97 Degrees West Longitude
Downlink: 4000 (Vertical)
Pathing: Tape Payout at Grace Digital Media-Telstar 5/C 15

Troubleshooting: 202-775-2970

This b-roll will contain:

1. Close-up of nickel designs
2. B-roll of current 2003 nickels being produced by the United States Mint
3. Scenes from press conference unveiling of designs
4. Soundbites of United States Mint Director Henrietta Holsman Fore and other officials from the event.
5. Small child spending nickels and counting them.

For more information on b-roll, contact: Doug Hecox at 202-354-7577