

Lewis and Clark: Westward Journey Nickels

To mark the bicentennial of the Expedition, the U. S. Mint released four new nickels which are the first new nickel designs since 1938. Authorized by Public Law 106-15 signed by President George W. Bush on April 23, 2003, these new nickels commemorate the Louisiana Purchase, as well as presenting images evocative of the historic expedition. The obverse will continue to bear a likeness of President Jefferson.

The 2004 Nickels

Louisiana Purchase/Peace Medal:

Released on March 1, 2004, and executed by mint sculptor/engraver Norman E. Nemeth, from a 200-year-old design by John Reich. President Jefferson commissioned medals bearing this design, which were produced by the U. S. Mint in 1801, to be symbols of the desire of the Federal Government for good relations with the Native Americans. The medals were carried by the Corps of Discovery on the expedition and were presented to Chiefs and other important leaders as tokens of good will. Some tribal leaders still possess peace medals that Lewis and Clark gave to their ancestors. The handshake design features two hands clasped in friendship - one with a military uniform cuff, symbolizing the American Government, and the other with a silver band adorned with beads and a stylized American eagle, representing the Native Americans. The crossed war axe and peace pipe further reflect the desire for peaceful and cooperative relations.

Keelboat:

This 55-foot craft, built to the specifications of Captain Lewis, could be sailed, rowed, poled or towed by rope from the river bank. It could carry up to 12 tons of cargo and a crew of up to 25, yet it displaced just 3 feet of water. Released in the summer of 2004, this nickel designed by the U. S. Mint sculptor/engraver Al Maletsky, features an angled, side-view of the keelboat with full sail and shows Captains Lewis and Clark in full uniform in the bow.

The 2005 Nickels

With hand-written "Liberty" the obverse design for the 2005 nickels will bear a new three-quarter portrait of President Jefferson. The "Liberty" inscription on the coin is based on his handwriting in the original draft of the Declaration of Independence. The design was created by U.S. Mint Artistic Infusion Program artist Joe Fitzgerald with U.S. Mint sculptor/engraver Don Everhart, and is based on the marble bust of President Jefferson by the French sculptor Jean-Antoine Houdon, completed in 1789. The design was made "age-appropriate" to his presidency by utilizing later paintings by Gilbert Stuart and Rembrandt Peale.

American Bison:

Released on February 28, 2005, this nickel honors the wildlife the Corps of Discovery encountered and the cultures of the Native Americans who depended on these animals for food, fuel, shelter and clothing. Journals of members of the expedition described the huge herbivore in great detail, making it one of 122 new species that were cataloged. U.S. Mint Artistic infusion program Artist Jamie Franki is the designer of this coin with U.S. Mint sculptor/engraver Norman E. Nemeth.

Ocean in View:

Unveiled on August 5, 2005, at Cape Disappointment Park in Washington State, which is a site much like the dramatic coastal landscape where Meriwether Lewis and William Clark led the Corps of Discovery in November 1805. After an 18-month trek across vast, mostly unexplored lands, they ventured into the confluence of the Columbia River and the Pacific Ocean. The U.S. Mint elected to correct the spelling of Captain Clark's famous scribbled phrase in his field notes: "Ocian in view! O! the Joy!" The design is by U.S. Mint Artistic Infusion Program Artist Joe Fitzgerald with U.S. Mint sculptor/engraver Donna Weaver.

The Westward Journey Nickel Series (TM) is a registered trademark of the U.S. Mint.

Mouth of the Platte has a limited number of Western Journey Nickels in the original Federal Reserve Bank rolls. These coins are uncirculated and are currently valued by reliable coin dealers and coin-collector magazines as follows:

<u>2004 Issue:</u>	<u>Single Coin</u>	<u>Roll of 40</u>
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<u>L. A. Purchase</u>	<u>\$0.55</u>	<u>\$22.00</u>
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<u>Keelboat</u>	<u>\$0.55</u>	<u>\$22.00</u>
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<u>2005 Issue:</u>		
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<u>Bison</u>	<u>\$0.25</u>	<u>\$10.00</u>
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<u>Ocean</u>	<u>\$0.25</u>	<u>\$10.00</u>
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As a special offer to current chapter members we are offering these nickels in their original 40-coin rolls at \$10.00 for the 2004 issue (25 cents per coin) and \$5.00 for the 2005 issue (12-1/2 cents per coin.) To buy one roll of each nickel will cost \$30.00. Current market value of those same four rolls would be approximately \$64.00.

Retail coin dealers and coin magazines are offering 4-coin sets (one coin of each nickel) at \$7.00 to \$10.00, depending upon packaging. A recent ad campaign by "World Reserve" offered 25-coin rolls of Bison only nickels for \$7.00 (28 cents per coin.) Obviously the coins from retail coin dealers and coin magazines have been repackaged and are not in choice uncirculated condition. The coins we are offering **are** uncirculated.