

October 17, 1916

Subject: Issue of Proof Coins.

The Director of the Mint,  
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

The issue of the silver coins of the new designs will complete the series of changes in the coin designs. The ground of all these designs is uneven, which makes it impossible to produce proof coins which are distinctive from the regular coins made on the coining presses from new dies, the only difference between proofs and the regular coins being the sharper edge and design.

Formerly the full set of proofs was made in January or February and orders could be filled when received, but since the manner of manufacture and issuing the proofs has been changed so that some of the denominations may not be issued until late in the year (we are only allowed to make each denomination after the regular coins for circulation have been issued) great dissatisfaction has been shown by persons desiring these proofs and a seemingly unnecessary amount of correspondence entailed on this office, returning orders and answering complaints.

In order to distinguish gold proofs from the regular issue, it has been necessary to give them a sandblast finish, which changes the appearance of the coins to such an extent that it is almost impossible to put them in circulation. This is something I am not sure we have a right to do.

The extra charge for the silver and minor proof coins, 5¢, does not cover the cost of manufacture.

I would, therefore, suggest for your consideration the advisability of ceasing the manufacture of proof coins.

Respectfully,

/s/ A. M. JOYCE  
Superintendent

*Handwritten:* 3/23/39

→ centered

| YEAR | DOUBLE →<br>EAGLE | EAGLE | HALF<br>EAGLE | THREE<br>DOLLARS | QUARTER<br>EAGLE   | DOLLAR | TOTAL VALUE-GOLD |
|------|-------------------|-------|---------------|------------------|--------------------|--------|------------------|
| 1865 | 25                | 25    | 25            | 25               | 25                 | 25     | \$ 1037.50       |
| 1866 | 30                | 30    | 30            | 30               | 30                 | 30     | 1245.00          |
| 1867 | 50                | 50    | 50            | 50               | 50                 | 50     | 2075.00          |
| 1868 | 25                | 25    | 25            | 25               | 25                 | 25     | 1037.50          |
| 1869 | 25                | 25    | 25            | 25               | 25                 | 25     | 1037.50          |
| 1870 | 35                | 35    | 35            | 35               | 35                 | 35     | 1452.50          |
| 1871 | 30                | 30    | 30            | 30               | 30                 | 30     | 1245.00          |
| 1872 | 30                | 30    | 30            | 30               | 30                 | 30     | 1245.00          |
| 1873 | 25                | 25    | 25            | 25               | 25                 | 25     | 1037.50          |
| 1874 | 20                | 20    | 20            | 20               | 20                 | 20     | 830.00           |
| 1875 | 20                | 20    | 20            | 20               | 20                 | 20     | 830.00           |
| 1876 | 45                | 45    | 45            | 45               | 45                 | 45     | 1867.50          |
| 1877 | 20                | 20    | 20            | 20               | 20                 | 20     | 830.00           |
| 1878 | 20                | 20    | 20            | 20               | 20                 | 20     | 830.00           |
| 1879 | 30                | 30    | 30            | 30               | 30                 | 30     | 1245.00          |
| 1880 | 36                | 36    | 36            | 36               | 36                 | 36     | 1494.00          |
| 1881 | 40                | 40    | 40            | 40               | 40                 | 40     | 1660.00          |
| 1882 | 40                | 40    | 40            | 40               | 40                 | 40     | 1660.00          |
| 1883 | 40                | 40    | 40            | 40               | 40                 | 40     | 1660.00          |
| 1884 | 41                | 15    | 18            | 76               | 43                 | 976    | 2371.50          |
| 1885 | 77                | 65    | 66            | 109              | 87                 | 1049   | 4113.50          |
| 1886 | 106               | 60    | 72            | 142              | 88                 | 1016   | 4742.00          |
| 1887 | 121               | 80    | 87            | 160              | 122                | 1043   | 5483.00          |
| 1888 | 102               | 72    | 94            | 85               | 92                 | 457    | 4172.00          |
| 1889 | 41                | 45    | 45            | 129              | 48                 | 1779   | 3781.00          |
| 1890 | 55                | 63    | 88            |                  | 93                 |        | 2402.50          |
| 1891 | 52                | 48    | 53            |                  | 80                 |        | 1985.00          |
| 1892 | 93                | 72    | 92            |                  | 105                |        | 3302.50          |
| 1893 | 59                | 55    | 77            |                  | 106                |        | 2380.00          |
| 1894 | 50                | 43    | 75            |                  | 122                |        | 2110.00          |
| 1895 | 51                | 56    | 81            |                  | 119                |        | 2282.50          |
| 1896 | 128               | 78    | 103           |                  | 132                |        | 3185.00          |
| 1897 | 76                | 69    | 83            |                  | 136                |        | 2965.00          |
| 1898 | 75                | 67    | 75            |                  | 165                |        | 2957.50          |
| 1899 | 84                | 86    | 99            |                  | 150                |        | 3410.00          |
| 1900 | 124               | 120   | 230           |                  | 205                |        | 5342.50          |
| 1901 | 96                | 85    | 140           |                  | 223                |        | 4027.50          |
| 1902 | 114               | 113   | 162           |                  | 193                |        | 4702.50          |
| 1903 | 158               | 96    | 154           |                  | 197                |        | 5382.50          |
| 1904 | 98                | 108   | 136           |                  | 170                |        | 4145.00          |
| 1905 | 92                | 86    | 108           |                  | 144                |        | 3600.00          |
| 1906 | 94                | 77    | 85            |                  | 160                |        | 3475.00          |
| 1907 | 78                | 74    | 92            |                  | 154                |        | 3145.00          |
| 1908 | 101               | 116   | 167           |                  | 236                |        | 4605.00          |
| 1909 | 67                | 74    | 78            |                  | 139                |        | 2817.50          |
| 1910 | 167               | 204   | 250           |                  | 682                |        | 8335.00          |
| 1911 | 100               | 95    | 139           |                  | 191                |        | 4122.50          |
| 1912 | 74                | 83    | 144           |                  | 197                |        | 3522.50          |
| 1913 | 58                | 71    | 99            |                  | 165                |        | 2777.50          |
| 1914 | 70                | 50    | 125           |                  | <del>100</del> 117 |        | 2817.50          |
| 1915 | 50                | 75    | 75            |                  | 100                |        | 2375.00          |

PROOF PIECES STRUCK IN GOLD

| <u>Delivery</u> |             | <u>Double</u> |              | <u>Half</u>  |               | <u>Quarter</u> |      | <u>\$1.00</u> | <u>Total Value</u>      |
|-----------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|----------------|------|---------------|-------------------------|
| <u>Date</u>     | <u>Year</u> | <u>Eagle</u>  | <u>Eagle</u> | <u>Eagle</u> | <u>\$3.00</u> | <u>Eagle</u>   |      |               |                         |
| Mar. 7          | 1865        | 25            | 25           | 25           | 25            | 25             | 25   | 25            | \$1,037.50              |
|                 | 1866        | 30            | 30           | 30           | 30            | 30             | 30   | 30            | 1,245.00                |
| Mar. 5)         | 1867        | 50            | 50           | 50           | 50            | 50             | 50   | 50            | 2,075.00-6/2 "specimen" |
| /"proof")       | 1868        | 25            | 25           | 25           | 25            | 25             | 25   | 25            | 1,037.50 Marked "       |
|                 | 1869        | 25            | 25           | 25           | 25            | 25             | 25   | 25            | 1,037.50 " "            |
|                 | 1870        | 35            | 35           | 35           | 35            | 35             | 35   | 35            | 1,452.50 " "            |
|                 | 1871        | 30            | 30           | 30           | 30            | 30             | 30   | 30            | 1,245.00 " "            |
|                 | 1872        | 30            | 30           | 30           | 30            | 30             | 30   | 30            | 1,245.00 " "            |
|                 | 1873        | 25            | 25           | 25           | 25            | 25             | 25   | 25            | 1,037.50 " "            |
|                 | 1874        | 20            | 20           | 20           | 20            | 20             | 20   | 20            | 830.00 " "proof"        |
|                 | 1875        | 20            | 20           | 20           | 20            | 20             | 20   | 20            | 830.00                  |
|                 | 1876        | 45            | 45           | 45           | 45            | 45             | 45   | 45            | 1,867.50                |
|                 | 1877        | 20            | 20           | 20           | 20            | 20             | 20   | 20            | 830.00                  |
|                 | 1878        | 20            | 20           | 20           | 20            | 20             | 20   | 20            | 830.00                  |
|                 | 1879        | 30            | 30           | 30           | 30            | 30             | 30   | 30            | 1,245.00                |
|                 | 1880        | 36            | 36           | 36           | 36            | 36             | 36   | 36            | 1,494.00                |
|                 | 1881        | 40            | 40           | 40           | 40            | 40             | 40   | 40            | 1,660.00                |
|                 | 1882        | 40            | 40           | 40           | 40            | 40             | 40   | 40            | 1,660.00                |
|                 | 1883        | 40            | 40           | 40           | 40            | 40             | 40   | 40            | 1,660.00                |
|                 | 1884        | 41            | 15           | 18           | 76            | 43             | 976  |               | 2,371.50                |
|                 | 1885        | 77            | 65           | 66           | 109           | 87             | 1049 |               | 4,113.50                |
|                 | 1886        | 106           | 60           | 72           | 142           | 88             | 1016 |               | 4,742.00                |
|                 | 1887        | 121           | 80           | 87           | 160           | 122            | 1043 |               | 5,483.00                |
|                 | 1888        | 102           | 72           | 94           | 85            | 92             | 457  |               | 4,172.00                |
|                 | 1889        | 41            | 45           | 45           | 129           | 48             | 1779 |               | 3,781.00                |
|                 | 1890        | 55            | 63           | 88           |               | 93             |      |               | 2,402.50                |
|                 | 1891        | 52            | 48           | 53           |               | 80             |      |               | 1,985.00                |
|                 | 1892        | 93            | 72           | 92           |               | 105            |      |               | 3,302.50                |
|                 | 1893        | 59            | 55           | 77           |               | 106            |      |               | 2,380.00                |
|                 | 1894        | 50            | 43           | 75           |               | 122            |      |               | 2,110.00                |
|                 | 1895        | 51            | 56           | 81           |               | 119            |      |               | 2,282.50                |
|                 | 1896        | 128           | 78           | 103          |               | 132            |      |               | 3,185.00                |
|                 | 1897        | 76            | 69           | 83           |               | 136            |      |               | 2,965.00                |
|                 | 1898        | 75            | 67           | 75           |               | 165            |      |               | 2,957.50                |
|                 | 1899        | 84            | 86           | 99           |               | 150            |      |               | 3,410.00                |
|                 | 1900        | 124           | 120          | 230          |               | 205            |      |               | 5,342.50                |
|                 | 1901        | 96            | 85           | 140          |               | 223            |      |               | 4,027.50                |
|                 | 1902        | 114           | 113          | 162          |               | 193            |      |               | 4,702.50                |
|                 | 1903        | 158           | 96           | 154          |               | 197            |      |               | 5,382.50                |
|                 | 1904        | 98            | 108          | 136          |               | 170            |      |               | 4,145.00                |
|                 | 1905        | 92            | 86           | 108          |               | 144            |      |               | 3,600.00                |
|                 | 1906        | 94            | 77           | 85           |               | 160            |      |               | 3,475.00                |
|                 | 1907        | 78            | 74           | 92           |               | 154            |      |               | 3,145.00                |
|                 | 1908        | 101           | 116          | 167          |               | 236            |      |               | 4,605.00                |
|                 | 1909        | 67            | 74           | 78           |               | 139            |      |               | 2,817.50                |
|                 | 1910        | 167           | 204          | 250          |               | 682            |      |               | 8,335.00                |
|                 | 1911        | 100           | 95           | 139          |               | 191            |      |               | 4,122.50                |
|                 | 1912        | 74            | 83           | 144          |               | 197            |      |               | 3,522.50                |
|                 | 1913        | 58            | 71           | 99           |               | 165            |      |               | 2,777.50                |
|                 | 1914        | 70            | 50           | 125          |               | 117            |      |               | 2,817.50                |
|                 | 1915        | 50            | 75           | 75           |               | 100            |      |               | 2,375.00                |

PROOF PIECES STRUCK IN SILVER

| Year        | Trade Dollar | SS Dollar | Half dollars | Quarter Dollars | Dimes | Half dimes  | Three Cents | Total Value | Remarks               |
|-------------|--------------|-----------|--------------|-----------------|-------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| 1863:       |              | 460       | 460          | 460             | 460   | 460         | 460         | \$ 887.80   | *Delivery in June,    |
| 1864:       |              | 470       | 470          | 470             | 470   | 470         | 470         | 907.10      | 1867 first one de-    |
| 1865:       |              | 500       | 500          | 500             | 500   | 500         | 500         | 965.00      | signed "Proof         |
| 1866:       |              | 725       | 725          | 725             | 725   | 725         | 725         | 1,399.25    | coin                  |
| 1867:*      |              | 625       | 625          | 625             | 625   | 625         | 625         | 1,206.25    |                       |
| 1868:       |              | 600       | 600          | 600             | 600   | 600         | 600         | 1,158.00    | Trade Dollar author-  |
| 1869:       |              | 600       | 600          | 600             | 600   | 600         | 600         | 1,158.00    | ized;Half dime, Three |
| 1870:       |              | 1000      | 1000         | 1000            | 1000  | 1000        | 1000        | 1,930.00    | Cent discontinued Act |
| 1871:       |              | 960       | 960          | 960             | 960   | 960         | 960         | 1,852.80    | February 12,          |
| 1872:       |              | 950       | 950          | 950             | 950   | 950         | 950         | 1,833.50    | 1873                  |
| *1873**600  |              | 600       | 1100         | 1100            | 1100  | 600         | 600         | 2,183.00    |                       |
| 1875: 700   |              |           | 700          | 700             | 700   | 1200/Twenty |             | 1,535.00    | *** Twenty Cent au-   |
| 1876:1150   |              |           | 1150         | 1150            | 1150  | 1150/       | "           | 2,357.50    | thorized Mar. 3, 1875 |
| 1877: 710   |              |           | 510          | 510             | 510   | 510/        | "           | 1,245.50    | Prohibited May 2,     |
| 1878: 900   |              | 550       | 800          | 800             | 800   | 600/        | "           | 2,250.00    | 1878                  |
| 1879:1541   |              | 1100      | 1100         | 1100            | 1100  |             |             | 3,576.00    |                       |
| 1880:1987   |              | 1355      | 1355         | 1355            | 1355  |             |             | 4,493.75    |                       |
| 1881: 960   |              | 975       | 975          | 975             | 975   |             |             | 2,763.75    |                       |
| 1882: 1097  |              | 1100      | 1100         | 1100            | 1100  |             |             | 3,132.00    |                       |
| 1883: 979   |              | 1039      | 1039         | 1039            | 1039  |             |             | 2,901.15    |                       |
| 1884:       |              | 875       | 875          | 875             | 875   |             |             | 1,618.75    |                       |
| 1885:       |              | 930       | 930          | 930             | 930   |             |             | 1,720.50    |                       |
| 1886:       |              | 886       | 886          | 886             | 886   |             |             | 1,639.10    |                       |
| 1887:       |              | 710       | 710          | 710             | 710   |             |             | 1,313.50    |                       |
| 1888:       |              | 832       | 832          | 832             | 832   |             |             | 1,539.20    |                       |
| 1889:       |              | 811       | 711          | 711             | 711   |             |             | 1,415.35    |                       |
| 1890:       |              | 590       | 590          | 590             | 590   |             |             | 1,091.50    |                       |
| 1891:       |              | 650       | 600          | 600             | 600   |             |             | 1,160.00    |                       |
| 1892:****   |              | 1245      | 1245         | 1245            | 1245  |             |             | 2,303.25    | ****New design 1/2,   |
| 1893:       |              | 792       | 792          | 792             | 792   |             |             | 1,465.20    | 1/4, 1/10\$           |
| 1894:       |              | 972       | 972          | 972             | 972   |             |             | 1,798.20    |                       |
| 1895:       |              | 880       | 880          | 880             | 880   |             |             | 1,628.00    |                       |
| 1896:       |              | 762       | 762          | 762             | 762   |             |             | 1,409.70    |                       |
| 1897:       |              | 731       | 731          | 731             | 731   |             |             | 1,352.35    |                       |
| 1898:       |              | 735       | 735          | 735             | 735   |             |             | 1,359.75    |                       |
| 1899:       |              | 846       | 846          | 846             | 846   |             |             | 1,565.10    |                       |
| 1900:       |              | 912       | 912          | 912             | 912   |             |             | 1,687.20    |                       |
| 1901:       |              | 813       | 813          | 813             | 813   |             |             | 1,504.05    |                       |
| 1902:       |              | 777       | 777          | 777             | 777   |             |             | 1,437.45    |                       |
| 1903:       |              | 755       | 755          | 755             | 755   |             |             | 1,396.75    |                       |
| 1904:*****  |              | 650       | 670          | 670             | 670   |             |             | 1,219.50    | *****Dollar coinage   |
| 1905:       |              |           | 727          | 727             | 727   |             |             | 617.95      | discontinued.         |
| 1906:       |              |           | 675          | 675             | 675   |             |             | 573.75      |                       |
| 1907:       |              |           | 575          | 575             | 575   |             |             | 488.75      |                       |
| 1908:       |              |           | 545          | 545             | 545   |             |             | 463.25      |                       |
| 1909:       |              |           | 650          | 650             | 650   |             |             | 522.50      |                       |
| 1910:       |              |           | 551          | 551             | 551   |             |             | 468.35      |                       |
| 1911:       |              |           | 543          | 543             | 543   |             |             | 461.55      |                       |
| 1912:       |              |           | 700          | 700             | 700   |             |             | 595.00      |                       |
| 1913:       |              |           | 627          | 613             | 622   |             |             | 528.95      |                       |
| 1914:       |              |           | 380          | 380             | 425   |             |             | 327.50      |                       |
| 1915:*****: |              |           | 450          | 450             | 450   |             |             | 382.50      | *****Proof coins dis- |
| 1936:       |              |           | 3901         | 3837            | 4130  |             |             | 3322.75     | continued in 1916     |
| 1937:       |              |           | 5728         | 5542            | 5756  |             |             | 4825.10     | Resumed in 1936       |
| 1938:       |              |           | 8152         | 8045            | 8708  |             |             | 6960.05     |                       |
| (1874:      |              | 700       | 700          | 700             | 700   |             |             | 1295.00     | Omitted above         |

## MINOR PROOF COINS STRUCK

*Cent*

| Year | Five-cent  | Three-cent | One-cent | Total   | Remarks                                       |
|------|------------|------------|----------|---------|---|
| 1878 | 2350       | 2350       | 2350     | 211.50  |   |
| 1879 | 3200       | 3200       | 3200     | 288.00  |   |
| 1880 | 3955       | 3955       | 3955     | 355.95  |   |
| 1881 | 3575       | 3575       | 3575     | 321.75  |   |
| 1882 | 3100       | 3100       | 3100     | 279.00  |   |
| 1883 | 14571*     | 6609       | 6609     | 992.91  | *Old design 5¢-5419, V style-9152 with and    |
| 1884 | 3942       | 3942       | 3942     | 354.78  | : without "Cents"; not designated separately. |
| 1885 | 3790       | 3790       | 3790     | 341.10  |   |
| 1886 | 4290       | 4290       | 4290     | 386.10  |   |
| 1887 | 2960       | 2960       | 2960     | 266.40  |   |
| 1888 | 4582       | 4582       | 4582     | 412.38  |   |
| 1889 | 3336       | 3436**     | 3336     | 303.24  | **Last 3¢ proof coin minted.                  |
| 1890 | 2740       |            | 2740     | 164.40  |   |
| 1891 | 2350       |            | 2350     | 141.00  |   |
| 1892 | 2745       |            | 2745     | 164.70  |   |
| 1893 | 2195       |            | 2195     | 131.70  |   |
| 1894 | 2632       |            | 2632     | 157.92  |   |
| 1895 | 2062       |            | 2062     | 123.72  |   |
| 1896 | 1862       |            | 1862     | 111.72  |   |
| 1897 | 1938       |            | 1938     | 116.28  |   |
| 1898 | 1795       |            | 1795     | 107.70  |   |
| 1899 | 2031       |            | 2031     | 121.86  |   |
| 1900 | 2262       |            | 2262     | 135.72  |   |
| 1901 | 1985       |            | 1985     | 119.10  |   |
| 1902 | 2018       |            | 2018     | 121.08  |   |
| 1903 | 1790       |            | 1790     | 107.40  |   |
| 1904 | 1817       |            | 1817     | 109.02  |   |
| 1905 | 2152       |            | 2152     | 129.12  |   |
| 1906 | 1725       |            | 1725     | 103.50  |   |
| 1907 | 1475       |            | 1475     | 88.50   |   |
| 1908 | 1620       |            | 1620     | 97.20   |   |
| 1909 | 4793       |            | 4793***  | 287.58  | ***Indian Head-2175; Lincoln-2618 With VDB &  |
| 1910 | 2405       |            | 2405     | 144.30  | : (without VDB not separated)                 |
| 1911 | 1733       |            | 1733     | 103.98  |   |
| 1912 | 2145****   |            | 2145     | 128.70  | ****Last delivery of Liberty "V" cents design |
| 1913 | 2594****   |            | 2848     | 158.18  | *****Buffalo-Indian design 5¢ piece           |
| 1914 | 1275       |            | 1365     | 77.40   |   |
| 1915 | 1050       |            | 1150     | 64.00   |   |
| 1916 | 600        |            | 1050     | 40.50   | : All minor proof coins discontinued until    |
| 1936 | 4420       |            | 5569     | 276.69  | : May, 1936.                                  |
| 1937 | 5769*****  |            | 9320     | 381.65  | *****Last of Buffalo-Indian design 5¢ proof   |
| 1938 | 19365***** |            | 14734    | 1115.59 | : minted.                                     |
|      |            |            |          |         | *****New design Jefferson 5¢ proof coins.     |