



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 24, 1974

MRS. ARMSTRONG WELCOMES COIN DESIGN COMPETITION
WINNERS

✓ Counsellor Anne Armstrong, on behalf of the President, today welcomed the Bicentennial Coin Design Competition winners to the White House.

✓ In greeting the three artists and their families, Mrs. Armstrong said: "The spirit of the Bicentennial is represented in people like yourself who have demonstrated that individuals are able to participate in a manner that will be of lasting significance; for as the President has said, 'the Bicentennial must go directly to the people and derive its strength from the people.'"

"Each of your coins will pass through the hands of millions of Americans during our Third Century. Your contributions symbolize our hope that the Bicentennial will not only reaffirm our great heritage but will be a reminder of our continuing revolution to make America a better place in which to live."

✓ Mr. John W. Warner, Administrator of the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration, and Director of the Mint Mary Brooks were also present at the White House meeting. "The success of the Bicentennial is directly proportional to citizen participation in the celebration," Mr. Warner said, "and we have here today a direct example of citizen participation."

✓ The new Bicentennial designs will appear on the reverses of 1776-1976 dated quarters, half dollars and dollars.

✓ The design of a colonial drummer by Mr. Jack L. Ahr of Arlington Heights, Illinois, will appear on the back of the quarter. Independence Hall, designed by Mr. Seth G. Huntington of Minneapolis, Minnesota, will go on the back of the half dollar. Mr. Dennis R. Williams of Columbus, Ohio, is the designer of the Liberty Bell-moon combination destined for the back of the dollar.

✓ The Mint expects to strike 1.4 billion quarters, 400 million half dollars and 225 million dollars to meet commercial demand for the three new circulating Bicentennial coins. In addition, at least 45 million 40% silver-clad proof and uncirculated specimens of the new coins will be struck for sale to the public.

The Mint will announce the price and ordering dates for the special silver-clad Bicentennial coins at a later date. Persons wishing to be placed on the Mint's mailing list to receive ordering information at the appropriate time should write: The Bureau of the Mint, 55 Mint Street, San Francisco, California 94175.

✓ The National Bicentennial Coin Design Competition drew nearly 1,000 design entries from throughout the nation. "This is the first time designs on circulating coins are to be changed in honor of an anniversary of American freedom," Mint Director Mary Brooks said. "Each will place a bit of our history into the hands of every man, woman and child in the country."

BIOGRAPHIES OF THE DESIGNERS FOR THE BICENTENNIAL COINS

On March 6, 1974, the Secretary of the Treasury and Director of the Mint made the final selections of the three winning designs resulting from the National Bicentennial Coin Design Competition for the reverses of the dollar, half dollar and quarter. The Treasury Department awarded \$5,000 to each of the winning designers.

JACK L. AHR, 1802 South Highland Avenue, Arlington Heights, Illinois 60005, designed the colonial drummer boy selected to appear on the reverse of the quarter.

Mr. Ahr opened his own company, Jack Ahr Design and Sales in Arlington Heights, two years ago. The company specializes in the design of custom products, such as sales and employee incentives awards. For 16 years prior to opening his own business, he was employed as an artist, art director and director of creative services for companies serving the high school, college and industrial markets, designing such items as class rings, medals, pins, special awards and commemorative medallions.

He studied art for two years at the Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, Ohio, and continued his art studies at the John Herron Institute of Art, Indianapolis, Indiana and the American Academy of Art, Chicago, Illinois.

Mr. Ahr served two years in the U. S. Army stationed at Fort Knox, Kentucky. Born June 23, 1931, at Cincinnati, Ohio, he is married and the father of five children.

SETH G. HUNTINGTON'S design of Independence Hall was selected to appear on the reverse of the half dollar. Mr. Huntington resides at 4153 Aldrich Avenue South, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55409.

Currently he is manager and art director of the Custom Art Department of Brown and Bigelow, the largest calendar and advertising specialty house in the world. He is a graduate of Minneapolis College of Art and Design and served on the faculty of the St. Paul Arts and Science Center.

His experience as an artist and designer has been in corporate design, educational materials, book illustrations and advertising and display. He has received numerous citations and awards including two "Printing Industries of America" annual graphic arts awards. He has exhibited as a potter and sculptor and specializes in small highly detailed pieces sculpt in wax and cast in sterling through the lost wax process.

Born February 12, 1930, in Minneapolis, Minnesota, he is married, the father of eight children and he has two grandchildren.

DENNIS R. WILLIAMS, whose design of the Liberty Bell and moon has been chosen for the back of the dollar coin, is a student.

He is 21 years old and in his junior year at the Columbus College of Art and Design in Columbus, Ohio, majoring in sculpture. His sculpture instructor assigned him the National Bicentennial Coin Design Competition as a design problem.

Mr. Williams was born in Erie, Pennsylvania, October 26, 1952, but resides at 880 East Broad Street in Columbus while attending school. He says he would eventually like to teach sculpture at the college level and plan to use his \$5,000 award to continue his education.