

Dwight D. Eisenhower the Numismatist

© 2018 Darryl A. Gomez

On July 13, 2018, I was visiting The National Museum of American History and became awestruck when I set my eyes on a small unassuming display. Within this modest display were twelve coins, but it was the identifying display placard that got me excited. The display placard stated *“Coins collected by Dwight Eisenhower, around 1955”*.



What my excitement was about is that I just correlated this small unassuming display with the knowledge of previously reading three dozen pages of correspondences relating to President Eisenhower's donation of his personal coin collection to the Smithsonian Institution while he still was serving his second term as President. From previously reading these correspondences and other documents, I already knew that President Eisenhower was a coin collector. To actually see part of President Eisenhower's personal coin collection was extremely satisfying.

President Eisenhower's coin collection donation contained one-hundred eight-nine pieces. His collection ranged widely and included U.S. and world pieces, from a U.S. Morgan silver dollar to shekel of Judaea. There is a 1952 pattern of a "Europino coin of Federate Europe". A 1907 Philippine San Francisco Mint that was part of the hoard recovered from the bottom of Manila Bay. Coins from Argentina, Austria, Canada, Chile, Cuba, Egypt, France, Germany, Great Britain, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Portugal, and others are represented in this inventory listing.

UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM
BUREAU OF AMERICAN ETHNOLOGY
ANTHROPOLOGICAL OBSERVATORY
NATIONAL AIR MUSEUM
NATIONAL ZOOLOGICAL MUSEUM



SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
Washington 25, D.C.
U.S.A.

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART
NATIONAL COLLECTION OF FINE ARTS
FREEER GALLERY OF ART
INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE SERVICE
CANAL ZONE BIBLIOGRAPHIC AREA

THE WHITE HOUSE
JUN 20 9 29 AM '58

June 19, 1958

RECEIVED

The President
of the United States
The White House

My dear Mr. President:

It is a special honor to acknowledge on behalf of the Smithsonian Institution the receipt of a group of coins and mementos given to us by you.

The historically important shekel of Judaea struck during the memorable struggle for independence in 68/69 A.D., as well as the shekel of Tyre claimed by tradition to be similar to one of the thirty pieces of silver for which Judas Iscariot betrayed Christ, are outstanding examples of past cultures and traditions.

Remarkable also is a set of gold medals recently issued by the Italo-Venezuelan Bank in remembrance of military and political leaders of World War II; also a rare gold tael of Manchuria and a representative group of Mexican gold coins of the 20th Century.

We are, indeed, delighted to receive these valuable additions to the national collections. The group of coins has been entered on our records as a gift in your name.

May I express again my deepest gratitude for your interest in the collections of the United States National Museum.

Sincerely yours,

Leonard Carmichael
Secretary

The twelve coins on display at The National Museum of American History are identifiable from the inventory listing of the donated one-hundred eight-nine pieces. The identifying display placard text "'around 1955" is inaccurate (should be 1958) from my review of the donation correspondences.

I'm still in the research phase for my third book (preliminary named **President of the United States Special Government Medals**,) relating to the Presidents Eisenhower and Kennedy appreciation medals. The information gleaned from my ongoing research provides evidence to indicate that President Eisenhower had a numismatic mindset in the creation of his fourteen different types of appreciation medals, when compared to President Kennedy's single appreciation medal and the lack of a U.S. Mint manufactured appreciation medal by the other Presidents of the United States.