



# FIRST SPOUSE SERIES

ONE-HALF OUNCE PROOF AND UNCIRCULATED COINS

## HIGHLY COLLECTABLE SERIES

American First Ladies are now honored with First Spouse Gold Coins, which are one-half ounce, 24 karat pure gold coins minted in collector proof and uncirculated versions. This series of gold coins introduced in 2007 and set to last until 2016 compliment and are released on the same schedule as the US Mint Presidential \$1 program which honors past Presidents at a rate of four gold coins each year.



## THE FIRST SPOUSE GOLD COINS PROGRAM

The program is the first to feature women in a consecutive series of legal tender coins. The series of gold coins is authorized through the Presidential \$1 Coin Act of 2005, which was signed into law (Public Law 109-145) on Dec. 22, 2005 by President George Bush. It calls for the following coin specifications:

- A \$10 denomination
- The same diameter as the \$1 coins
- Issued as counterparts and during the same period as the circulating Presidential \$1 coins

There are two cases where a President has had more than one wife during service and two coins are issued, like John Tyler. Tyler's first wife Letitia died during his second year in office. Tyler later married Julia while still President. Under the program, both Letitia and Julia First Spouse Coins were produced.



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# LUCY HAYES 2011



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## LUCY HAYES FIRST SPOUSE GOLD COIN *FIRST LADY, 1877–1881*

Third to be released for the year, the Lucy Hayes First Spouse Gold Coin honors the wife of the 19th President of the United States. Following the specifications of the series, the coins are struck in one-half ounce of 24 karat gold.

Lucy Hayes was a strong supporter of the temperance movement and banned alcohol from the White House during her husband's administration. While First Lady, she and her husband celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at a ceremony held in the White House.

In 1878, President and Mrs. Hayes began the tradition of hosting the Easter Egg Roll on the White House grounds after learning the U.S. Capitol Building grounds were no longer allowed for the popular event. Staff members, parents and other onlookers watched in fascination as the children rolled both their hard-boiled eggs and themselves down the sloping south lawn.

The Washington Evening Star newspaper reported that children "rolled eggs down the terraces back of the Mansion, and played among the shrubbery to their hearts' content." It estimated that "several hundred" children were at this first White House Easter Egg Roll, thus starting a custom that endures today. The reverse (tails) design represents Lucy Hayes' participation in the first Easter Egg Roll held at the White House.

## COIN SPECIFICATIONS

Designer: Susan Gamble (obverse), Barbara Fox (reverse)

Sculptor: Don Everhart (obverse), Joseph Menna (reverse)

Date: 2011

Mint: West Point (W mint mark)

Weight: 0.5000 troy oz. (15.554 g)

Composition: 0.9999 fine gold

Diameter: 1.041 inches (26.49 mm)

Thickness: 0.074 inches (1.88 mm)