



ADRIAN M. FENTY
MAYOR

Edmund C. Moy, Director
United States Mint
801 9th Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20220

February 25, 2008

Dear Director Moy,

Herewith are three narratives for the design of the reverse of the District of Columbia Quarter Dollar Coin.

On behalf of the residents of the District of Columbia, I thank you for the opportunity to participate in the Quarter design program, and I look forward to continuing to partner with you until the Washington, DC Quarter is issued.

In this submission you will also find background materials provided to assist the artists in their design work. Please note that all images provided are for reference only, and we are not suggesting that any particular image be reproduced as an exact copy.

Stephanie D. Scott, Secretary of the District of Columbia, will continue to be your liaison for this program. Please contact her with any questions you may have at stephanie.scott@dc.gov or 202-727-6306.

Best regards,


Adrian M. Fenty

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA QUARTER DOLLAR COIN DESIGN NARRATIVES

1. STARS AND BARS

DESCRIPTION:

Filling the entire space is a graphic design, of three stars atop two horizontal bars that stretch the width of the available space. The stars are evenly spaced, aligned with the center, far left, and far right edges of the bars, and the height of the stars is equal to the height of each bar. Inscribed within the graphic is one of two phrases: "Taxation Without Representation" or "No Taxation Without Representation."

EXPLANATION:

The Stars and Bars design is a blend of the past and present. A modern design with bold, almost abstract graphics, simultaneously evoking the family coat of arms of President George Washington and the flag of the District of Columbia; this powerful design is elegant in its simplicity. On the Washington family coat of arms - created around 1400 in Washington England - the stars and bars are depicted in red on a white shield. Examples of this coat of arms can be seen at Hylton Castle and Durham Cathedral in the Northeast of England, and at the Mount Vernon estate in Alexandria, Virginia. These same stars and bars have been passed down through the generations to their present day use on the flag of the District of Columbia, which was adopted in 1938. Similarly, the phrase "Taxation Without Representation," the slogan currently used on vehicle license plates issued in Washington, DC, is evocative of the battle cries which mobilized the founding of this nation. Please see attached memo for further discussion of the phrase Taxation Without Representation.

2. BENJAMIN BANNEKER: ABOLITIONIST, MATHEMATICIAN, SCIENTIST, INVENTOR

DESCRIPTION:

The three elements to be included in the design are:

- (1) a standing figure of Benjamin Banneker, dressed in the style of an 18th Century gentleman, as depicted on the USPS 1980 15¢ stamp (tri-corner hat, coat with tails, ascot, leather boots or buckled shoes), and the caption "Benjamin Banneker," with or without surveyor's instruments (e.g. tripod and looking glass);
- (2) a Diamond shape representing the original outline of the District of Columbia - a square stood up on one corner - with or without the Potomac and Anacostia rivers indicated (we prefer to have the rivers, if they do not interfere with the artistry of the coin);
- (3) the inscription is one of two phrases: "Taxation Without Representation" or "No Taxation Without Representation."

EXPLANATION:

Born in 1731 in Maryland, Benjamin Banneker was a free black, the son of former slaves. After learning to read and write, his education was largely self-taught, becoming a noted clock-maker, astronomer, and writer of almanacs. In 1791, when he was 60 years old, Banneker was hired as part of an official six-man team to help design and survey the land for the new capital city of the fledgling nation, making Benjamin Banneker among the first ever African-American presidential appointees. The symbolism of his presence, a gifted black man in attendance at the creation of the nation's capital, along with his other remarkable accomplishments, is undeniably one of the most significant testaments to the rich legacy of the District of Columbia. Benjamin Banneker was a founder of Washington D.C., whose image and memory represent ingenuity and progress. Please see attached memo for further discussion of the phrase Taxation Without Representation.

3. DUKE ELLINGTON: NATIVE SON

DESCRIPTION:

The three elements to be included in the design are:

- (1) a figure depicting Edward Kennedy "Duke" Ellington, seated at or standing next to a whole or partial image of a grand piano, with the caption "Duke Ellington;"
- (2) the outline of the current boundaries of the District of Columbia, with or without one or both of the rivers (i.e. the design could include the outline of the three straight sides only, or the three straight sides plus the Anacostia River);
- (3) the inscription is one of two phrases: "Taxation Without Representation" or "No Taxation Without Representation."

EXPLANATION:

Duke Ellington is an icon of Washington, DC history. He was born in the District of Columbia in 1899, raised in the LeDroit Park neighborhood, educated in DC Public Schools, and performed here as an adult. A symbol to Washingtonians of the local-boy-made-good saga of American life, Duke Ellington was recognized as the preeminent band leader and jazz pianist of his day. By the time of his death in 1974, Ellington earned 13 Grammy Awards and was bestowed with numerous honorary degrees and awards throughout the world, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1969. Honoring Duke Ellington on the DC Quarter is a fitting tribute to a man who played such an instrumental role in the history of jazz, the quintessential American musical form, and nods to the importance of musical contributions of all forms from the District of Columbia. Please see attached memo for further discussion of the phrase Taxation Without Representation.