



Cents

of the United

States

Chain Cent  
(1793)

Wreath  
(1793)

Liberty Bells Large Cent  
(1793-1796)

Draped Bust Large Cent  
(1796-1807)

Classic Large Cent  
(1808-1814)

Colver Large Cent  
(1816-1839)

Braided Hair Large Cent  
(1839-1857)

Flying Eagle Cent  
(1856-1858)

Indian Cent  
(1859-1909)

Lincoln Cent  
(1909 to Date)

# Fugio Cent (1787)







# 1793 FLOWING HAIR CENT

**CHAIN  
&  
WREATH  
REVERSES**





# Liberty Cap Large Cent (1793-1796)





# Draped Bust Large Cent (1796 - 1807)





# “Classic” Large Cent (1808-1814)





# Coronet Large Cent (1816-1839)





# Braided Hair Large Cent (1839-1857)





# Flying Eagle Cent (1856-1858)





# Indian Head Cent (1859-1909)





# Lincoln Cent (1909 - present)





# Lincoln Memorial Reverse (1959 - 2008)





# Lincoln Bicentennial #1 & #2 (2009)





# Lincoln Bicentennial #3 & #4 (2009)













# Lincoln Cent reverse (2010 - present)





# Lincoln Cent on NASA's Mars rover "Curiosity"





# The Most Expensive Penny?





# 1792 “Birch Cent”: \$2.6 million



Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com



# 1793 “Parmalee” Chain Cent: \$2.35 million

a.k.a. “Strawberry Leaf”





# Trivia

- The U.S Mint estimates that the average life expectancy of paper currency lasts for as little as 18 months. The average cent [lasts 25 years!](#)
- The Mint produced its first circulating coins (11,178 copper cents) in 1793. Today there is more than \$8 billion worth of coins circulating in the US and, in the past 30 years, the US Mint has minted over 300 billion coins, worth in excess of \$15 billion.



# Trivia

- Lincoln faces to the right, while [all other portraits on coins face to the left](#). This was not done on purpose — it was simply the choice of the coin designer.
- In 2015, the U.S. Mint produced 9,365,300,000 cents
- Mint marks: P (2017 only), D, S. Under date on obverse. No mint marks used from 1965 to 1967, or in any year except 2017 at the Philadelphia Mint.





# Trivia

- **Composition**

- 1909–1942, 1944–1982: 95% copper, remainder tin or zinc
- 1943: zinc-plated steel (magnetic!)
- 1982–present: copper-plated zinc (97.5% Zn, 2.5% Cu)
- Before the Lincoln cent, no regularly circulating U.S. coin had featured an actual person (as opposed to idealized personifications, as of "liberty")
- While a 1909 penny could send a postcard or buy a few eggs, it can't even buy **itself**: in 2014, the U.S. Mint spent 1.7 cents on every penny it produced.



# Trivia

- the U.S. Mint took more than two years to produce its first million coins, but today the Philadelphia Mint can make approximately that many in 45 minutes.
- Some people think that, when flipping a Cent and calling “heads” or “tails”, you should always call “tails” because the “heads” side weighs more and will fall down more often. The U.S. Mint disputes this theory.

# Trivia



- The name “penny” actually comes from England



# Trivia

- There are more than 130 billion one-cent coins currently in circulation.
- Since its beginning, the U.S. Mint has produced more than 288.7 billion pennies. Lined up edge to edge, these pennies would circle the earth 137 times.
- More than two-thirds of all coins produced by the U.S. Mint are pennies.