Catalogue Number: EOF-US-1864-COIN-002

ECHOES OF FREEDOM
WITH SMITH McNEILL

Echoes of Freedom
Certificate of Authenticity

Artifact: 1864 United States Two-Cent Coin

This Certificate of Authenticity verifies that the accompanying artifact is an original United States Two-Cent Coin dated 1864. Issued during the American Civil War, the two-cent piece was authorized by Congress to address severe coin shortages and rising public demand for small-denomination currency.

Historical Significance

The United States two-cent coin was introduced in 1864 amid the economic strain of the Civil War. Widespread hoarding of gold, silver, and copper coins had removed most federal coinage from circulation. In response, Congress authorized a new bronze coin composed primarily of copper to restore confidence in everyday commerce.

The 1864 two-cent piece holds particular historical importance as the first coin in United States history to bear the national motto "IN GOD WE TRUST." The inclusion of this phrase reflected the deep religious sentiment of the era and the nation's desire for divine guidance during its greatest internal crisis.

Produced by the United States Mint, the two-cent coin circulated widely on the Northern home front and became a symbol of perseverance, unity, and national identity. Although the denomination was short-lived, its legacy endures through its powerful symbolism and its place in Civil War–era monetary history.

Photographic Documentation

Photograph of the 1864 United States Two-Cent Coin (Obverse & Reverse):



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Authentication & Provenance

This artifact has been documented and preserved as part of the Echoes of Freedom Public History Project. Echoes of Freedom is dedicated to the ethical preservation, interpretation, and educational presentation of authentic American historical artifacts.

Certified by: Thomas Smith McNeill

Certifier Signature: _____

Certified Date: January 8, 2026

Location: Wilkes County, North Carolina

