

A Different Kind of GSA Carson City Package

By Mitchell Yee

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From the outside, the GSA box housing the Carson City silver dollar looked like every one of the other 2.7+ million silver dollars sold by the General Services Administration between 1972 and 1980. However, the dealer who offered it to me said the inside was very unusual and that I should buy it. So I opened it, looked at it, and bought it.

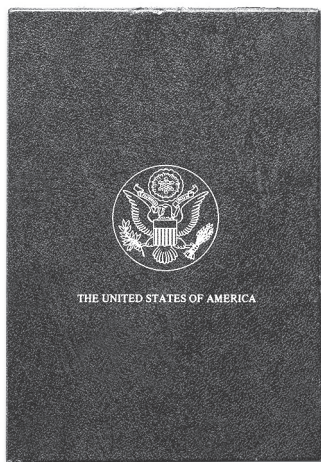
At the top right is an image of what the box looked like from the outside.

Nothing unusual, right?

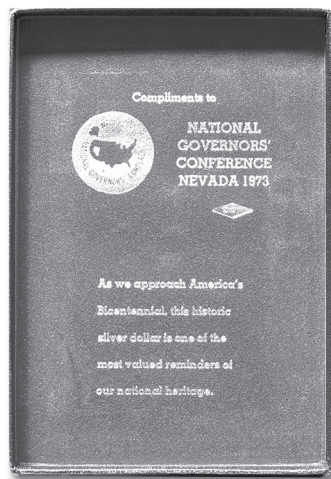
The next image (bottom-right) shows what I found inside:

The inside lid of the box was overlaid with an imprinted velour that reads “Compliments to National Governors’ Conference Nevada 1973.”

The usual statement from President Richard Nixon is seen below the Governors’ Conference announcement, but omits President Nixon’s name. An imprint of the corporate logo of Dow Chemical acknowledges the sponsorship of the conference by Dow.



GSA boxtop.



Special governors' greeting.

The third image, seen below, is of the coin itself.

The GSA hard pack, housing the 1884-CC dollar, is nested in the typical indentation in the box, only it has a sheet of satin. The coin and certificate of authenticity are in the usual Mint condition. I



An 1884-CC dollar inside special Governors' Conference GSA box.

should add that the box and lid are still attached at the hinge; I photographed them separately to show the details.

I have yet to research the origins of this package but would guess that as part of the GSA's efforts to market these coins, the location of the Governors' Conference in Nevada presented the GSA with an opportunity to

promote the sales of the GSA Carson City Hoard to many high level politicians simultaneously. Either the GSA or Dow Chemical paid for the minor alterations to the original GSA packaging. If that is the scenario, it seems reasonable to say that this special edition GSA box and dollar is limited to 50 sets, one for each state. I remember seeing another GSA package like this many years ago, but back then I decided not to purchase it. This time, I didn't hesitate.

(Images courtesy of Mitchell Yee)