June 29, 2021

The Honorable Janet Yellen  
Secretary of the Treasury  
Department of the Treasury  
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20220

Dear Madam Secretary:

The Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee (CCAC) held a public meeting via video conference on Tuesday, June 15, 2021, during which the CCAC made recommendations for the Negro Leagues Baseball Centennial Commemorative Coins, featuring a $5 gold coin, a $1 silver coin, and a clad half-dollar coin (P. L. 116-209).

The CCAC was joined by Mr. Bob Kendrick, President, Negro Leagues Baseball Museum, who was enthusiastic about the designs presented.

With 11 CCAC members present, 33 represents the highest score possible for recommendation.

The CCAC members surveyed all possible pairings across the denominations, and made recommendations for designs utilizing two gold sets of pairs.

The $5 gold coin recommendations are for NLB-G-O-05 and NLB-G-R-05, separately garnering 24 and 18 points, respectively, by far the most popular pairing. The obverse design depicts the tense moment of a batter poised to hit a baseball, symbolic of the excitement and skill players brought to the field. The complementary reverse design depicts a player’s tip of the hat. Additional inscriptions on the obverse are “NEGRO LEAGUES BASEBALL” and “FOR LOVE OF THE GAME” on the reverse.

The $1 silver coin design pair NLB-S-O-01 and NLB-S-R-01 achieved a perfect score of 33 points and is the CCAC’s recommendation. Design NLB-S-O-01 features a batter hitting a baseball, and in its corresponding design, NLB-S-R-01, depicts a crowd of hands excitedly reaching upward for a homerrun ball. The additional inscription “NLBM” is included.

The half-dollar clad coin hit a winning design with the choice of the CCAC to return to the gold portfolio, with design NLB-G-O-01 showing a pitcher in action and in its corresponding design, NLB-G-R-01, depicting a batter, ready to hit that ball. These designs lock the players in the eternal moment in which the ball crosses between the mound and the plate, representing the legacy and pride of Negro League players. The obverse bears the inscription “NEGRO LEAGUES BASEBALL,” while “THEIR LEGACY PLAYS ON” is inscribed on the reverse.
Out of 33 possible points, this design pairing received a score of 21 and 24 points, respectively, far more than the second-place clad design of NLB-C-O-03 and NLB-C-R-03, which received 17 points each.

Our liaison, Mr. Bob Kendrick, enthusiastically supported the CCAC’s recommendations, and remarked that they were a perfect birthday present for him.

As always, our CCAC researched, debated, and recommended what we believe is an excellent narrative arc for the three-coin set.

Best regards,

Mary N. Lannin
Chair