

Passing the buck: Printer pushing Ron Paul dollar

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After unveiling its own "currency" bearing Republican presidential candidate Ron Paul's likeness this year, The Liberty Dollar of Evansville, Ind., an "alternative" mint that has tried to print its own money to compete with the U.S. dollar, has now minted coins that advocate opposition to the Iraq war.

The Liberty Dollar made its name minting coins pegged to commodity prices. It has now released the 2008 Peace Dollar, which has a face value of 10 "Liberty Dollars" and contains a half-ounce of pure silver.

The Peace Dollar is made of one ounce of pure copper.

And the \$20 "Presidential" Ron Paul Dollar was minted in support of the Republican presidential candidate who has ridden a wave of Internet buzz to increased prominence in recent months.

Also available are \$1,000 gold denominations.

"I decided to mint the coin because I identify with Ron Paul's agenda [and] economic beliefs, and he is what our country needs," said Bernard von NotHaus, the self-proclaimed monetary architect of The Liberty Dollar. "The more that Ron Paul's favorability rises in the charts, it is driving more people to purchase Ron Paul dollars."

Mr. von NotHaus agrees with Mr. Paul that there should be a value-backed currency that jibes with the candidate's libertarian stance, to compete with the weakening dollar.

Additionally, Mr. von NotHaus thinks that the Federal Reserve should be repealed and that the income tax should go by the boards.

So far, 20,000 liberty notes bearing Mr. Paul's countenance have been printed.

Meanwhile, The Liberty Dollar has recently found itself in hot water.

Back in March, it sued the U.S. Mint to push the government to stop claiming that voluntary use of the Liberty Dollar is a federal crime.

As a result, demand for the currency has fallen to \$3 million from the \$20 million that was produced last year.