

Collecting America The Beautiful

5 Ounce Silver Quarters

by Thomas Coulson



2010 Mount Hood, Oregon
5 Ounce Silver Quarter

The Statehood Quarter program which ran from 1999 to 2009 was immensely popular. It introduced millions of new collectors to numismatics. These new collectors were searching their change for the latest issues and eagerly awaiting the release of the quarter from their home state. As a result of this success, Congress authorized a new series of commemorative quarters honoring important sites in each of the fifty states and six territories and possessions. The new coins were introduced under the title *America the Beautiful Quarter Series*. They were also known by the abbreviation 'ATB'. The coins were first issued in 2010, and five sites were honored each year and will continue to be through 2021. There are two main themes for the issues: Natural wonders and Historic sites.

The America the Beautiful Quarter series is an intriguing collection to assemble. The coins promote awareness of so much of the Nation's natural grandeur and its hallowed grounds. Design lessons the Mint learned from the Statehood Quarter series were applied to the new coins. The America the Beautiful coins are more aesthetically pleasing than the earlier Statehood quarters because of their common border design and more specific subject matter. While the State Quarters could encompass many different types of themes, the America the Beautiful Quarters had specific subjects assigned for each state before the design process. At their best, the designs are innovative and alluring. The Mount Hood, Denali, Hawai'i, and White Mountain issues are great examples of modern numismatic art. Collecting the series is an excellent way to learn about the United States' diverse attractions and geography. Beyond collecting the coins; the series will inspire one to visit many or all of the featured attractions!



Statehood Quarter
Obverse

In addition to the circulating America the Beautiful Quarters, Congress also authorized a five ounce pure silver bullion version of each quarter. It was a unique concept for the U.S. Mint. The five ounce silver coin with a huge three inch diameter is the largest coin ever issued by the United States. This format created a fantastic canvas to display the beauty of these designs. Many of these gigantic silver coins are simply breathtaking!

The 2010 debut of the bullion 'ATB's' was highly anticipated. Mintages were limited initially to 33,000 coins per issue, which was simply not enough to satisfy demand at the time. This caused some glitches early on as distributors were profiteering on the issues, which was frowned upon by the Mint. (All bullion issue 'ATB's' are sold by the U.S. Mint to primary distributors, who in turn sell them to other coin and precious metal dealers throughout the country.) Production was increased on the 2011 issues to meet demand at reasonable premiums. Production of the bullion ATB's has ebbed and flowed alongside the demand for silver in general. As the price of silver fell in 2012, few of the bullion 5 ounce quarters were ordered and mintages that year were quite low. As the price of silver has become more attractive over the past few years, collectors have rediscovered the novelty and beauty of these coins. Mintages since 2013 have gradually increased. With a price point currently at just over \$100.00 for a new issue silver bullion ATB, the coins are affordable works of art.

In addition to the bullion issues, the Mint makes a 'burnished' or specimen finish coin for sale at a premium directly to collectors. These are created by a process of blasting the surface of each coin with hot vapor. This creates a matte, slightly granular surface. These coins can be distinguished from the regular bullion issues by their appearance and their 'P' mintmarks. They are currently for sale at a reasonable \$149.95 directly from the Mint. They had been priced as high as \$279.95 in 2010 and 2011.



Burnished Finish Obverse

The 5 ounce silver America the Beautiful Quarters make a wonderful collection. Consider these reasons to collect them:

- **Unique Beauty** - Each coin is a work of art on a huge numismatic canvas. The giant three inch diameter allows for detail not possible on the smaller versions.
- **High-Ho Silver!** - Collecting ATB's is an excellent way to accumulate a position of silver. If you buy one of each issue, you will have 280 ounces of silver by series' end. While it is more expensive than purchasing generic forms of silver, the extra premium may be justified as collector interest develops for the series.
- **Scarcity** - In 2012 the Mint struck 107,300 America the Beautiful Bullion type quarters among all five issues combined! Even when adding the specimen issues, the total combined mintage for all five 2012 issues is under 200,000! That year the U.S. Mint struck over 33 million Silver Eagles! Figures are similar for 2013: 165,000 bullion ATB's over all five issues versus over 42 million Silver Eagles! Yet, one 5 ounce ATB costs only a little more than five Silver Eagles. You can acquire a coin that is much rarer for such a small difference in price. Buying ATB's is worth the premium!
- **Popularity** - These coins have been gaining recognition as the series progresses. If this trend continues, there will be strong demand for all ATB issues, which will support or bolster prices in the future. Many of the low mintage earlier issues already trade for substantial premiums. Currently, the Hawai'i issue frequently trades at over \$300.00!
- **Novelty** - With the rising popularity of silver in general, interesting silver products have enjoyed unprecedented demand. Collectors are often willing to pay healthy premiums for big and unusual silver coins and bars. The America the Beautiful Bullion Silver Quarters match the big and interesting silver genre perfectly.



How to Collect America The Beautiful 5 Ounce Silver Coins – Three Different Ways

1. The Bullion Issues

The first question to ask when considering a collection of America the Beautiful 5 Ounce Silver Quarters is: Why buy them in the first place?

At current silver prices, bullion issue ATB's sell at a premium of approximately 20 percent over their metal value. Private issue silver rounds are a less expensive option for those wanting bullion. Silver Maple Leaf Coins and Silver American Eagles are comparably priced, and a greater part of the mainstream silver bullion trade. United States 90% Silver Coin is sometimes not so pricey and sometimes more expensive; and it is preferred as a convenient barter option.



Bullion Issue Obverse

So, America the Beautiful 5 Ounce Silver Quarters are not ideal for everyone, but there is still a great amount of appeal to the coins. Though the premium is higher, most of the ATB's have legitimately low mintages. Many of the earlier coins are scarce and command significant premiums over their initial bullion prices. Most of the coins are quite attractive and their size makes them a bit unusual. To tie the series together, there is a cohesive theme: National Parks and attractions. This is a trifecta of reasons to collect: scarcity, beauty, and a theme. All three factors can play on the valuations of ATB's in a positive manner. From this perspective it makes some sense to take the small risk of an additional premium for the potential reward of greater premiums (and the enjoyment of the collection) in the future.

Once you have decided to collect ATB's, the next question to consider is whether or not to keep it a strictly bullion collection. Most of the earlier issues trade at significant premiums and cannot truly be called a bullion purchase. For those looking only at the prospect of accumulating silver, it would be best to acquire the current issue quarters at their lowest premiums. Then, tailor the purchase to the amount of silver desired. You could buy single examples, rolls of 10 coins, or boxes of 100 coins. Keep consistently purchasing issues as they are released and consider buying earlier issues if they are reasonably priced. Set a premium limit of, say, 30 percent over melt for these purchases.

Once you have purchased the lower premium issues, the next decision to make is whether or not to buy the more expensive issues. Since these coins have already appreciated, there may be less potential for appreciation than the lesser priced issues. Yet, these expensive issues typically have low mintages which may support valuations and possibly will continue to fuel appreciation. Regardless of price, there is some true satisfaction that comes with the achievement of completion.

Unique to the ATB series is the large size of the coins and the difficulty of storage. For quantities of coins, the original tubes might be the best option. For single coins, one option is uncertified coins, which can be installed in protective capsules for about a dollar each. Large display boxes are also avail-

able to house the entire series. Another option is to purchase coins certified by PCGS or NGC. Certified coins look impressive in their holders and are better protected against hair-lining and other blemishes. Also, buying a certified coin gives the collector the opportunity to acquire a nicer coin. The optimal grade for bullion issue America the Beautiful 5 Ounce Silver Quarters is MS-69. (Coins graded MS-70 are basically non-existent.) MS-69 coins are near perfect and can often be had for small premiums over non-certified issues. Buying certified coins allows the collector to assemble a more consistent collection. Collectors can choose from coins with a Proof-like, Frosty or Deep Mirror Proof-Like finishes. This can be helpful as the bullion coins can come in three different finishes and vary in appearance. Selecting coins with a consistent designation (Proof-Like, for example) makes for a more attractive collection.



2011 Gettysburg National Military Park
NGC Certified

Click [Here](#) for a free Collector's Checklist to Help You Get Started!

2. The Specimen Issues

The second type of America the Beautiful 5 Ounce Silver Quarter is the specimen issue that is specially packaged and sold directly by the U.S. Mint to collectors. They are easily distinguished from the bullion counterparts by their 'P' mintmarks. These coins have a matte finish produced from a vapor blast process. In 2010 and 2011, the mint was perfecting the process of vapor blasting and there are some variances in the finishes for some of those coins. For several of the early issues, there is a normal satin finish and a light satin finish available. In at least one instance, there is a coin that has a satin finish obverse and an unfinished reverse.



Everglades National Park
Burnished Finish

The specimen issues have a handsome appearance and are, on average, higher quality than the bullion coins because greater care is given in their handling and packaging. Another nice feature of the specimens is their consistent look from issue to issue (except for some of the previously mentioned 'light finish' early issues). This is not the case with the bullion coins, which have varying finishes. This consistency and quality help create an impressive looking collection.

Many of the specimen issues have mintages under 20,000 and can be quite difficult to locate at times. Several of these issues trade for prices over \$200.00 each currently; which precludes them from being considered a bullion item. Because of their scarcity, however, collectors may find the series financially rewarding to complete.

The other positive factor for the valuation of the specimen issues is the Mint's issue price, currently set at \$149.95. This issue price sets a floor for the value of past issues. Even the commoner past issues usually trade at close to this issue price on the secondary market and are likely to hold a value that is reasonably close to the issue price. This is a situation similar to proof Silver Eagles, which seem to hold a basal value close to the issue price of the current coin.

When assembling a collection of the specimen coins, it is probably sensible to purchase the coins as new releases from the Mint. This will allow the collector to buy at what is probably close to the 'basal' value for the coins. Once mintage figures are released, prices of the scarcer coins often rise significantly. The previous issues are almost always available for a price on eBay, if they cannot be located elsewhere. If you are a patient collector, you can pick some of the coins up at bargain prices. This can happen when a coin is auctioned on eBay and there is a problem with the description or photography. It can also happen when an unwitting seller prices a coin too low as a 'buy it now' option. I recently saw a Hawai'i specimen quarter sell at auction for \$235.00 on eBay. These normally sell for \$650.00 to \$800.00!

Another option for collecting the specimen issues is to acquire certified coins graded by PCGS or NGC, the two major independent grading services. Coins are available for almost all issues in SP-69 and SP-70 grades. They are also available as 'First Strike' (PCGS) or 'Early Release' (NGC) coins, denoting that they were among the first of the issue to be made. The marketplace seems to value these early strike coins more today than coins not designated that way. However, in my opinion, the premiums paid for these designations will not stand the test of time. I would not recommend purchasing such coins unless they can be bought for no additional premium over non 'first strike' coins.

Prices for Specimen-69 graded coins are typically commensurate with coins in the original boxes and papers. Coins graded SP-70 will trade for a premium over coins in the original packaging. Many of the early issues with the 'light finish' designation are scarce to rare and can command substantial premiums. These will be the keys to the series for collectors that consider obtaining the finish variants as necessary for completion of their collection.

3. Theme Collecting and the America the Beautiful Series

The America the Beautiful 5 Ounce Silver Quarter Series is a substantial collection with 56 different issues (or at least 112 different coins if a collector buys both the bullion and specimen coins). Many collectors may not wish to collect the entire series, instead focusing of the issues that resonate personally for them. One way to collect the 5 ounce silver 'ATB's is to select an interesting issue as a centerpiece and form a numismatic collection of topically related coins around it. In the following section that describes each individual issue are some suggested theme related collections. My favorites are the coins of the Great Lakes (centered around three different ATB coins), Black Heritage, and Coins with Volcanoes (centered around the Hawai'i issue). Collectors could also add other peripheral items around the topic such as related stamps, tokens and medals, maps, or other theme related items.



The America the Beautiful Series - A Summary of Each Issue

2010 Issues

- **Hot Springs National Park, Arkansas** - The Hot Springs National Park was the first area in the U.S. to become protected in 1832, though it did not receive National Park status until 1921. The area's hot springs were known for thousands of years by the Indians and were valued for their perceived medicinal purposes.



Hot Springs National Park

The Hot Springs Quarter was the first in the Series of America Beautiful Quarters. There was some learning curve with the production procedures of the new 5 ounce silver quarters and the use of the Grabener Press that struck them. The bullion issues range in finish from frosty to deeply proof-like. Though many of the bullion issues were initially mis-handled (there are many low grade certified specimens), nice high grade examples are plentiful for frosty, proof-like, and deep mirror proof-like finishes. Nearly half the entire bullion mintage has been certified by PCGS alone. The specimen issue has two variants. The Mint was still perfecting the vapor

blast process that produces the matte finish on the coins. Some of the Hot Springs Quarters come with a light matte finish. The light finish coins are quite scarce. As of this writing, PCGS has graded only 25 MS-69 and 6 MS-70 specimens. Normal finish specimens have a PCGS graded population of over 1500 coins for those two grades. The light finish Hot Springs trades for significant premiums in high grades over the normal finish coins.

Production Figures:

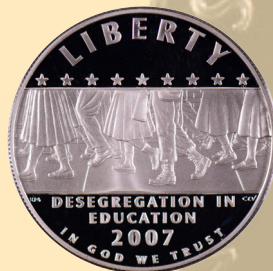
Mint State issue - 33,000
Specimen issue - 26,788

Related Collectable coinage: (Coins of Arkansas)

Arkansas Half Dollar (1935-1939)
Robinson-Arkansas Half Dollar (1936)
Arkansas Statehood Quarter (2003)
Little Rock Commemorative Silver Dollar (2007)



*1936 Robinson-Arkansas
Half Dollar*



*2007 Little Rock
Silver Dollar*



*Arkansas State-
hood Quarter*

➤ **Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming** - Yellowstone was the first National Park, established in 1872. This vast park is home to breathtaking vistas, fascinating geological wonders and amazing wildlife. Millions of visitors traverse its terrain every year. It is a must visit destination for every U.S. Citizen at some point in their lifetime.



Yellowstone 5 ounce silver quarters exhibit many of the same characteristics as the Hot Springs issue. Finishes on the bullion issues range from frosty to deeply proof-like. Ample quantities are available for all finishes. As with the first issue, many were mishandled as evidenced by the large number of low grade certified coins. There are no shortages of high grade coins, though. Again, nearly half the entire mintage has been certified. The Specimens have both the normal finish and light finish variants. The light finish specimens are scarce and command strong premiums.



Yellowstone National Park

Production Figures:

Mint State issue - 33,000
Specimen issue - 26,711

Related Collectable coinage: (Yellowstone and its Wildlife)

- Yellowstone Commemorative Dollar (1999)
- Buffalo Commemorative Dollar (2001)
- Buffalo Nickel (1913-1938)
- \$50.00 One Ounce Gold American Buffalo (2006-date)
- Canada Grizzly Bear \$100.00 (2014)
- National Parks Centennial Half Dollar (2016)
- National Parks Centennial Silver Dollar (2016)
- National Parks Centennial \$5.00 Gold (2016)



1913 Buffalo Nickel



1999 Yellowstone Silver Dollar



2001 Buffalo Silver Dollar



2008 One Ounce Gold American Buffalo

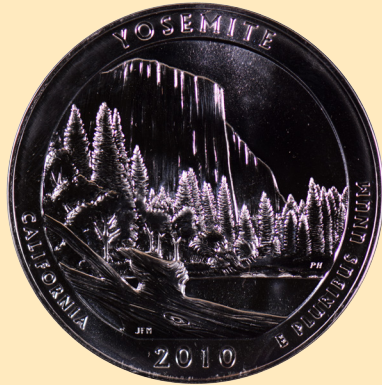


2016 National Parks Silver Dollar

- **Yosemite National Park, California** - Yosemite is a giant park area located in the Sierra Nevada Mountain range. It is visited annually by millions of nature loving tourists enjoying the forests, waterfalls, and unique terrain. Perhaps its most notable feature is El Capitan, a massive monolith in the Yosemite Valley.



The Yosemite Silver America the Beautiful 5 ounce quarter is similar in character to the other 2010 issues. The finishes on the bullion issues range from frosty to deeply proof-like. This issue is more consistently proof-like than the previous two, though the coin is common in all finishes. The specimen issue of the Yosemite Quarter is the first one with a consistently applied heavy satin finish. Specimen coins are readily available in all formats.



Yosemite National Park

Production Figures:

Mint State issue - 33,000
Specimen issue - 26,716



*1925 California
Half Dollar*

Related Collectable coinage:

California Half Dollar (1925)
Yosemite Sam Private Issue One Ounce Silver Medallion (1987)

- **Grand Canyon National Park, Arizona** - Grand Canyon National Park is another 'must visit' destination for all U.S. Citizens. It is considered one of the greatest natural wonders in the world. Views of the gorge overlooking the Colorado River are simply breathtaking. President Theodore Roosevelt, who was a great naturalist provided the impetus to start the Grand Canyon on its way to becoming a National Park.



The Grand Canyon 5 ounce bullion issue is similar to the other 2010 counterparts. Finishes again range from frosty to deeply proof-like. All are commonly available; and again, nearly half the mintage has been certified. The Specimens come in light finish versions and normal finish. The light finish coins are very scarce and command strong premiums. It is surprising that the Grand Canyon has not been celebrated on any earlier commemorative coinage.



Grand Canyon National Park

Production Figures:

Mint State issue - 33,000
Specimen issue - 26,967

- **Mt. Hood National Forest, Oregon** - This forest is located in the shadow of Mt. Hood as the name implies. It is a popular destination for all lovers of outdoor sport. The forest lands stretch for sixty miles inland Oregon. The park sees about 4 million visitors each year; a large number for a national forest.



Mt. Hood National Forest

The Mt. Hood silver quarter is perhaps the most aesthetically pleasing of the 2010 America The Beautiful Quarters. It features a lovely panoramic view of the mountain. The bullion issue exists in frosty, proof-like, and deep proof-like finishes. There are comparatively fewer frosty finish coins on this issue relative to other 2010 issues. All finishes are still easily available. The Satin finish specimens are known in only the normal finish unlike some 2010 issues with light satin finishes.

Production Figures:

Mint State issue - 33,000
 Specimen issue - 26,637

Related Collectable coinage:

Oregon Statehood Quarter (2005)
 Oregon Trail Half Dollar (1926-1939)
 Vancouver Half Dollar (1925) (Mt. Hood portrayed in the background)



Oregon Statehood Quarter



1926 Oregon Trail Half Dollar



1925 Vancouver Half Dollar

2011 Issues

- **Gettysburg National Military Park, Pennsylvania** - Gettysburg is the site of perhaps the most important battle of the Civil War. On those first few days of July, 1863 fierce battle raged. The North prevailed and the South never regained the momentum it had heading into the battle. The losses had been so terrible for both sides that the area immediately became hallowed grounds. The area's status was further solidified by Lincoln's Gettysburg Address in November, 1863. Lincoln refocused the Union cause with that speech. In the ensuing years veterans of the battle visited the site to recall their individual contributions. As the years passed, the veteran visitors gradually faded but the names and places remained for future generations to reflect.

The Gettysburg National Military Park Quarter depicts the monument to the 72nd Pennsylvania Infantry. As the Mint entered the second year of the America the Beautiful program, new issues became more uniform than the 2010 issues. Though frosty examples of the Gettysburg exist, they are much scarcer than any of the 2010 coins. Most Gettysburg coins are proof-like; with some being deeply proof-like. The Gettysburg, along with the Glacier National park issue, is the most common bullion issue of the series. This is reflective of the frenzied demand for silver early in 2011.



Gettysburg National Military Park

Production Figures:

Mint State issue - 126,700

Specimen issue - 24,625

Related Collectable coinage: (Civil War and Lincoln Commemoratives)

Lincoln Cent (1909)

Lincoln-Illinois Half Dollar (1918)

Stone Mountain Half Dollar (1925)

Gettysburg Half Dollar (1936)

Antietam Half Dollar (1937)

Civil War Half Dollar (1995)

Civil War Silver Dollar (1995)

Civil War \$5.00 Gold (1995)

Lincoln Silver Dollar (2009)

Vicksburg National Military Park Quarter (2011)



*1918 Lincoln-Illinois
Half Dollar*



*1936 Gettysburg
Half Dollar - Obverse*

➤ **Glacier National Park, Montana** - This park is pristine due to its remote location. Incredible views of mountains, forest, and wildlife waits for those adventurers able to make the trip. Though they have retreated substantially over the decades, the park still features its namesake: glaciers. These remnants of the last ice age are truly amazing and worth the visit before they disappear.



Glacier National Park

The Glacier National Park coin features a beautiful mountain vista with the park's official symbol, a mountain goat, in the foreground. Along with the Gettysburg issue, the Glacier Park Silver 5 ounce quarter has the highest production of any to date. The coins became available for sale a week before the price of silver peaked at just under \$50.00 per troy ounce. At this time demand for silver was insatiable. Most of the bullion issues are prooflike with a small amount of frosty specimens and a larger number of deeply prooflike pieces. The specimen issues have a uniformly heavy, matte finish. Though the bullion issue is one of the most common, the specimen is fairly elusive.

Production Figures:

Mint State issue - 126,700

Specimen issue - 20,805

Related Collectable coinage: (Goats on Coins)

Australia \$1.00 Silver Goat (2003, 2015)

Canada \$15.00 Lunar Series Scalloped Goat (2015)

Macau 20 and 100 Patacas Lunar Series Goat (2015)

2015 Australia Goat
Silver Dollar

- **Olympic National Park, Washington** - This is another amazingly beautiful park with a diverse selection of geology, climate, and wildlife. The park is situated on Washington's rugged Pacific Coastline and moves inward to a temperate rainforest and further on into a mountainous region with active glaciers.

The Olympic National Park 5 Ounce Silver Quarter marks a departure from the previous issues. Demand for these coins fell along with the declining price of silver. The initial hype of the series had died down too, and as a result, there are far fewer certified coins existing than for earlier issues. The Mint had also managed to overcome many of the issues with variable finishes. More of the coins are the deeply proof-like finish and fewer are frosty. In 2010, nearly half of the bullion issue coins were PCGS certified. For the Olympic issue, only about six percent of the coins have been professionally graded by PCGS. By this time the initial hype over the series had diminished, and fewer certified coins were marketed.



Olympic National Park

For several issues commencing with this one, there is conflicting data regarding the actual mintage of the bullion issues. In this situation, I have reported the U.S. Mint's mintage figure first and the conflicting source second (which is usually the figure cited in "A Guide Book of United States Coins", by R.S. Yeoman, also known as 'the Redbook')

The Olympic issue is a good coin with which to begin a collection. It is readily available at a premium not so dear to its silver content. The Specimen coins continued to have the normal and light finish variants for this issue. The light finish coins are scarce; though do not seem to trade for big premiums. For the first time in the series the specimen production dipped under 20,000 pieces.

Production Figures:

Mint State issue - 104,900 (U.S. Mint), 95,600 (Redbook)

Specimen issue - 18,345

Related Collectable coinage:

Fort Vancouver Centennial Half Dollar (1925)

1925 Fort Vancouver
Half Dollar

➤ **Vicksburg National Military Park, Mississippi** - Battle for Vicksburg ended on July 4, 1863; the same day the Battle for Gettysburg concluded. The surrender was the end of a marathon 47 day siege upon the city by Union forces. The Union victory effectively delivered control of the Mississippi River to the North and was a decisive point in the war. The battle's significance was recognized soon after the war and the site was designated a National Park in 1899.



Vicksburg National Military Park

The Vicksburg Quarter features the ironclad ship *Cairo*, a U.S. gunboat that earned the distinction of being the first vessel sunk by an electrically detonated torpedo. Production of the issue continued to decline from previous issues. As demand slackened, fewer coins were sent for certification. The majority of certified bullion coins are prooflike or deeply proof-like. Frosty bullion coins are certainly scarcer; though the lack of certified non-proof-like pieces is also due to marketer preferences and screening for proof-like coins. The specimens are uniformly satiny with no certified light finish coins.

Production Figures:

Mint State issue - 58,100 (U.S. Mint), 41,200 (Redbook)
Specimen issue - 18,528

Related Collectable coinage: (Coins of the Civil War)

- Gettysburg Half Dollar (1936)
- Antietam Half Dollar (1937)
- Stone Mountain Half Dollar (1925)
- Civil War Half Dollar (1995)
- Civil War Silver Dollar (1995)
- Civil War \$5.00 Gold (1995)
- Gettysburg National Military Monument Quarter (2011)



1936 Gettysburg Half Dollar - Reverse



Civil War Battlefield Preservation \$5 Gold

"Brought by Uncle Will from the City of Vicksburg and the writing was written by him on the date given."

"Rebel Paper 1863 4th of July Hurrah for Our Side."



Cancelled Confederate States of America \$10 Note Issue of April 6, 1863
Taken as a Souvenir of the Battle with Accompanying Note!

- **Chickasaw National Recreation Area, Oklahoma** - Though this Area is not so prominent as some larger national Parks, it was once a very popular tourist destination. In the early 20th century, it boasted more visitors than Yellowstone or Yosemite. Visitors flocked to the area's beauty and natural springs. The current version of the park is still very beautiful. It was worked extensively by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930's and has many remnants of that era.

The Chickasaw Quarter features a scene of the Lincoln Bridge which was dedicated in 1909 to mark the centennial of Lincoln's birth. The bullion issue was the lowest mintage of the 2010 and 2011 issues, which was further evidence of the decline in silver demand. As with the previous issue, most certified bullion specimens are deeply proof-like, and most pieces overall are proof-like or deeply so. The specimen issue also had the lowest mintage to that date with fewer than 17,000 coins issued.



Chickasaw National Recreation Area

Production Figures:

Mint State issue - 48,700 (U.S. Mint), 31,400 (Redbook)

Specimen issue - 16,746

Related Collectable coinage:

Lincoln Cent (1909)



1909 Lincoln Cent

2012 Issues

- **El Yunque National Forest, Puerto Rico** - El Yunque is the first National Parks Quarter issue not located in a U.S. State. The tropical rain forest is found in beautiful Puerto Rico. It boasts lovely Caribbean flora and fauna. Many species of plant and animal are unique to the forests of Puerto Rico. Its beauty was recognized by the King of Spain as a nature preserve before Puerto Rico came under U.S. jurisdiction.



El Yunque National Forest

The El Yunque Park quarter bullion issue continues the trend of diminishing demand. 2012 marked the low point of the America the Beautiful Series to date. All of the 2012 issues have low mintages. The El Yunque bullion issue typically has proof-like surfaces. Due to its lower mintage, the El Yunque issue trades at a higher premium than any of the earlier issues; though comparable in price to most other 2012 issues. The specimen issue has a lower mintage, though not the lowest. The satin finishes are uniform, as all are fully finished. The 2012 issues continued to see declines in the number of coins certified as well.

Production Figures:

Mint State issue - 24,000 (U.S. Mint), 21,900 (Redbook)

Specimen issue - 17,314

Related Collectable coinage: (Coinage of Puerto Rico)

Puerto Rico Peso and minor coinage (1895)



1895 Puerto Rico
20 Centavos



Cutout Puerto Rico Peso

- **Chaco Culture National Historical Park, New Mexico** - This park is the site of a great ancient Native American community. Around the year AD 1000, Chacoans built incredible structures; the largest in North America until the 19th century. The area was a flourishing cultural center for a century or two. The local culture declined around 1150 AD, when drastic and long sustained droughts made the area uninhabitable. The Chaco Culture ruins were excavated in the early 20th Century. The ruins have been recognized as historically significant cultural remains.

The Chaco Culture quarter bullion issue is currently near the lowest mintage of the series along with the Hawai'i and Denali issues of 2012. Conflicting sources cite the mintage at 20,000 (*Yeoman (Redbook), Tucker*); or 24,400 (U.S. Mint). Despite this scarcity, the Chaco Culture issue can often be acquired at a substantial discount to the other two. It is an excellent value, barring a future issue with an even lower mintage. The majority of the bullion coins are proof-like and deeply proof-like. The Specimen issue is comparable in production and appearance to the few previous issues.



Chaco Culture National
Historical Park

Production Figures:

Mint State issue - 24,000 (U.S. Mint), 20,000 (Redbook)

Specimen issue - 17,146

- **Acadia National Park, Maine** - This is a beautiful island park with miles of rugged Atlantic coastline to explore. It is located in Southern Maine near the city of Bar Harbor. The park has a wide array of beautiful terrain ranging from mountains to forests and abundant lakes. Wildlife typical of the Eastern United States is also found in the park ranging from the ubiquitous squirrels and chipmunks to large animals like moose and bear.

The Acadia bullion quarter issue experienced a small resurgence in production over the previous coin. It is still a low mintage coin compared to the 2010 and 2011 issues. Though more coins were sold, fewer coins were



certified by PCGS than any of the earlier issues. Only about 10 percent as many Acadia bullion issues were certified by PCGS than the average 2010 issue. This shows the degree to which demand for these silver coins collapsed since the program's inception. Acadia bullion issues are mostly proof-like and deeply proof-like finishes, and high grade on average. The Specimen issue, with only 14,978 coins sold is the second lowest mintage of the type for the America The Beautiful Series to date. As a low mintage issue, specimen coins sell at decent premiums to earlier issues.



Acadia National Park

Production Figures:

Mint State issue - 25,400

Specimen issue - 14,978

Related Collectable coinage:

Maine Commemorative Half Dollar (1920)



*1920 Maine
Half Dollar*

➤ **Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, Hawai'i** - The Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park is found in the southeastern portion of the island of Hawai'i. As the name implies, the park's main feature are two famous volcanoes: Kilauea and Mauna Loa. In addition to the volcanoes, there is beautiful tropical landscape at lower altitudes. It is one of the rare places in the world where one can travel from the tropics to occasional snowfall in just a few miles.

The Hawai'i National Parks 5 Ounce Silver Quarter is presently the key to the America the Beautiful Series. The bullion issue is tied for the lowest mintage at 20,000 pieces. The Specimen issue has the lowest mintage of the series at 14,863. The combined mintage of the two types at 34,863 is a few hundred pieces scarcer than the next lowest mintage quarter. The design is distinctive and beautiful; featuring a volcano erupting. The Hawai'i bullion issue exists with frosty, proof-like, and deeply proof-like finishes. Both the bullion issue and the specimen issue trade at significant premiums over the other issues; a reflection of the scarcity and desirability of the coin. Even



Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park

at a premium, the Hawai'i Volcanoes issue is probably still a bargain. The Hawaii Commemorative Half Dollar struck in 1928 sold well at first and has always been popular due to its low mintage and beauty. Today, it is the key to the classic commemorative series, as the Hawai'i Volcano issue will likely be for the America the Beautiful issues in the future.

Production Figures:

Mint State issue - 20,000
Specimen issue - 14,863

Related Collectable coinage: (Hawaiian Coinage and Volcanoes on Coins)

Hawaii Cent (1847)
Hawaii Dime through Dollar (1883)
Hawaii Half Dollar (1928)
Chile Volcano Peso (1817-1834)
South Peru 8 Reales (1837-1839)
Philippines Peso (1903-1912)
Palau 5 Dollars (2006)
Fiji 10 Dollars – Mt. St. Helens (2013)
Fiji 10 Dollars – Vesuvius (2013)
Fiji 10 Dollars – Kronotsky (2013)
Niue 2 Dollars- Erta Ale (2014)
Niue 2 Dollars-Vesuvius (2015)



1883 Hawaii Dime



South Peru 8 Reales



2015 Vesuvius Niue \$2



Chile Volcano Peso

- **Denali National Park and Preserve, Alaska** - Denali National Park is located in central Alaska. The highest mountain in North America (Mt. McKinley or Denali) at over 20,000 feet in elevation, is located here. In addition to the great mountain, Denali has forest and tundra land. Of course, there is a diverse population of wildlife, including bear and the Dall Sheep featured on the quarter's design.



Denali National Park and Preserve

The Denali 5 Ounce Silver Bullion Quarter is tied for the lowest mintage of the series with the Hawai'i issues. Its design has a majestic beauty about it; it depicts Mt. Denali (or Mt. McKinley) in the background and a ram in the foreground. It rivals the Hawai'i quarter for design beauty. Because of its low mintage and design, it is likely to always be a popular coin. The Denali 5 ounce Silver Quarter already fetches a significant premium; though not so much as the Hawai'i. Virtually all of the Denali bullion coins are proof-like or deeply prooflike. Frosty pieces are quite scarce. The specimen issue at just over 15,000 minted, is also one of the scarcest of the series.

Production Figures:

Mint State issue - 20,000
Specimen issue - 15,225

2013 Issues

- **White Mountain National Forest, New Hampshire** - This Forest is part of the Northern Appalachian Mountain Range. The Park contains several mountains covered with beautiful forest areas. Hiking, camping, and sports activities are plentiful in this lovely park.

The White Mountain 5 ounce silver quarter is strikingly beautiful. The birches in the foreground frame the design nicely to give the illusion of dimensionality. Beginning in 2013, the popularity of the America the Beautiful 5 ounce silver coins were on the rise. The lower price of silver made the coins more attractive to casual collectors. Bullion specimens can be both frosty and proof-like; both are available, though most I have seen are proof-like. The specimen issue is readily available in original packaging and certified graded formats.



White Mountain National Forest

Production Figures:

Mint State issue - 35,000

Specimen issue - 20,530

Related Collectable coinage: (Coins of Appalachia)

Acadia National Park Quarter (2012)

White Mountain National Park Quarter (2013)

Shenandoah National Park Quarter (2014)

Great Smoky Mountains Quarter (2014)

Blue Ridge National Parkway Quarter (2015)



Acadia National Park Quarter

- **Perry's Victory and International Peace Memorial, Ohio** - Today it is difficult to believe that a great naval battle was fought between the United States and Great Britain on Lake Erie! During the war of 1812, National Hero Commodore Perry won an important victory for the U.S. on that very lake. The memorial to that victory is found just north of Sandusky, Ohio in Put-in Bay, Ohio, which is accessible by ferry. The monument is one of the tallest in the United States. The island of Put-in Bay has areas to camp and also has a festive atmosphere.



Perry's Victory and International Peace Memorial

The Perry's Victory Silver Quarter is a timely issue as it closely marks the bicentennial of the War of 1812 in which the victory was achieved. The mintage for this issue is also higher than all of the 2012 issues. Perry's Victory 5 ounce silver bullion issues are predominantly proof-like. Frosty coins are scarce, though not rare. Many of the bullion pieces exhibit light to moderate die polish. The specimen issue has a low mintage, but is still available in all formats.

Production Figures:

Mint State issue - 30,000

Specimen issue - 17,707

Related Collectable coinage: (Coins of the Great Lakes)

Columbian Exposition Half Dollar (1892-1893)

Wisconsin Half Dollar (1936)

Cleveland Half Dollar (1936)

Canada Dollar - Griffon (1979)

Michigan Quarter (2004)

Canada Dollar - Toronto Sesquicentennial (1984)

Canada \$20.00 Niagara Falls (2003)

Canada \$10.00 Niagara Falls (2013)

Canada \$20.00 Lake Superior (2014)

Canada \$20.00 Lake Ontario (2014)

Canada \$20.00 Lake Erie (2014)

Canada \$20.00 Lake Michigan (2015)

Canada \$20.00 Lake Huron (2015)

Apostle Islands Quarter (2018)

Pictured Rocks Quarter (2018)



1893 Columbian Exposition Half Dollar



1936 Cleveland Half Dollar



2014 Canada \$20 Lake Erie

➤ **Great Basin National Park, Nevada** - This park has a wide variety of Western terrain including mountains, forest and desert areas. One special feature of the area is the Bristlecone Pine, which is a tree that can live for thousands of years.

The Great Basin bullion 5 ounce silver is one of the few later issues that is more common with a frosty finish than a proof-like finish. The Bristlecone Pine commonly found in the park is the central design element of the coin. Many of the Great Basin coins exhibit heavy die polish. Some have so much die polish, they appear to be harshly cleaned at first. The specimen issue is much like the other 2013 coins; it has a relatively low mintage but is available.



Great Basin National Park

Production Figures:

Mint State issue - 30,000

Specimen issue - 17,792

Related Collectable coinage:

Carson City Morgan Silver Dollar (1878-1893)



1885-CC Morgan Dollar

- **Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine, Maryland** - Fort McHenry was the site of another famous War of 1812 battle. The British attacked the Baltimore Harbor in September, 1813. Through hours of bombardment, Fort McHenry held the British fleet at bay and won the battle. In the victory, Francis Scott Key was inspired to pen 'the Star Spangled Banner' about the flag and the Fort that would not surrender.



Fort McHenry National Monument
and Historic Shrine

The Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine 5 ounce silver quarter is similar in regards to production as the other 2013 issues. Like the others, about 30,000 bullion issues were struck and just fewer than 20,000 specimen strikes were made. The relatively lower price of silver helped bolster sales throughout 2013. Frosty bullion specimens are more common for this issue than earlier quarters. Proof-like and deeply proof-like coins are easy to find, too. As of this writing, PCGS has graded one Fort McHenry bullion quarter MS-70. It is one of only three coins across the entire bullion series to receive a MS-70 designation by PCGS presently.

Production Figures:

Mint State issue - 30,000

Specimen issue - 19,802

Related Collectable coinage: (War of 1812)

Star Spangled Banner Commemorative Dollar (2012)

Star Spangled Banner Commemorative \$5.00 Gold (2012)

Perry's Victory America the Beautiful Quarter (2013)



2012 Star Spangled Banner
Silver Dollar

- **Mount Rushmore National Memorial, South Dakota** - The presidents on Mount Rushmore are so indelible that a time before their existence is almost unimaginable. This remote area in South Dakota has one of the most iconic images of our Republic. Witnessing the sheer scale of the monument is surely awe inspiring when one considers the time and effort used to construct it.

Collectors are divided over the aesthetic quality of the Mount Rushmore National Memorial 5 ounce silver quarter. Some find the difference in scale between the workers and the carvings pleasing and the overall design interesting. Others deride the design; objecting to a coin with huge noses as its prominent feature. The 5 ounce silver coin is a better canvas for the design than the smaller circulating quarter counterpart, however. As with the other 2013 coins, finishes are more evenly distributed among frosty and proof-like than in 2011 and 2012. The Mt. Rushmore 5 ounce silver quarter has the highest combined mintage of any 2013 issue; demonstrating the growing collector interest for the America the Beautiful 5 ounce silver quarters.



Mount Rushmore National Memorial

Production Figures:

Mint State issue - 35,000
Specimen issue - 23,547

Related Collectable coinage: (Mt. Rushmore)

Mount Rushmore Half Dollar (1991)
Mount Rushmore Silver Dollar (1991)
Mount Rushmore \$5.00 Gold (1991)
South Dakota Quarter (2006)



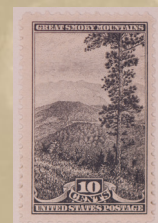
Mount Rushmore Silver Dollar



Mount Rushmore \$5 Gold

2014 Issues

- **Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Tennessee** - This Park is located on the Eastern part of Tennessee near Gatlinburg. The Smoky Mountains are part of the Appalachian Mountain chain. The area offers stunning panoramic mountain views. Its forests are full and pristine in areas; with trees that are centuries old. Though the park has a remote feel, it is accessible by many large metropolitan areas and receives millions of visitors every year.





*Great Smoky Mountains
National Park*

Production Figures:

Mint State issue - 33,000

Specimen issue - 24,710

Related Collectable coinage: (Tennessee)

Tennessee Statehood Quarter (2002)

Andrew Jackson Presidential Dollar (2008)

Andrew Johnson Presidential Dollar (2011)



*Andrew Jackson
Presidential Dollar*



*Tennessee Statehood
Quarter*



*Andrew Johnson
Presidential Dollar*

The Great Smoky Mountains National Park Quarter is another handsome design. It translates exceptionally well to the large silver planchets. The bullion issue is especially attractive with the soft line of mountains in the background and the quaint cabin in the forest in the foreground. The wooden picket fence at center frames the design well. The 2014 designs mark another shift in finishes for bullion issues with proof-like specimens becoming more common and frosty pieces becoming scarcer.

➤ **Shenandoah National Park, Virginia** - The Shenandoah National Park contains part of the Blue Ridge Mountains, which is a sub group of the Appalachian Mountains. It is also a part of the same mountain group that contains the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Like its companion in Tennessee, Shenandoah is home to incredible Mountain vistas and lovely green valleys. Activities such as camping, hiking, scenic drives, and animal watching are all popular things to do at this park.

The Shenandoah National Park 5 ounce silver quarter is the first issue in which the specimen mintage exceeded the bullion coin mintage. Bullion issues are typically proof-like, though frosty specimens are available.



Shenandoah National Park

Production Figures:

Mint State issue - 25,000 (U.S. Mint), 24,400 (Redbook)

Specimen issue - 28,276

Related Collectable coinage: (Coins of Appalachia)

- Acadia National Park Quarter (2012)
- White Mountain National Park Quarter (2013)
- Great Smoky Mountain National Park Quarter (2014)
- Blue Ridge National Parkway Quarter (2015)



Blue Ridge National Parkway Quarter

- **Arches National Park, Utah** - This park is home to many interesting sandstone arch formations as is exemplified by the design of the National Park quarter. The quarter depicts the Delicate Arch, which is one of the most famous attractions of the park. The area's terrain is dry and forbidding; yet delicate at the same time.



Arches National Park

The Arches National Park 5 ounce silver quarter is the second consecutive issue with the specimen issue exceeding the bullion issue. Virtually all bullion coins are proof-like. After strong sales in 2013, the mintage of bullion issues began to decline throughout the year as demand once again slackened with falling silver prices.

Production Figures:

- Mint State issue - 22,000
- Specimen issue - 28,183

Related Collectable coinage:

- Salt Lake City Winter Olympic Dollar (2002)
- Salt Lake City Winter Olympic \$5.00 (2002)
- Missouri Statehood Quarter (2003) (Man Made Arch)



Salt Lake City Winter Olympic Silver Dollar



Missouri Statehood Quarter

- **Great Sand Dunes National Park and Reserve, Colorado** - The Great Sand Dunes Park is situated on a vast desert area. It contains massive shifting dunes; the largest in the United States. In addition to the desert, there are a few nice green areas including Big Spring Creek. The park is home to a wide range of wildlife including black bears, elk, antelope, and mountain lions.

The Great Sand Dunes silver quarter is presently one of the lowest mintage bullion issue quarters in the series. Its design is okay, but it lacks some of the balance of more attractive issues. Still, as one of the lowest mintage bullion coins, the Great Sand Dunes bullion quarter has attractive potential for appreciation. This bullion issue is almost exclusively proof-like. The Great Sand Dunes Quarter has two specimens currently graded MS-70 DMPL by PCGS. Only three total specimens across the entire bullion series have been graded MS-70 by PCGS so far. The specimen issue mintage once again exceeded the bullion production; though the specimens are scarcer than the earlier 2014 coins.



*Great Sand Dunes National Park
and Reserve*

Production Figures:

Mint State issue - 22,000 (U.S. Mint), 21,900 (Redbook)
Specimen issue - 24,103

➤ **Everglades National Park, Florida** - The Everglades National Park is located just north and west of the major metropolitan area of Miami. It is one of the largest National Parks in the system. It is home to many amazing plants and animals including the archetypical Floridian ones such as alligator and manatee. Rare Florida panthers also reside in the park's boundaries. Its tropical climate has two basic seasons, a dry one and a wet one. The weather is warm year-round; though heat and humidity are oppressive in the summer. Due to its proximity to major population centers, Everglades is visited by a million people annually.



Everglades National Park

Production Figures:

Mint State issue - 34,000
Specimen issue - 19,772

Like the other 2014 issues, bullion Everglades Quarters are typically proof-like. Certified bullion issues continued to decline in population, as fewer coins were submitted. The specimen issue production dipped under 20,000 for the first time since the Fort McHenry issue in 2013.

2015 Issues

- **Homestead National Monument of America, Nebraska** - This monument recognizes the importance of the Homestead Act of 1862 in the settlement of the Midwest and Western United States. The Act allowed U.S. citizens the right to claim land if they worked it. This location in Nebraska was ground zero for the act as the first homesteader filed a claim for land nearby. While not a large park, it carries a great amount of important settlement history.

The Homestead 5 ounce silver quarter design is rather plain. However, production figures for the design continued to rise as the series gained momentum throughout the prior year. Low priced silver and rediscovery of the America the Beautiful series created new demand. The bullion type of the Homestead Quarter is typically proof-like, though frosty coins are available.



*Homestead National
Monument of America*

Production Figures:

Mint State issue - 35,000

Specimen issue - 19,887

Related Collectable coinage: (Coins of the settlers)

Indian Cent (1860's)

Three Cent Nickel (1860's)

Shield Nickel (1860's)



*1860 Indian
Cent*



*1868 Shield
Nickel*



*1865 Three Cent
Nickel*

- **Kisatchie National Forest, Louisiana** - Kisatchie is a large forested area located in central Louisiana. One of its main features is abundant stands of longleaf pine trees. It is also home to a diverse lot of animals large and small and many types of unique flora.



Kisatchie National Forest

The Kisatchie National Forest 5 ounce silver quarter continues the trend of growing interest in the bullion portion of the series. It boasts the highest mintage of any issue since the 2011 Olympic National Park issue. Like the other 2015 coins, most of these are proof-like. Strangely, while the bullion issues continued to rise in popularity, the specimen issue mintage declined. Mintages of the burnished coins dropped under 20,000 at the end of 2014 and each of the 2015 issues through Bombay Hook was successively smaller. Any of these issues with mintages under 20,000 should be considered attractive for long term value.

Production Figures:

Mint State issue - 42,000

Specimen issue - 18,383

- **Blue Ridge Parkway, North Carolina** - The Blue Ridge Parkway is located in the beautiful Appalachian Mountains. It is a lengthy road (over 450 miles) that connects two other parks (Great Smoky Mountains, Shenandoah) through the spectacular mountain scenery of North Carolina and Virginia. Its proximity to major metropolitan areas makes it the most visited 'park' in the National Park System.

The Blue Ridge Parkway 5 ounce silver quarter continues the trend found in the 2015 issues. The typical bullion specimen has attractive prooflike surfaces. The Bullion issue mintage was larger and the Specimen issue was smaller. The Blue Ridge design is quite handsome and nicely balanced.



Blue Ridge Parkway

Production Figures:

Mint State issue - 45,000
 Specimen issue - 17,488

Related Collectable coinage: (Coins of Appalachia)

Acadia National Park Quarter (2012)
 White Mountain National Park Quarter (2013)
 Great Smoky Mountain National Park Quarter (2014)
 Shenandoah National Park (2014)



Shenandoah National Park Quarter

- **Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge, Delaware** - This wildlife refuge is located in Central Delaware on the Delaware Bay. It is an important way stop and breeding area for many species of migratory birds. The original refuge area was purchased in 1937 using funds raised by the sale of Duck Stamps, which were national licensing stamps sold to hunters beginning in 1934. (Wikipedia entry) Roosevelt's Civilian Conservation Corps set up camp in the area and made many improvements to the refuge. The area has a 12 mile wildlife drive and several hiking trails.



Duck Stamp Issued for the 1937 Hunting Season



Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge

The Bombay Hook Bullion issue continued the trend for 2015 issues. With the falling price of silver, demand for any kind of silver skyrocketed. The mintage for this issue was again at 45,000; and it is amazing that so many were made. There was a concurrent shortage of Silver Eagles as the mint simply could not meet demand at this time. The Bombay Hooks readily sold into this frenzied market. Bullion Bombay Hook Quarters are typically proof-like as are other 2015 issues. The specimen issue is one of the lowest mintage issues for the series. This is likely due to the focus on bullion priced silver and difficulty of producing the specimen product by the U.S. Mint at this time.

Production Figures:

Mint State issue - 45,000

Specimen issue - 15,930

Related Collectable coinage:

Delaware Half Dollar (1936)

Everglades Quarter (2015)



*Everglades
Quarter*



*Delaware
Half Dollar*

➤ **Saratoga National Park, New York** - This park in Eastern New York was set aside to preserve the battle grounds of the Battles of Saratoga in 1777. It was a significant victory for Revolutionary forces. The victory gave legitimacy to American forces, which won new support from European powers; most notably France.

The Saratoga Bullion issue has the same mintage as the prior two issues at 45,000. The strong demand for silver had been satisfied by the time this coin was issued. As a result, there were still a number of these coins left in distributor's inventories in early 2016. Bullion coins are both frosty and proof-like.



Saratoga National Park

Production Figures:

Mint State issue - 45,000

Specimen issue -

Related Collectable coinage: (Commemorative Coins of the Revolutionary War)

Lafayette Dollar (1900)

Lexington-Concord Half Dollar (1925)

Sesquicentennial Half Dollar (1926)

Sesquicentennial Quarter Eagle (1926)

Vermont (Battle of Bennington) Half Dollar (1927)

Washington Quarter (1932)

U.S. Bicentennial Coinage (1976)

George Washington Half Dollar (1982)

Black Revolutionary War Patriots Dollar (1998)

Delaware Quarter (1999)

New Jersey Quarter (1999)

Fort Moultrie National Monument Quarter (2016)

George Rogers Clark National Historic Park (2017)



Lafayette Dollar



*1932 Washington
Quarter*



*1926 Sesquicentennial
Quarter Eagle*



*George Washington
Half Dollar*

2016 Issues

- **Shawnee National Forest, Illinois** - This forest is located at the Southern tip of Illinois. It became a national forest during the 1930's. Like many nationally designated areas of that time, the Shawnee National Forest was tended by the Civilian Conservation Corps. The CCC planted many trees to help restore the area to pristine forest. As is portrayed on the quarter, the Forest features many interesting rock formations.



Shawnee National Forest

Production Figures:

Mint State issue - 105,000

Specimen issue -

Related Collectable coinage:

Lincoln-Illinois Half Dollar (1918)



*Lincoln-Illinois
Half Dollar*

- **Cumberland Gap National Historical Park, Kentucky** - The Cumberland Gap is a narrow pathway of land that lies between the Appalachian and Cumberland Mountains. It was important to the development of the early United States as a road for settlers to expand westward from the Eastern States. The quarter bears the inscription First Doorway to the West; which is an apt description of the area's significance.

The Cumberland Gap bullion quarters come with frosty surfaces more frequently than proof-like finish.

Production Figures:

Mint State issue - 75,000

Specimen issue -

Related Collectable coinage:

Daniel Boone Half Dollar (1934-1938)

Abraham Lincoln Silver Dollar (2009)



*Cumberland Gap National
Historical Park*



*Daniel Boone
Half Dollar*

- **Harper's Ferry National Historical Park, West Virginia** - This park is situated at the confluence of the Potomac and Shenandoah Rivers. It is a beautifully scenic backdrop that has hosted many important episodes in American History. The most notable is John Brown's raid on the arsenal in Harper's Ferry, (then Virginia) in 1859. The Abolitionist Brown hoped to raise rebellion among slaves in attempt to end slavery altogether. Though he failed, his actions galvanized Northern and Southern supporters in what would become a significant precursor event to the Civil War.



*Harper's Ferry National
Historical Park*

Production Figures:

Mint State issue - 34,200

Specimen issue -

Related Collectable coinage: (Commemorative Coins of the Civil War)

Gettysburg Half Dollar (1936)

Antietam Half Dollar (1937)

Stone Mountain Half Dollar (1925)

Civil War Half Dollar (1995)

Civil War Silver Dollar (1995)

Civil War \$5.00 Gold (1995)

Gettysburg National Military Monument Quarter (2011)



*Stone Mountain
Half Dollar*

- **Theodore Roosevelt National Park, North Dakota** - This National Park is found in the badlands of North Dakota. It was a ruggedly beautiful area that Theodore Roosevelt came to love early in his life. Not long after Roosevelt's passing in 1919, efforts were made to save some of this magnificent territory in his honor. Land that eventually became the park was improved by the Civilian Conservation Corps under the younger Roosevelt's administration. The Park is home to many of North America's large animals. In addition, the Park offers beautiful four season scenery and small locales with an 'old West' flavor.

Production Figures:

Mint State issue -

Specimen issue -

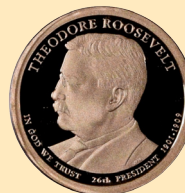


Theodore Roosevelt National Park

Related Collectable coinage:

North Dakota Quarter (2006)

Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Dollar (2012)



*Theodore Roosevelt
Presidential Dollar*



*North Dakota
Statehood Quarter*

➤ **Fort Moultrie National Monument, South Carolina** - Fort Moultrie was a line of defense for the city of Charleston, South Carolina from the Revolutionary War until just after World War II. It was named after Colonel William Moultrie, who successfully prevented British forces from taking control of Charleston in 1776. The Fort was refurbished many times over the years. It was abandoned by Union forces in 1860 in favor of nearby Fort Sumter. The Fort was pounded heavily during the Civil War. It was refortified after the Civil War with modern equipment. Fort Moultrie last served as a defense of Charleston Harbor during World War II.



Fort Moultrie Monument

Production Figures:

Mint State issue -

Specimen issue -

Related Collectable coinage: (Commemorative Coins of the Revolutionary War)

Lafayette Dollar (1900)

Lexington-Concord Half Dollar (1925)

Sesquicentennial Half Dollar (1926)

Sesquicentennial Quarter Eagle (1926)

Vermont (Battle of Bennington) Half Dollar (1927)

Washington Quarter (1932)

U.S. Bicentennial Coinage (1976)

George Washington Half Dollar (1982)

Black Revolutionary War Patriots Dollar (1998)

Delaware Quarter (1999)

New Jersey Quarter (1999)

Fort Moultrie National Monument Quarter (2016)

George Rogers Clark National Historic Park (2017)



*Lexington-Concord
Half Dollar - obverse*



*Sesquicentennial
Half Dollar*

2017 Issues

- **Effigy Mounds National Monument, Iowa** - This Monument area protects large ancient Native American earthworks called effigies. These fascinating earthworks, which were built over 2500 years ago, are designed in the image of animals. Animals commonly represented are the bear and bird. These effigy mounds are unique to northern Iowa and southern Wisconsin. The park is located in the scenic area near the Mississippi River.

Production Figures:

Mint State issue -

Specimen issue -

Related Collectable coinage:

Iowa Centennial Half Dollar (1946)



Effigy Mounds National Monument



*Iowa Centennial
Half Dollar*

- **Frederick Douglass National Historic Site, District of Columbia** - This is the site of Cedar Hill, which was the home of African American slave, visionary and social reformer Frederick Douglass from 1877 until his death in 1895. Douglass' brilliant oratories on anti-slavery and Black's and Women's rights swayed many to support of those causes.



*Frederick Douglass National
Historic Site*

Production Figures:

Mint State issue -

Specimen issue -

Related Collectable coinage: (Black Heritage)

Booker T. Washington Half Dollar (1946-1951)

Washington-Carver Half Dollar (1951-1954)

Jackie Robinson Dollar (1997)

Jackie Robinson \$5.00 Gold (1997)



*Booker T. Washington
Half Dollar*

Black Revolutionary War Patriots Dollar (1998)
 Little Rock Central High School Desegregation Dollar (2007)
 Civil Rights Act of 1964 Dollar (2014)
 March of Dimes 75th Anniversary Dollar (2015)
 Marian Anderson American Arts Half Ounce Medallion (1980)
 Louis Armstrong American Arts One Ounce Medallion (1982)
 Susan B. Anthony Dollar (1979-1981, 1999)
 Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site (2021)



*Susan B. Anthony
Dollar*



*Civil Rights Act of 1964
Silver Dollar*



*March of Dimes
Silver Dollar*

➤ **Ozark National Scenic Riverways, Missouri** - This is a natural area located in Southern Missouri. It is visited by many for its recreational activities such as canoeing, fishing, hiking, nature viewing, and hunting.

Production Figures:

Mint State issue -
 Specimen issue -



Ozark National Scenic Riverways

➤ **Ellis Island National Monument, New Jersey** - For millions of immigrants arriving in the United States, Ellis Island was the first American soil they touched. The island served as an immigration clearing house from 1892 to 1954. The island is also part of the Statue of Liberty National Monument.



Ellis Island National Monument

Production Figures:

Mint State issue -
 Specimen issue -

Related Collectable coinage: (Statue of Liberty)

- Statue of Liberty Half Dollar (1986)
- Statue of Liberty Dollar (1986)
- Statue of Liberty \$5.00 Gold (1986)
- New York Quarter (2001)



*Statue of Liberty
\$5 Gold*



*Statue of Liberty
Silver Dollar*

➤ **George Rogers Clark National Historical Park, Indiana** - This park is located in Vincennes, Indiana and marks the site of a pivotal Revolutionary War battle for Fort Sackville. Lieutenant Colonel George Rogers Clark led an expedition to the 'West' to capture remote British Forts. Fort Sackville was such a Fort that fell to Clark's forces on February 25, 1779. Clark's efforts on this 'Western' expedition eventually led to the United States' occupation of the area that would become the Midwestern United States.

Production Figures:

- Mint State issue -
- Specimen issue -



*George Rogers Clark National
Historical Park*

Related Collectable coinage: (Commemorative Coins of the American Revolution)

- Lafayette Dollar (1900)
- Lexington-Concord Half Dollar (1925)
- Sesquicentennial Half Dollar (1926)
- Sesquicentennial Quarter Eagle (1926)
- Vermont (Battle of Bennington) Half Dollar (1927)
- Washington Quarter (1932)
- U.S. Bicentennial Coinage (1976)
- George Washington Half Dollar (1982)
- Black Revolutionary War Patriots Dollar (1998)
- Delaware Quarter (1999)
- New Jersey Quarter (1999)
- Saratoga National Park (2015)
- Fort Moultrie National Monument (2016)



*Lexington-Concord
Half Dollar*



*1976 Bicentennial
Quarter*



*1999 Delaware
Quarter*

2018 Issues

- **Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, Michigan** - This scenic lakeshore is located in a remote area of Michigan's Upper Peninsula. It is an amazing display of sandstone bluffs set against beautiful Lake Superior. In good weather, boat tours are available to see amazing blue waters and colorful rock formations with names like Miner's Castle and Indian Head. In bad weather, amazing beauty can be observed in the fury of Lake Superior from a distance.



Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore

Production Figures:

Mint State issue -

Specimen issue -

Related Collectable coinage: (Coins of the Great Lakes)

Columbian Exposition Half Dollar (1892-1893)

Wisconsin Half Dollar (1936)

Cleveland Half Dollar (1936)

Canada Dollar-Griffon (1979)

Michigan Quarter (2004)

Canada Dollar - Toronto Sesquicentennial (1984)

Canada \$20.00 Niagara Falls (2003)

Canada \$10.00 Niagara Falls (2013)

Perry's Victory National Monument Quarter (2013)

Canada \$20.00 Lake Superior (2014)

Canada \$20.00 Lake Ontario (2014)

Canada \$20.00 Lake Erie (2014)

Canada \$20.00 Lake Michigan (2015)

Canada \$20.00 Lake Huron (2015)

Apostle Islands National Lakeshore Quarter (2018)



*1979 Canada Dollar
Griffon*



*Michigan
Statehood Quarter*



*2014 Canada \$20
Lake Superior*



*1984 Canada Dollar
Toronto Sesquicentennial*

- **Apostle Islands National Lakeshore, Wisconsin** - This chain of 21 small islands is located in beautiful, clear Lake Superior, west of the Pictured Rocks of Michigan. It is in the remote area of Northern Wisconsin near the city of Bayfield. It is an area of remarkable natural beauty and a home to a diverse population of wildlife. The park features many of the rock features common to the Lake Superior shoreline and the Pictured Rocks area.

Production Figures:

- Mint State issue -
- Specimen issue -



Apostle Islands National Lakeshore

Related Collectable coinage: (Wisconsin and Lake Superior)

- Wisconsin Half Dollar (1936)
- Wisconsin Quarter (2004)
- Canada \$20.00 Lake Superior (2014)
- Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore Quarter (2018)



*Wisconsin
Statehood Quarter*

- **Voyageurs National Park, Minnesota** - This is another remote, but naturally beautiful National Park. It is located in Northern Minnesota near the city of International Falls. The park is accessible only by watercraft (except when the surrounding lakes are frozen). The natural areas are excellent for canoeing, hiking and camping. In winter (which lasts a long time), winter sports such as snowmobiling and skiing are popular.



Voyageurs National Park

Production Figures:

- Mint State issue -
- Specimen issue -

Related Collectable coinage:

- Canada Dollar, Voyageur Reverse (1935-1966)



*1935 Canada Dollar
Voyageur Reverse*

- **Cumberland Island National Seashore, Georgia** - This park is situated in Southern Georgia just north of the Florida border. Being an island, it is only accessible by watercraft. The park has a nice selection of Southern Flora and Fauna. Limited access and camping restrictions keep the area sparsely populated. In addition to the natural beauty, the park also has some lovely nineteenth century Southern homes.

Production Figures:

Mint State issue -

Specimen issue -



*Cumberland Island
National Seashore*

- **Block Island National Wildlife Refuge, Rhode Island** - This island is an important way station on the Atlantic Flyway for many species of migratory songbirds. It is a remote place located several miles off the Rhode Island mainland.



*Block Island National
Wildlife Refuge*

Production Figures:

Mint State issue -

Specimen issue -

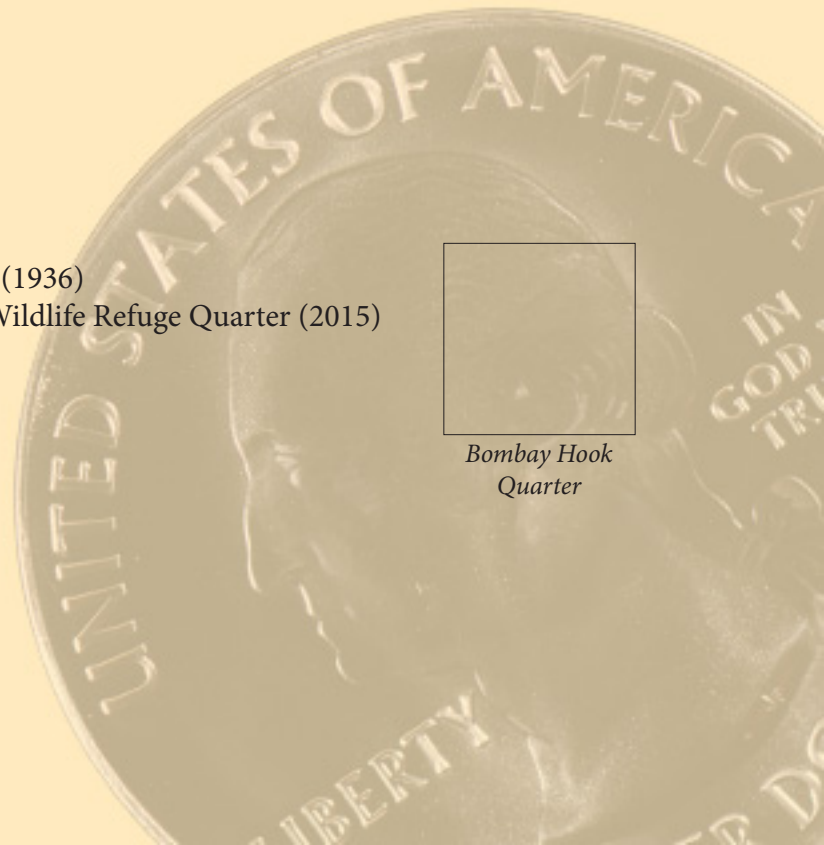
Related Collectable coinage:

Rhode Island Half Dollar (1936)

Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge Quarter (2015)



*Bombay Hook
Quarter*



2019 Issues

- **Lowell National Historical Park, Massachusetts** - Historic Lowell, Massachusetts was a birthplace for the Industrial Revolution in the United States. Centered around the manufacture of textiles, Lowell was a leader in the development of the 'company town'. The city thrived and grew remarkably during the 19th Century to be one of the Nation's leading industrial centers. The park consists of many historic buildings that served a role in the advancement of Lowell as an important manufacturing location.

Production Figures:

Mint State issue -

Specimen issue -



Lowell National Historical Park

- **American Memorial Park, Northern Mariana Islands** - This park is located on the island of Saipan in the Northern Marianas Islands. Its purpose is to recognize the contributions of the islanders and servicemen that participated in the Marianas Campaign during World War II (which will observe a 75th anniversary in 2019). The park has a memorial structure and areas for many recreational activities.



American Memorial Park

Production Figures:

Mint State issue -

Specimen issue -

Related Collectable coinage:

World War II Half Dollar (1993)

World War II Silver Dollar (1993)

World War II \$5.00 Gold (1993)

War in the Pacific National Historical Park Quarter (2019)



*World War II
Silver Dollar*

- **War in the Pacific National Historical Park, Guam** - This park is much like the American Memorial Park previously honored. The War in the Pacific Park honors all servicemen who fought in the Pacific Theatre during World War II. The park includes several areas on the island of Guam; including battlefields and fortifications.

Production Figures:

Mint State issue -
Specimen issue -

Related Collectable coinage:

World War II Half Dollar (1993)
World War II Silver Dollar (1993)
World War II \$5.00 Gold (1993)
American Memorial Park Quarter (2019)



War in the Pacific National Historical Park

- **San Antonio Missions National Historical Park, Texas** - San Antonio is home to five Catholic Missions that were built when Texas was part of Spanish Colonial holdings in North America. The Missions are named Concepcion, San Jose, San Juan Capistrano, Espada, and the famous Alamo. (The Alamo is separately managed by the state of Texas.) These missions were established in the 18th Century to introduce Christianity to Native populations. These structures serve as a reminder of what had been before Texas was part of the United States.



San Antonio Missions National Historical Park

Production Figures:

Mint State issue -
Specimen issue -

Related Collectable coinage:

Texas Half Dollar (1934-1938)
Old Spanish Trail Half Dollar (1935)
Mexico Pillar (Columnario) 8 Reales (1732-1772)



Old Spanish Trail Half Dollar



Mexico Pillar 8 Reales

- **Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness, Idaho** - This massive area is made of a network of protected National Forests and is one of the largest such wilderness areas in the United States. It is lovely mountainous forest terrain which is home to ample wildlife. The Wilderness is named after Idaho United States Senator Frank Church, who was an advocate for protecting Wilderness areas during his Senatorial tenure.

Production Figures:

Mint State issue -
Specimen issue -



*Frank Church River of
No Return Wilderness*

2020 Issues

- **National Park of American Samoa, American Samoa** - This beautiful park is home to a remote tropical rainforest in the South Pacific Territory of American Samoa. Much of the Park is protected coral reefs. It is a prime location for snorkeling.



National Park of American Samoa

Production Figures:

Mint State issue -
Specimen issue -



- **Weir Farm National Historic Site, Connecticut** - This site was the home of notable 19th Century Impressionist Artist J. Alden Weir. Weir acquired the farm to inspire his work and the work of other notable artists of the day he invited for visits. In Weir's tradition, the Farm still has an artist in-residency program which invites current artists to stay there for one month. For other visitors, there are guided tours of the facilities and hiking trails.

Production Figures:

- Mint State issue -
- Specimen issue -

Related Collectable coinage: (Artists)

- St Gaudens \$20.00 Gold (1907-1932)
- Walking Liberty Half Dollar (1916-1947)
- Grant Wood 1 Oz. American Arts Medallion (1980)
- Alexander Calder 1/2 Oz Am. Arts Medallion (1983)



Weir Farm National Historic Site

- **Salt River Bay National Historic Park and Ecological Preserve, U.S. Virgin Islands** - Salt River Bay has both natural and historic attractions. The bay and area feature a large mangrove forest and impressive reefs. The bay is also exhibits the rare attribute of bioluminescence. The location has been home to people since well before pre-Columbian times. It is also a known landing location of Christopher Columbus, who arrived there in 1493. Activities at the park include scuba, snorkeling, kayaking, and hiking.



Salt River Bay National Historic Park and Ecological Preserve

Production Figures:

- Mint State issue -
- Specimen issue -

Related Collectable coinage:

- Columbian Exposition Half Dollar (1893)
- Columbus Half Dollar (1992)
- Columbus Silver Dollar (1992)
- Columbus \$5.00 Gold (1992)



Columbus Silver Dollar



Columbian Exposition Half Dollar

- **Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park, Vermont** - Amidst beautiful forest, visitors can tour the George Perkins Marsh home. The home is a lovely early 19th Century Mansion last owned by the Rockefeller family who donated it to the Federal Government. Aside from the mansion and surrounding buildings there are many opportunities to see wonderful natural areas. There are tours of the nearby Appalachian Trail. There are forest and wildlife tours available as well. Fall is a particularly popular time to visit for the amazing leaf colors.

Production Figures:

Mint State issue -
Specimen issue -



*Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller
National Historical Park*

- **Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve, Kansas** - This preserve contains one of the largest remaining sections of Tallgrass environment in the United States. Tallgrass once covered much of the Midwestern States before extensive settlement. The preserve recently became home to a herd of American Bison of the type that once roamed the prairies before European settlers came to the area.



Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve

Production Figures:

Mint State issue -
Specimen issue -



2021 Issue

- **Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site, Alabama** - This site is located at Moton Field in Tuskegee, Alabama. Moton Field was a training ground for segregated African Americans to learn the principles of flight and air combat. Many of the airmen trained there went on to distinguished and decorated combat careers during World War II.

Production Figures:

- Mint State issue -
- Specimen issue -



*Tuskegee Airmen National
Historic Site*

Related Collectable coinage: (Black Heritage)

- Booker T. Washington Half Dollar (1946-1951)
- Washington-Carver Half Dollar (1951-1954)
- Jackie Robinson Dollar (1997)
- Jackie Robinson \$5.00 Gold (1997)
- Black Revolutionary War Patriots Dollar (1998)
- Little Rock Central High School Desegregation Dollar (2007)
- Civil Rights Act of 1964 Dollar (2014)
- March of Dimes 75th Anniversary Dollar (2015)
- Marian Anderson American Arts Half Ounce Medallion (1980)
- Louis Armstrong American Arts One Ounce Medallion (1982)
- Frederick Douglass National Historic Site (2017)



*Washington-Carver
Half Dollar*



*Marian Anderson
American Arts
Medallion*



*Black Revolutionary War
Patriots Silver Dollar*

Read more about America the Beautiful 5 Ounce Silver Quarters and National Parks

Tucker, Dennis. American Gold and Silver, Whitman Publishing, Atlanta, 2016

Yeoman, R.S. A Guide Book of United States Coins – 2016 issue, Whitman Publishing, 2015

-----, Bullion Sales/Mintage Figures/United States Mint. http://www.usmint.gov/about_the_mint/index.cfm?action=preciousmetals&type=bullion

Information about each National Park and attraction can be found at the individual National Parks Service Sites for that park – visit www.nps.gov.

