

Explore America!

A New Look for an Old Coin



1757 Spanish Colonial,
Silver 2 reales,
Mexico City Mint

Two bits! Today, the phrase refers to something of little value, but it is also synonymous with the quarter dollar — a coin with a long and important history. Our modern quarter, the workhorse of American coinage, is the direct descendant of the Spanish 2-real coin struck in the Spanish colonies of the New World beginning in Mexico in 1536. The 2-reales became the most commonly used coin for daily exchange in colonial America. It was so familiar that the quarter denomination was kept as part of American coinage, even though it did not fit naturally into the nation’s new decimal coinage system.

The first United States quarter dollars, struck in 1796, featured an image of Lady Liberty on the obverse and an eagle on the reverse. Liberty remained on the quarter in a number of different forms until 1932, when a portrait of George Washington replaced her image to commemorate the 200th anniversary of his birth. The Washington quarter was intended to be a one-year circulating commemorative issue, but because of its popularity, has continued to this day.

U.S. Quarters: 1815 to 1976



1834 United States, Silver Capped Bust Quarter



1834 United States, Silver Seated Liberty Quarter



1893 United States, Silver Barber Quarter



1917 United States, Silver Standing Liberty Quarter



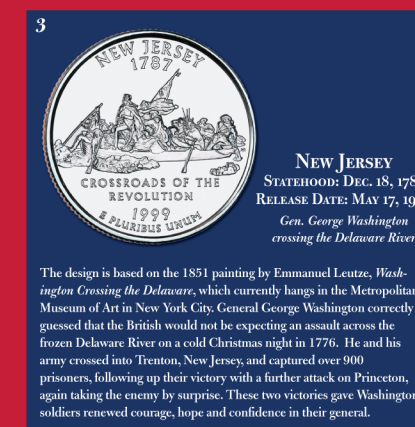
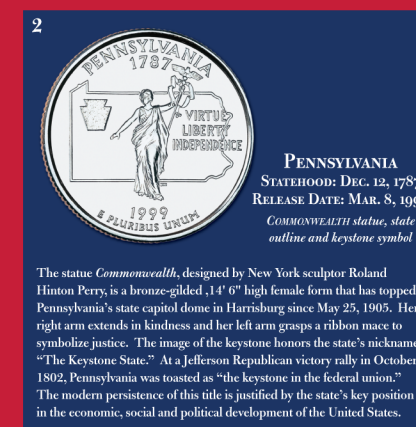
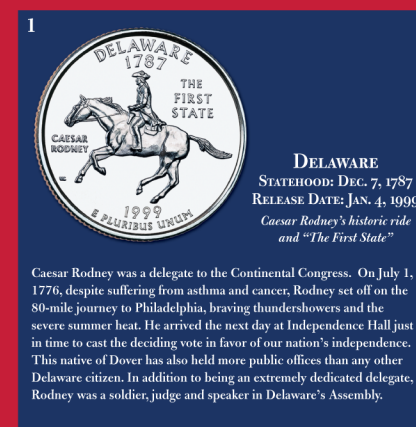
1932 United States, Silver Washington Quarter



1976 United States, Copper-Nickel
Bicentennial Quarter



1806 United States,
Silver Draped Bust
Quarter



The U.S. 50 State Quarters® Program


On December 1, 1997, Congress passed the 50 States Commemorative Coin Program Act, authorizing a series of circulating quarters to commemorate each of the states. This unprecedented, 10-year initiative (1999-2008) provided for five new designs annually, representing the first revision of the Washington quarter series since the Bicentennial “Drummer Boy” issue of 1975-76.

The quarters are released in the order the states ratified the Constitution or joined the Union. A modified portrait of President George Washington appears on the common obverse, while the reverses feature motifs symbolic of each state. By law, the designs cannot be “frivolous or inappropriate,” nor can they depict a “head and shoulders portrait or bust of any person, living or dead.”

Each state’s governor submits three to five design concepts to the U.S. Mint for evaluation and rendering. The Mint then forwards artwork to the Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee and the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts for review and recommendations. Following approval by the Secretary of the Treasury, the designs are returned to the governor for final selection.


Revamped obverse

Washington gets a makeover



2003 obverse

The familiar portrait of President George Washington, originally created by John Flanagan in 1932, continues to grace the obverse of the U.S. quarter. However, revisions were made to accommodate the new state designs on the reverse. The size of the Washington portrait was reduced slightly to make way for the inscription UNITED STATES OF AMERICA and the denomination QUARTER DOLLAR, which were moved from the reverse. The inscriptions LIBERTY and IN GOD WE TRUST remain on the obverse, but in different locations. And Washington himself received a bit of a makeover — with detail added to his hair. The mintmark on the obverse remains in the same position. The date now appears on the reverse, along with designs representing each of the 50 states. The inscription E PLURIBUS UNUM was moved to the bottom edge of the reverse.



1978 obverse

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GEORGIA
STATEHOOD: JAN. 2, 1788
RELEASE DATE: JULY 19, 1999
*State outline, peach, live oak sprigs,
“Wisdom, Justice, Moderation”*



VIRGINIA
STATEHOOD: JUNE 25, 1788
RELEASE DATE: OCT. 16, 2000
*Ships that brought the first
English settlers to Jamestown*



TENNESSEE
STATEHOOD: JUNE 1, 1796
RELEASE DATE: JAN. 2, 2002
*Instruments, three stars
and “Musical Heritage”*



CONNECTICUT
STATEHOOD: JAN. 9, 1788
RELEASE DATE: OCT. 12, 1999
*Oak tree and
“The Charter Oak”*



NEW YORK
STATEHOOD: JULY 26, 1788
RELEASE DATE: JAN. 2, 2001
*Statue of Liberty and map showing
Hudson River and Erie Canal*



OHIO
STATEHOOD: MAR. 1, 1803
RELEASE DATE: MAR. 11, 2002
*Wright Flyer, astronaut and
“Birthplace of Aviation Pioneers”*



MASSACHUSETTS
STATEHOOD: FEB. 6, 1788
RELEASE DATE: JAN. 3, 2000
*Minuteman, state outline
and “The Bay State”*



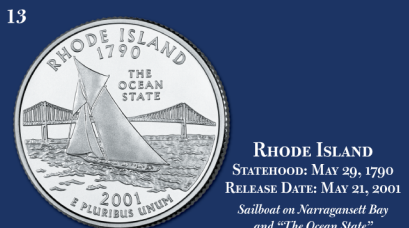
NORTH CAROLINA
STATEHOOD: NOV. 21, 1789
RELEASE DATE: MAR. 12, 2001
*First successful airplane
flight at Kitty Hawk in 1903*



LOUISIANA
STATEHOOD: APR. 30, 1812
RELEASE DATE: MAY 20, 2002
*Louisiana Purchase, pelican,
trumpet and musical notes*



MARYLAND
STATEHOOD: APR. 28, 1788
RELEASE DATE: MAR. 13, 2000
*Maryland Statehouse dome, leaf
clusters and “The Old Line State”*



RHODE ISLAND
STATEHOOD: MAY 29, 1790
RELEASE DATE: MAY 21, 2001
*Sailboat on Narragansett Bay
and “The Ocean State”*



INDIANA
STATEHOOD: DEC. 11, 1816
RELEASE DATE: AUG. 2, 2002
*Racecar, outline of state
and “Crossroads of America”*



SOUTH CAROLINA
STATEHOOD: MAY 23, 1788
RELEASE DATE: MAY 22, 2000
*State outline, palmetto tree
and Carolina wren*



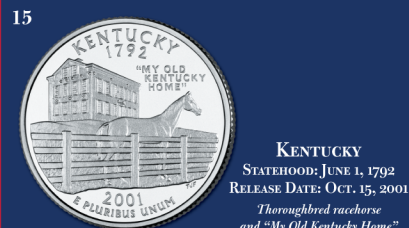
VERMONT
STATEHOOD: MAR. 4, 1791
RELEASE DATE: AUG. 6, 2001
*Maple sugar harvest and
Camel's Hump Mountain*



MISSISSIPPI
STATEHOOD: DEC. 10, 1817
RELEASE DATE: OCT. 15, 2002
*Magnolia blossoms and
“The Magnolia State”*



NEW HAMPSHIRE
STATEHOOD: JUNE 21, 1788
RELEASE DATE: AUG. 7, 2000
*The Old Man of the Mountain rock
formation and “Live Free or Die”*



KENTUCKY
STATEHOOD: JUNE 1, 1792
RELEASE DATE: OCT. 15, 2001
*Thoroughbred racehorse
and “My Old Kentucky Home”*



ILLINOIS
STATEHOOD: DEC. 3, 1818
RELEASE DATE: JAN. 2, 2003
*Abraham Lincoln, farm scene,
state outline and Chicago skyline*

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ALABAMA
STATEHOOD: DEC. 14, 1819
RELEASE DATE: MAR. 17, 2003
Helen Keller with her name in English and braille

The Alabama quarter features an image of Helen Keller with her name in English and in braille, making it the first U.S. circulating coin to feature braille. An Alabama long leaf pine branch and magnolias grace the sides of the design, and a “Spirit of Courage” banner underlines the central image. Helen Keller was born at Ivy Green in Tusculmbia, Alabama, in 1880. A childhood illness destroyed her sight and hearing. She lived out her life addressing social issues for women and disabled persons. Every year at Ivy Green, a week-long celebration is held to recognize her accomplishments and her “Spirit of Courage.”

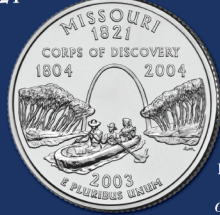
23



MAINE
STATEHOOD: MAR. 15, 1820
RELEASE DATE: JUNE 2, 2003
Penikese Island Lighthouse, coastline and schooner at sea

The Maine quarter design incorporates a rendition of the Penikese Island Lighthouse atop a granite coast. Located in New Harbor, it marks the entrance to Muscongus Bay and Johns Bay. In 1826 Congress appropriated funds for its construction. Although the original building was replaced in 1835, and the original 10 lamps in 1856, the light is still a beacon for ships and remains one of Maine's most popular tourist attractions. The schooner at the right resembles *Victory Chimes*, the last three-masted schooner of the Windjammer Fleet that has become synonymous with Maine windjamming.

24



MISSOURI
STATEHOOD: AUG. 10, 1821
RELEASE DATE: AUG. 4, 2003
Gateway Arch and Lewis and Clark's historic return to St. Louis

The Missouri quarter depicts Lewis and Clark's historic return to St. Louis down the Missouri River, with the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial (Gateway Arch) in the background. The quarter is inscribed “Corps of Discovery/1804/2004.” While much of the state's history is tied to the mighty rivers that flow through it, the “Show Me State” got its nickname because of the devotion of its people to simple common sense. In 1899, Representative Willard D. Vandiver said, “Frothy eloquence neither convinces nor satisfies me. I'm from Missouri. You've got to show me.”

25



ARKANSAS
STATEHOOD: JUNE 15, 1836
RELEASE DATE: OCT. 20, 2003
Rice stalks, diamond and mallard duck above a lake

Arkansas was acquired as part of the Louisiana Purchase and later became Arkansas Territory before gaining statehood. The Arkansas quarter bears images of rice stalks, a diamond and a mallard gracefully flying above a lake, exemplifying Arkansas' official nickname, the “Natural State.” Arkansas is known for its sportsmanship and boasts mallard hunting as a main attraction for hunters across the nation. Crater of Diamonds State Park is the oldest diamond mine in North America, and the only one in the United States open to the public where visitors keep what they find. Arkansas is also the leading producer of rice in the United States.

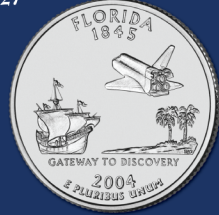
26



MICHIGAN
STATEHOOD: JAN. 26, 1837
RELEASE DATE: JAN. 26, 2004
Outline of state, the Great Lakes and “Great Lakes State”

The Michigan quarter depicts the outline of the state and the Great Lakes system, and is inscribed “Great Lakes State.” As indicated by the state's nickname, much of Michigan's history is tied to the Great Lakes — Superior, Michigan, Huron, Erie and Ontario. These are five of the world's largest lakes that, together, encompass more than 38,000 square miles and form the largest body of fresh water in the world. Michigan borders four of the five Great Lakes, more than any other state. Standing anywhere in Michigan, a person is within 85 miles of one of them.

27



FLORIDA
STATEHOOD: MAR. 3, 1845
RELEASE DATE: APR. 7, 2004
16th-century ship and modern-day space shuttle

The Florida quarter features a 16th-century Spanish galleon, a space shuttle and the inscription “Gateway to Discovery,” along with Sabal palms. During Easter in 1513, while searching for the legendary Fountain of Youth, Ponce de Leon named the region “Pascua Florida,” meaning “Flowery Easter.” Home to the Kennedy Space Center, Florida has been the launching point for history-making space expeditions — from man's first moon landing to the *Voyager* probe exploring deep space. The quarter recognizes Florida's role in humanity's quest for knowledge and discovery, from 16th-century Spanish galleons to 21st-century space exploration.

28



TEXAS
STATEHOOD: DEC. 29, 1845
RELEASE DATE: JUNE 10, 2004
Five-pointed star, “The Lone Star State” and state outline

The Texas quarter incorporates an outline of the state superimposed with a star, and the inscription “The Lone Star State.” The lariat encircling the design symbolizes Texas' ranching history and frontier spirit. The Texas flag design of a lone star and three stripes of red, white and blue was adopted by the Republic of Texas in 1839 and continued as the state flag in 1845. Texas is the only state to have had six different flags fly over its land — Spain, France, Mexico, the Republic of Texas, the Confederate States of America and the United States of America.

29



IOWA
STATEHOOD: DEC. 28, 1846
RELEASE DATE: SEPT. 3, 2004
Schoolhouse and “Foundation in Education”

The Iowa quarter features a one-room schoolhouse, with a teacher and students planting a tree, and the inscription “Foundation in Education.” The design is based on *Arbor Day*, a painting by Grant Wood, who was born near Anamosa, Iowa. Wood was a proponent of small-town values, which he celebrated in iconic images of plain folk and verdant Midwestern vistas. Iowans' commitment to education dates from the state's earliest days. In 1846 each of its counties already had a number of rural country schools. Iowa established its first high school in the 1850s. Private and public colleges also quickly took root in the new state.

30



WISCONSIN
STATEHOOD: MAY 29, 1848
RELEASE DATE: OCT. 25, 2004
Dairy cow, wheel of cheese, ear of corn and “Forward”

Adopted in 1851, the motto “Forward” reflected Wisconsin's continuous drive to be a national leader. Wisconsin is aptly called “America's Dairy Land,” with production of more than 15 percent of the nation's milk and over 350 different varieties of award-winning cheeses. Approximately 17,000 dairy farms annually produce an average of 17,306 gallons of milk each. In 2002 Wisconsin led the nation in corn silage production and, with 391.5 million bushels, ranked fifth in the production of corn for grain (shelled corn). The state is also a leading grower of mint.

31



CALIFORNIA
STATEHOOD: SEPT. 9, 1850
RELEASE DATE: JAN. 31, 2005
John Muir, California condor and Yosemite Valley's “Half Dome”

The California quarter bears the image of naturalist and conservationist John Muir admiring Yosemite Valley's monolithic, granite headwall known as “Half Dome,” along with a soaring California condor. In 1868 John Muir, a Scotsman, settled in the Yosemite Valley. He fell in love with the natural beauty of the Sierra Nevada Mountains and devoted his life to conservation, publishing more than 300 articles and 10 books. Muir's work helped establish Yosemite National Park in 1890 and the Sierra Club in 1892. The California condor, once nearly extinct, is no longer endangered, thanks to concerted conservation efforts.

32



MINNESOTA
STATEHOOD: MAY 11, 1858
RELEASE DATE: APR. 4, 2005
Tree-lined lake with loon, state outline and “Land of 10,000 Lakes”

The Minnesota quarter features a tree-lined lake with people fishing, a loon, and an outline of the state around its nickname, “Land of 10,000 Lakes.” Minnesota actually contains more than 15,000 lakes, with total shorelines exceeding 90,000 miles — more than California, Hawaii and Florida combined. Home of the headwaters of the Mississippi River, the state derives its name from the Dakota Sioux word for “cloudy water.” Lined with Norway pine, Minnesota's lakes provide a home for the graceful loon, the state bird. The state is also home to the million-acre Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.

33



OREGON
STATEHOOD: FEB. 14, 1859
RELEASE DATE: JUNE 6, 2005
Wizard Island, lakeshore conifers and “Crater Lake”

Oregon's quarter features a view of Crater Lake, the deepest lake in the United States. The design incorporates Wizard Island, as well as Watchman and Hillman Peaks on the lake's rim, with the inscription “Crater Lake.” A unique natural treasure, Crater Lake was formed more than 7,700 years ago by the collapse of Mt. Mazama in southern Oregon. At 1,949 feet, it is the deepest lake in the United States and the seventh deepest in the world, and has a record clarity depth of 134 feet. President Theodore Roosevelt established Crater Lake National Park in 1902.

34



KANSAS
STATEHOOD: JAN. 29, 1861
RELEASE DATE: AUG. 29, 2005
Bison on the prairie and sunflower

The Kansas commemorative quarter incorporates two of the state's most beloved symbols, the state animal and flower — the bison and the sunflower. Each of these two design elements is a visual reminder of our nation's heartland. They feature prominently in the history of the territory, and both were found in abundance throughout the state in the middle of the 19th century, when Kansas gained its statehood. Released in August, it was the second U.S. circulating coin of 2005 to carry an image of a bison. The spring 2005 issue of the Westward Journey Nickel Series™ featured the bison on its reverse.

35



WEST VIRGINIA
STATEHOOD: JUNE 20, 1863
RELEASE DATE: OCT. 14, 2005
Scenic mountains and New River Gorge Bridge

Settlers in the western part of the “Old Dominion” state of Virginia decided to remain in the Union when Virginia announced its secession in 1861. The new state, named West Virginia, was admitted into the Union with the condition that it abolish slavery. The West Virginia quarter captures the scenic beauty of the state with a depiction of the New River and the New River Gorge Bridge, with the inscription “New River Gorge.” The Gorge Bridge, at 3,030 feet long, 69 feet wide and 876 feet above the gorge, is the world's largest steel span and the second-highest bridge in the United States.

36



NEVADA
STATEHOOD: OCT. 31, 1864
RELEASE DATE: JAN. 31, 2006
Wild mustangs, sagebrush, mountains and “The Silver State”

Nevada's quarter depicts a trio of wild mustangs, with the sun rising behind snow-capped mountains, bordered by sagebrush and a banner that reads “The Silver State.” Nevada became a territory in 1861, several years after a Mormon battalion in the Mexican War reported gold and silver in the area of Virginia City. This discovery would later be referred to as one of the greatest mineral finds, famously known as the Comstock Lode. Nevada is home to more than 50 percent of the nation's wild horses. They are common in the Great Basin, vast deserts and more than 150 mountain ranges.

37



NEBRASKA
STATEHOOD: MAR. 1, 1867
RELEASE DATE: APR. 7, 2006
Pioneers in ox-drawn covered wagon and Chimney Rock

Nebraska's quarter depicts an ox-drawn covered wagon carrying pioneers, and Chimney Rock, the natural wonder that rises from the valley of North Platte River some 445 feet. The sun is in full view behind the wagon. Chimney Rock was designated a National Historic Site on August 9, 1956, and is maintained and operated by the Nebraska State Historical Society. Practically anywhere travelers go in Nebraska, they will encounter reminders of America's westward expansion. The state is crisscrossed by the Oregon and Mormon Trails, the Pony Express route, the Lewis and Clark Trail, the Texas-Ogallala Trail and the Sidney-Deadwood Trail.

38



COLORADO
STATEHOOD: AUG. 1, 1876
RELEASE DATE: JUNE 14, 2006
Rocky Mountains, evergreens and “Colorful Colorado”

The Colorado quarter depicts a sweeping view of the state's rugged Rocky Mountains, with evergreen trees and a banner carrying the inscription “Colorful Colorado.” Colorado's Rocky Mountains are home to some of the nation's most majestic natural wonders. Among these, rising approximately 10,000 feet from the valley floor in northwest Colorado, Grand Mesa is the largest flat-top mountain in the world, with more than 200 lakes and many miles of scenic hiking trails. With statehood gained less than a month after the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, Colorado is nicknamed the “Centennial State.”

39



NORTH DAKOTA
STATEHOOD: NOV. 2, 1889
RELEASE DATE: AUG. 28, 2006
American bison grazing at sunset in the Badlands

The North Dakota quarter depicts a pair of grazing American bison in the foreground, with a sunset view of the rugged buttes and canyons that help define the state's Badlands region in the background. President Theodore Roosevelt founded the United States Forest Service and signed the Antiquities Act in 1906, which was designed to preserve and protect unspoiled places such as his beloved North Dakota Badlands, now known as Theodore Roosevelt National Park. Herds of American bison thundered across the Badlands through the 1860s. Today the park is home to more than 400 wild bison, an animal once on the brink of extinction.

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SOUTH DAKOTA
STATEHOOD: NOV. 2, 1889
RELEASE DATE: NOV. 6, 2006
Chinese ring-necked pheasant, wheat and Mount Rushmore

The South Dakota quarter features an image of the state bird, a Chinese ring-necked pheasant, in flight above the Mount Rushmore National Monument, which features the faces of four American Presidents: George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt and Abraham Lincoln. The design is bordered by ears of wheat. Sculptor Gutzon Borglum began drilling into Mount Rushmore, the 5,725-foot peak rising above Harney National Forest, in 1927. Creation of this “Shrine of Democracy,” now deemed priceless, took 14 years and cost approximately \$1 million.

41



MONTANA
STATEHOOD: NOV. 8, 1889
RELEASE DATE: JAN. 29, 2007
Bison skull above Montana landscape, and “Big Sky Country”

Montana’s quarter features a bison skull above a diverse landscape, with the inscription “Big Sky Country.” The bison skull is a powerful symbol, sacred to many American Indian tribes. It can be seen across the state on schools, businesses and license plates, and reflects the rich native tradition of Montana, which was once home to such tribes as the Crow and Northern Cheyenne. After the Lewis and Clark Expedition, Montana became a destination for fur trappers and, following the discovery of gold in the 1860s, for prospectors. Cattle ranchers also made their way west to Montana.

42



WASHINGTON
STATEHOOD: NOV. 11, 1889
RELEASE DATE: MAR. 2007
King salmon, Mount Rainier and “The Evergreen State”

Washington’s quarter features a king salmon breaching the water in front of majestic Mount Rainier. The coin bears the inscription “The Evergreen State,” so named by newsman and real-estate pioneer C.T. Conover because of the state’s many lush forests. Mount Rainier is an active volcano encased in more than 35 square miles of snow and glacial ice. It is the symbolic bridge between the eastern and western parts of the state. The salmon is another important symbol of Washington. A traditional image of Pacific Northwest culture, this fish provided nourishment for native peoples for centuries.

43



IDAHO
STATEHOOD: JULY 3, 1890
RELEASE DATE: JUNE 2007
Peregrine falcon, state outline and “Esto Perpetua”

The reverse of Idaho’s quarter features the peregrine falcon imposing its presence above an outline of the state. The coin bears the inscription “Esto Perpetua” (the state motto, which means “May It Be Forever”). The peregrine falcon is one of the fastest birds in the world. Once on the endangered species list, it can now be found throughout Idaho and the United States because of conservation efforts.

44



WYOMING
STATEHOOD: JULY 10, 1890
RELEASE DATE: AUG. 2007
Bucking horse and rider, and “The Equality State”

The bucking horse and rider symbolize Wyoming’s Wild West heritage. First settled by fur trappers, Fort Laramie, Wyoming, became a popular stop for pioneers traveling the Oregon Trail. Wyoming was nicknamed the “Equality State” because it was the first territory to grant “female suffrage” and the first state in the nation to allow women to vote, serve on juries and hold public office. In 1924 Nellie Tayloe Ross became the first woman elected governor of Wyoming, and in 1933 was the first woman appointed as the director of the United States Mint.

45



UTAH
STATEHOOD: JAN. 4, 1896
RELEASE DATE: NOV. 2007
Two locomotives, railroad spike and “Crossroads of the West”

The Utah quarter features two locomotives moving toward the golden spike that joined the Central Pacific and Union Pacific railroads, linking East to West. Spaniards first came to explore Utah in the 18th century and were soon followed by mountain men, Mormons and prospectors in search of precious metals. Because of its central location, Utah became known as the “Crossroads of the West.” On May 10, 1869, at Promontory, Utah, the “Joining of the Rails Ceremony” celebrated the completion of the First Transcontinental Railroad.

46



OKLAHOMA
STATEHOOD: NOV. 16, 1907
RELEASE DATE: JAN. 28, 2008
Scissor-tailed flycatcher in flight above Indian Blanket wildflower

The Oklahoma quarter features an image of the State bird, the Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, in flight with its distinctive tail feathers spread. The bird is soaring over the state wildflower, the Indian Blanket, backed by a field of similar wildflowers. The depiction of Indian Blanket (or Gaillardia) symbolizes the state’s rich Native American heritage and native long grass prairies that are abundant in wildlife. Oklahoma was formed by the combination of the Oklahoma Territory and the Indian Territory of the Five Civilized Tribes – Choctaw, Chickasaw, Creek, Seminole and Cherokee.

47



NEW MEXICO
STATEHOOD: JAN. 6, 1912
RELEASE DATE: APRIL 7, 2008
Zia sun symbol, outline of state and “Land of Enchantment”

The reverse of New Mexico’s quarter features a Zia sun symbol over a topographical outline of the state with the inscription “Land of Enchantment.” The great influence of Native American cultures can be found throughout New Mexico. The Zia Pueblo believe the sun symbol represents the giver of all good, who gave gifts in groups of four. From the circle representing life and love without beginning or end, the four groups of four rays that emanate represent the four directions, the four seasons, the four phases of a day (sunrise, noon, evening, and night), and the four divisions of life (childhood, youth, middle years, and old age).

48



ARIZONA
STATEHOOD: FEB. 14, 1912
RELEASE DATE: JUNE 2, 2008
Grand Canyon, Saguaro cactus and “Grand Canyon State”

The Arizona quarter features an image of the Grand Canyon with a Saguaro cactus in the foreground. A banner reading “Grand Canyon State” separates the two images. One of the seven natural wonders of the world, the Grand Canyon covers more than 1.2 million acres in north-western Arizona. The canyon, sculpted by the mighty Colorado River, is 6,000 feet deep at its deepest point and 18 miles at its widest. It is home to numerous rare and threatened plant and animal species. The Grand Canyon joined the National Park system in 1919 and is visited by more than four million tourists a year.

49



ALASKA
STATEHOOD: JAN. 3, 1959
RELEASE DATE: AUG. 25, 2008
Grizzly bear clutching salmon, North Star and “The Great Land”

The reverse of the Alaska quarter features a grizzly bear emerging from the waters clutching a salmon in its jaw. The North Star is displayed above the inscription “The Great Land.” The grizzly bear and salmon symbolize Alaska’s natural beauty and abundant wildlife, with the bear representing strength and the salmon representing the nutrition that provides for this strength. The grizzly flourishes in Alaska and can be observed in places such as Denali and Katmai National Parks, Kodiak Island and Admiralty Island. More than 98 percent of the United States’ grizzly population is found in Alaska.

50

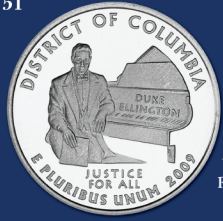


HAWAII
STATEHOOD: AUG. 21, 1959
RELEASE DATE: NOV. 3, 2008
Hawaiian King Kamehameha I and Hawaiian islands

The reverse of Hawaii’s quarter features Hawaiian monarch King Kamehameha I stretching his hand toward the eight major Hawaiian Islands. Inscribed is the state motto “UA MAU KE EA O KA ‘AINA I KA PONO” (“The life of the land is perpetuated in righteousness”). A revered figure in Hawaiian history, King Kamehameha I unified the governance of the Hawaiian Islands into one kingdom in the early 1800s, while maintaining the native practices and traditional ways of island life. His “Law of the Splintered Paddle” guaranteed protection of citizens from harm during war and became a landmark in humanitarian law.

The U.S. Mint’s 50 State Quarters® Program has been enormously successful in reviving public interest in U.S. circulating coinage and coin collecting as a hobby. Most states solicited submissions from their residents, directly involving the general public in the design process. The result is a series of commemorative coins with outstanding historical and educational value. Designs for six additional quarters were released in 2009, honoring the District of Columbia and five United States territories.

51



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
U.S. CAPITAL: DEC. 1, 1800
RELEASE DATE: JAN. 26, 2009
Duke Ellington seated at grand piano and “Justice for All”

The District of Columbia quarter is the first in the District of Columbia and U.S. Territories Quarters Program. The District of Columbia, created in 1790, became the Nation’s capital on December 1, 1800. The 10-square-mile site, originally part of Maryland and Virginia, was chosen personally by President George Washington to fulfill the need for a new Federal district that would not be part of any state. The D.C. quarter reverse features native son Duke Ellington, the internationally renowned composer and musician, seated at a grand piano with the inscription JUSTICE FOR ALL, the District’s motto.

52



COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO
BECAME U.S. TERRITORY: 1917
RELEASE DATE: MAR. 30, 2009
San Juan sentry box, hibiscus flower and “Isla del Encanto”

The Puerto Rico quarter features a historic sentry box and a hibiscus flower with the inscription “Isla del Encanto,” which means “Isle of Enchantment.” Explorer Christopher Columbus arrived at Puerto Rico (“rich port”) in 1493, and it soon became a Spanish colony and important military outpost. Under the Treaty of Paris of 1898, Puerto Rico was ceded to the United States, and its residents became American citizens in 1917. On July 3, 1950, Congress passed a law authorizing Puerto Rico to draft its own constitution, and it officially became a United States commonwealth on July 25, 1952.

53



GUAM
BECAME U.S. TERRITORY: 1929
RELEASE DATE: MAY 26, 2009
Outline of island, flying proa and latte stone

The Guam quarter reverse design depicts the outline of the island, a flying proa (a seagoing craft built by the Chamorro people), a latte stone (an architectural element used as the base of homes) and the inscription “Guahan I Tanô Man Chamorro,” which means “Guam – Land of the Chamorro.” The proa represents the endurance, fortitude and discovery of the Chamorro people. The latte speaks to a historic icon that hails from the Micronesian area. Under Spanish rule for centuries and then Japanese occupation, the people of Guam became American citizens and established a local government, under the U.S. Organic Act of 1950.

54



AMERICAN SAMOA
BECAME U.S. TERRITORY: 1929
RELEASE DATE: JULY 27, 2009
Ava bowl, whisk and staff, coconut tree and “Samoa Muamua le Atua”

The American Samoa quarter reverse design depicts the ava bowl (“tanoa”), whisk and staff in the foreground with a coconut tree on the shore in the background and the inscription “Samoa Muamua le Atua,” the motto of American Samoa, which means “Samoa, God is First.” A group of five islands and two coral atolls in the South Pacific, contacts with Europeans began in the early 1700s. Under the Treaty of Berlin in 1899, the United Kingdom and Germany gave the United States rights and claims over the area, and it officially became a United States territory in 1929.

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THE U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS
BECAME U.S. TERRITORY: 1917
RELEASE DATE: SEPT. 28, 2009
Outline of islands, official flower and bird, and “United in Pride and Hope”

The U.S. Virgin Islands quarter reverse features an outline of the three major islands, the yellow breast or banana quit, its official bird; the yellow cedar or yellow elder, the official flower; and a Tyre Palm Tree with the inscription “United in Pride and Hope,” the official motto of the territory. These islands were first inhabited by the Arawak, Thino and later the Carib Indians, and colonized by Denmark beginning in 1666. Originally named the Danish West Indies, the United States purchased the three islands – St. Croix, St. Thomas and St. John – along with approximately 50 islets, from Denmark in 1917. Congress granted American citizenship to residents of the U.S. Virgin Islands in 1927.

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THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
BECAME U.S. TERRITORY: 1947
RELEASE DATE: NOV. 30, 2009
Ancient latte, shoreline, canoe, fairy terns and Carolinian lei

The Northern Mariana Islands quarter reverse design represents the wealth of the islands in its natural resources of land, air and sea. Near the shore stands a large limestone latte, the supporting column of ancient indigenous Chamorro structures. A canoe of the indigenous Carolinians represents the people’s seafaring skills across vast distances. The Northern Mariana Islands have been ruled by Spain, Germany and Japan. American forces occupied the Marianas during World War II, and in 1947 the group was included in the U.S. Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. Residents approved separate status for the Northern Marianas as a U.S. commonwealth in 1975.