



*WASHINGTON
QUARTERS
(1932-1998)*

Basic Facts

Why Collect

History

Strange Facts

Top Valued Coins





BASIC FACTS

- Quarter was designed to honor the 200th birthday of our 1st President (1732)
- Designed by John Flanagan and replaced the Standing Liberty design
- Obverse features a bust of Washington, some say doesn't look like him
- Reverse features an eagle with wings spread standing on a bundle of olives and arrows symbolizing peace and strength
- Was 90% silver from 1932 to 1964 when it became too expensive to mint with silver then made with copper-nickel clad in 1965 to 1998
- Minted at Denver, Philadelphia, and San Francisco mints with mark on reverse below olive branch (except SF which is on obverse)
- Consistent design for 66 years, except for 1975-76 for the bicentennial design.

WHY COLLECT THIS SET

- Washington Quarters are a very accessible set to collect for any level of coin collector. One can collect inexpensive circulated examples, proof sets, all the way to pristine MS samples. I collect them because:
 - Grew up with them in my pocket
 - Historical context – Washington didn't want his face on a coin
 - Intrinsic silver value – 1932-1964
 - Key dates, mint errors, and high-grade examples are accessible to most



HISTORY

- Both sides designed by John Flanagan and replaced to the Standing Liberty design in 1932
- Design was a competition that had to be based off the French sculpture Jean-Antoine Houdon's rendition of Washington circa 1785.
- His initials can be found at the base of Washington's neck
- Famous for his statuary and plaquettes as well
- Also known for his metallic work on the 1915 Panama-Pacific Exposition medal, and later sculpted the Verdun Medal, a gift of the US to France commemorating the WW1 battle. Medal is inscription, "They shall not pass"
- From 1885-1890 Flanagan was a studio assistant to Augustus St. Gaudens, famed designer of the \$20 Gold double eagle coins (1907-1933)
- Flanagan was born and raised in NY in 1865



STRANGE FACTS

- Laura Gardin Fraser made the original bust design, but it was not chosen to be on the quarter. However, the 2022 quarter “American Women Quarters” series put her design on the obverse
- Many said her design was more realistic rendition than Flanagan’s
- Fraser’s work includes several medals: Washington Bicentennial medal, and National Geographic Society to name a few. She also collaborated with her husband on the 1926 Oregon Trail Half Dollar
- Did not mint any quarters in 1933 due to oversupply and the Depression



A render of the American Women Quarters Program obverse.

TOP VALUED COINS TO LOOK FOR

- 1932-D - \$144K in 2008 (MS66) – avg. \$1K-4K for MS grades
- 1937 Double Die Obverse - \$22K in 2020- (MS66) – Liberty, IGWT, date
- 1942-D Double Die Obverse - \$6.5K in 2013 (MS64)
- Other DDO's and DDR's

Interesting error of Note:

- 1983 Spitting Eagle Die Crack - \$500 in 2018 (MS66+)





THANK YOU

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