

# Collector's Journal

A Service of Collectors Alliance

## Delaware Commemorative Quarter

### *First in the 50 State Quarters Collection*

In December 1997, America's most adventurous coin program became a reality when President Clinton signed a legislation authorizing the U.S. Mint to issue the innovative 50 State Quarters collection.

Starting in January 1999, each of the 50 states in the Union will be honored on a unique Quarter Dollar commemorative coin. Five states will be featured each year, based on the order in which they ratified the Constitution or became states. Delaware was the first to ratify the Constitution on December 7, 1787, so it is the first coin in the series.

Due to the aggressive minting schedule, each State Quarter will be minted for only about 10 weeks. As a result, mintages for each coin are expected to be just a fraction of normal Quarters, and coins in original Brilliant Uncirculated condition will only be available for an extremely short period.

Regular-issue coins will be minted at both the Philadelphia Mint ("P" mint mark) and Denver Mint ("D"). However, coins are not available directly from the U.S. Mint but must be acquired from secondary distribution sources.

The 50 State Quarters is only the third commemorative Quarter program in U.S. Mint history. The first commemorative Quarter was issued in 1893 to celebrate the 400th anniversary of Christopher Columbus' discovery of the New World. The second was for the Bicentennial of the Declaration of Independence in 1976.

The Delaware coin in the 50 State Quarters program features Caesar Rodney, Delaware's most renowned patriot. He held more public offices than any other Delaware citizen in history – including judge, delegate to the American Continental Congress, speaker for Delaware's Assembly, President (Governor) of Delaware, and a justice of the state Supreme Court.



On July 2, 1776, Rodney rode 80 miles to Philadelphia on horseback to vote in favor of the Declaration of Independence – and thereby breaking the tie among Delaware's delegates and proclaiming Delaware as a supporter of the document. He was one of the original signers of the Declaration of Independence. The Delaware Quarter shows Rodney on horseback to symbolize his historic ride.

The Delaware Quarter is a significant first edition that will be eagerly collected for a number of reasons, including:

- FIRST Quarter in the U.S. Mint's "50 States Quarters" program
- FIRST commemorative Quarter since 1976
- FIRST Quarter in history to feature the current date on the reverse
- FIRST Quarter with the new George Washington obverse design
- FIRST commemorative Quarter to feature the "P" mint mark of the Philadelphia Mint
- ONE-TIME-ONLY reverse design
- LIMITED EDITION that will never be minted again

The Delaware Quarter design was unveiled on June 12, 1998, and the first coins were struck at the U.S. Mint on December 7, 1998. They were first released in January 1999.

The four additional states to be honored in 1999 are Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Georgia, and Connecticut.

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