

# Collector's Journal

A SERVICE OF COLLECTORS ALLIANCE

## 2017 Effigy Mounds National Monument Quarter - Iowa

*Thirty-Sixth in the America the Beautiful Quarters Collection*

Effigy Mounds National Monument in Iowa is featured on the first America the Beautiful Quarter issued by the U.S. Mint in 2017. It is also the thirty-sixth coin in the series; when it is complete, the series will include a National Park or other national site in each state, the District of Columbia, and the five overseas U.S. territories.

America the Beautiful Quarters are issued at the rate of five per year, and each coin features a unique reverse design that highlights an aspect of the respective park. Each coin is issued in a limited edition of only about 10 weeks before the next coin is released – and once the limited edition is over, a coin design can never be used again, regardless of the coin's scarcity or the demand from collectors.

The four additional coins to be issued later in 2017 will be for Frederick Douglass National Historic Site in the District of Columbia, Ozark National Scenic Riverways in Missouri, Ellis Island (Statue of Liberty National Monument) in New Jersey, and George Rogers Clark National Historical Park in Indiana.

America the Beautiful Quarters are struck for circulation at both the Philadelphia and Denver Mints. The two coins are identified by a small "P" (Philadelphia) or "D" (Denver) mint mark under "In God We Trust" on the obverse.

Effigy Mounds National Monument sits on the bluffs overlooking the Mississippi River in northeastern Iowa. The largest known group of ancient Native American earthworks in the United States, it includes more than 200 mounds in various shapes: conical, linear, combinations of conical and linear, and effigies of bears and birds. The mounds were built between 850 and 2,500 years ago. Some of the mounds are more than 100 feet long, with the largest being a bird with a 212-foot wingspan and the Great Bear Mound that is 137 feet long.



In addition to individual mounds, there are four major groups of mounds known as Great Bear Mound Group, Little Bear Mound Group, Compound Mound Group, and Marching Bear Group. Hiking trails connect all the mounds and also lead to several overlooks that provide magnificent views of the Mississippi River. Much of the park is forested, which provides the ideal habitat for native plants and animals.

The reverse of the Effigy Mounds National Monument Quarter shows an aerial view of a portion of the Marching Bear Group of mounds. It depicts two bears and a bird, with trees in the background to illustrate the relative sizes of the mounds; the entire Marching Bear Group includes 10 bears and three birds.

The U.S. Mint's artists submitted 13 different designs for consideration for the Effigy Mounds National Monument Quarter. All designs included at least one bird or one bear effigy, with some showing combinations of both types. Five of the designs also showed views of the Mississippi River, and two featured the Great Bear Mound that is the largest bear effigy. The designs were selected in consultation with representatives of Effigy Mounds National Monument.

The Effigy Mounds National Monument Quarter was released by the U.S. Mint in February 2017.

Collectors Alliance • 1942 Swarthmore Avenue • Lakewood, NJ 08701  
Call TOLL FREE 1-800-997-9843  
[www.CollectorsAlliance.com](http://www.CollectorsAlliance.com)