

# Collector's Journal

A SERVICE OF COLLECTORS ALLIANCE

## 2013 Mount Rushmore National Memorial Quarter - South Dakota

### *Twentieth in the America the Beautiful Quarters Collection*

The fifth and final America the Beautiful Quarter issued in 2013 honors Mount Rushmore National Memorial in South Dakota. The coin was also the 20th in the overall series. Eventually, the series will feature a National Park or other national site in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the five overseas U.S. territories.

The America the Beautiful series was authorized by the America's Beautiful National Parks Quarter Dollar Coin Act of 2008, and the first coins were minted in 2010. The minting period for each coin is only about 10 weeks. Almost all coins are released into circulation, so just a tiny fraction remain in original Brilliant Uncirculated condition for collectors.

Each Quarter is struck in uncirculated quality at both the Philadelphia and Denver Mints. The two different coins are identified by a small "P" (Philadelphia) or "D" (Denver) mint mark on the obverse under "In God We Trust."

Five new coins are issued each year, and the series will continue in 2014 with coins for Great Smoky Mountains National Park in Tennessee, Shenandoah National Park in Virginia, Arches National Park in Utah, Great Sand Dunes National Park in Colorado, and Everglades National Park in Florida.

Mount Rushmore National Memorial is known as the "Shrine of Democracy" because it is a tribute to the most celebrated Presidents in history. Located in the Black Hills of western South Dakota, the memorial features the faces of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt, and Abraham Lincoln carved into the side of the mountain. The portraits are about 60 feet high

Mount Rushmore was established as a national site in 1925, and the work of transforming the mountainside into a giant sculpture started in 1927 under the guidance of sculptor Gutzon Borglum. Dynamite was used for most of the sculpting, and about



450,000 tons of rock was removed. The first face to be dedicated was Washington in 1930, followed by Jefferson in 1936, Lincoln in 1937, and Roosevelt in 1939. The sculpture was officially completed in 1941.

About three million people visit Mount Rushmore every year, making it one of the most popular attractions in the National Parks system.

The reverse of the 2013 Mount Rushmore National Memorial Quarter shows workers putting the final touches on Jefferson's face, with Washington's face in the background. It shows the vast scale of the project, with a worker dwarfed by Jefferson's face. Mount Rushmore was also depicted on South Dakota's original State Quarter in 2006, as well as on three 50th anniversary commemorative coins in 1991.

The United States Mint prepared three additional designs for consideration for the Mount Rushmore National Memorial Quarter. One showed a similar concept, except with three workers suspended on ropes. The second was a more traditional view of the full sculpture, while the third featured Borglum's original model for the sculpture to include not just the Presidents' heads but their full bodies from head to waist.

The Mount Rushmore National Memorial Quarter was released by the U.S. Mint in November 2013.

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