

# Collector's Journal

A SERVICE OF COLLECTORS ALLIANCE

## 2016 Theodore Roosevelt National Park Quarter – North Dakota

### *Thirty-Fourth in the America the Beautiful Quarters Collection*

Theodore Roosevelt National Park in North Dakota is featured on the fourth America the Beautiful Quarter issued in 2016. It is also the 34th coin in the overall collection. The year's set of five coins will be completed with the coin for Fort Moultrie (Fort Sumter National Monument) in South Carolina in late 2016.

The reverse of each America the Beautiful Quarter is a unique design that highlights a National Park or other national site in each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the five overseas U.S. territories. Coins are issued at the rate of five per year, in the order in which the selected sites became federal property.

The common obverse is the same portrait of George Washington by sculptor John Flanagan that first appeared in 1932 on the Washington Quarter. This portrait has been used on all Quarters issued since 1932, including the 1976 Bicentennial coin and the original State Quarters series from 1999-2009.

The minting period for each coin is limited to about 10 weeks, after which the dies are destroyed and the mintage ends forever. Each coin is struck for circulation at both the Philadelphia and Denver Mints. The two distinct coins are identified by a small "P" (Philadelphia) or "D" (Denver) mint mark under "In God We Trust."

Theodore Roosevelt National Park in the Badlands of western North Dakota was established in 1946 as a tribute to President Theodore Roosevelt, who owned the Maltese Cross Cabin and the Elkhorn Ranch that are now within the park.

Roosevelt first visited the Badlands in 1883 and he often returned to enjoy the solitude, work on his ranch, and appreciate the area's natural beauty. His experiences in North Dakota contributed to his later environmental efforts as President. During his Presidency from 1901 to 1909, he created the National Forest Service and established



five National Parks and numerous wildlife preserves. In total, he set aside about 230 million acres of public land.

The park, which is surrounded by the Little Missouri National Grassland, consists of three separate areas: the North and South Units and Elkhorn Ranch, which are connected by the Little Missouri River. The wild expanses are renowned as a haven for wildlife, particularly buffalo, elk, and bighorn sheep.

The reverse of the 2016 Theodore Roosevelt National Park Quarter depicts Theodore Roosevelt on horseback surveying the landscape near his Elkhorn Ranch. The Little Missouri River, which flowed through his land, is in the background.

As well as the final design, the U.S. Mint prepared five other prospective designs for the Theodore Roosevelt National Park Quarter. Two of the other designs included an almost identical background of the Little Missouri River, with Roosevelt standing in different poses in the foreground. Two of the designs showed different images of the Maltese Cross Cabin, which is located at the Medora Visitor Center, while the final design featured sandhill cranes flying over the River Bend Overlook in the North Unit.

The Theodore Roosevelt National Park Quarter was released by the U.S. Mint in August 2016.

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