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LITTLETON'S

COLLECTORS GUIDE TO WASHINGTON QUARTERS



**Collector Clubs from
Littleton Coin Company**

*"It will be found an unjust and unwise
jealousy to deprive a man of his
natural liberty upon the
supposition he may abuse it."*

George Washington



Dear Collector,

Coins reflect the culture and times in which they were produced. An interesting example is the Washington quarter, which first appeared in 1932, during the darkest days of the Great Depression. Over 13 million Americans had lost their jobs, 10,000 banks had failed, and industrial stocks had plummeted to a mere 20% of their value. The 200th birthday of the father of our country was about the only occasion that could justify striking a new commemorative coin during this bleak period. Looking at a 1932 Washington quarter today, you can't help but reflect that John Flanagan's redesigned quarter may have been the only bright spot in that otherwise dismal year.



*David M. Sundman,
LCC President*

The fact that issuing the Washington quarter wasn't at all practical during a time when financial activity was at a virtual standstill makes this coin all the more appealing. No quarters had been issued in 1931. Washington quarters and a limited number of Lincoln cents were all that were struck in 1932, and no coins were issued in 1933. But with a limited demand for quarters in 1934, Congress decided to continue producing the Washington quarter. And today, collecting the long-running series is becoming increasingly popular with coin enthusiasts.

Building your collection

It's always a sound idea to have a game plan for what you wish to collect. If you choose to build a complete date and mint mark collection, you'll find yourself searching for certain elusive issues. In the case of the long-running Washington quarter series, those struck in the 1930s and 1940s at the Denver and San Francisco Mints had unusually low mintages and are scarce today. A real find for your collection would be the Philadelphia Mint-issued 1938 quarter that has no mint mark. Other choice acquisitions would be the scarce 1932-D and 1932-S from the first year of the series. Collecting an example of each of these would be a challenging and rewarding goal.

Whether you're a veteran collector or are just starting out with this fascinating hobby, I hope you'll find this collectors club guidebook on Washington quarters stimulating and useful.

Sincerely,

David M. Sundman
David M. Sundman
President

What can Littleton Coin do for me?

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The First Decades – Washington, First Farmer of the Land

In 1752, 20-year-old George Washington inherited one of Virginia's fairest estates – Mount Vernon. A surveyor by profession, he had mastered tobacco growing and stock-raising in his teens, and was more than willing to become a “gentleman farmer.” Washington considered farming the most worthwhile of pursuits, and wrote, “It is honorable, it is amusing, and, with superior judgement, it is profitable.” His greatest pride in life was to be regarded as

*“Liberty, when it
begins to take
root, is a plant of
rapid growth.”*

– George Washington



the first farmer of the land! Wheat and tobacco were his main crops. But he rotated crops on a three-year or five-year basis.

Mount Vernon had its own water-powered flour mill, blacksmith shop, and a fishery which supplied food for the slaves. Carpenters, masons, coopers, weavers, and even a shoemaker turned out all the barrels, shoes, and cloth that were needed there. Washington's estates were basically self-sufficient communities, the overseers following orders to “buy nothing you can make yourselves.”

Washington was never an advocate of slavery. His care of his inherited slaves was exemplary – he clothed and fed them well, retained a doctor for them, and refused to sell or trade them, saying, “I am principled against this kind of traffic in human species.” He was kind and very seldom disciplined them. Washington's will stipulated that all his slaves were to be freed following the death of his wife.

He gradually increased the size of the estate to over 8,000 acres, and after his marriage to Martha Custis in 1759, he enlarged the house significantly. Added to his responsibilities at Mount Vernon was the overseeing of Martha's estate at the White House on the York River – a 15,000-acre plantation! As his holdings expanded, he divided them into separate farms and appointed

an overseer to each. However, he continued inspecting each farm daily, for, as he wrote, “middling land under a man’s own eyes is more profitable than rich land at a distance.”

A full and fruitful life

For the next 20 years, Washington’s life happily revolved around events at Mount Vernon. Six days a week, he rose early and worked exceedingly hard. Sundays he would attend church (irregularly), and pursue some of his varied interests. These included entertaining, foxhunting, riding, training colts, and even wrestling! He loved billiards and card games. And not only did he support several racing associations, but he also ran his own horses in races.



Mount Vernon, Washington’s stately Virginia home, was his favorite place.

Answering the call to duty

When George Washington left Mount Vernon to head the colonial forces in the struggle for independence, he rode off with a heavy heart. He was determined to do what he could to help his fellowmen, yet already missing the peaceful life he had come to love.

Eight years later, when he resigned his military commission after directing the victorious efforts for independence from England, Washington was elated to return to his beloved Mount Vernon. Little did he know that in just a few years his country would call upon him again – to serve as America’s first president – and that he would once more be parted from his fair estate.

Finally, in early 1797, George Washington was able to retire to Mount Vernon for good – though he had to persevere through pressure to run for a third term as president. He devoted the last 2½ years of his life to his family and farming operations on the lands he loved.

Commander in Chief of the Continental Forces

Shortly after the battles of Lexington and Concord on April 29, 1775, the Continental Congress unanimously named George Washington as the commander in chief of the continental forces. Washington had gained military experience in the French and Indian Wars, and as commander of the Virginia militia. His leadership abilities had led to his election to the Continental Congress, where his military knowledge and advice had proved to be extremely valuable.

The colonial troops he took command of were not a trained army, but raw short-term militiamen led by equally inexperienced officers. They rapidly received training under Washington's guidance, and military experience during the long siege of Boston – a city that British troops, under General Howe, finally evacuated. Washington followed Howe to New York, but the battle of Long Island was almost fatal for the colonial army, saved only by a masterful retreat to winter quarters at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania.

Memoirs of a colonial soldier

At Valley Forge, morale of the continental troops reached its lowest point, as demonstrated by the following memoir of a colonial soldier: "I am sick, discontented, and out of humor. Poor food. Hard lodging. Cold weather. Fatigue. Nasty clothes. Nasty cookery. Vomit half my time.

Smoked out of my senses. The Devil's in it. I can't endure it. Why are we sent here to starve and freeze! What sweet felicities I have left at home, a charming wife, pretty children, good beds, good food, good cookery... Here all confusion, smoke and cold, hunger and filthiness. A pox on my bad luck."

"Discipline is the soul of an army. It makes small numbers formidable; procures success to the weak, and esteem to all."

– George Washington



General Washington's decision to secretly cross the Delaware on Christmas night revived the spirits of his troops. The colonial forces surprised and defeated a British garrison at Trenton, then pushed on to surround a second British outpost at Princeton.

A sincere and honest plea

But, soon, the enlistments of many of Washington's men were to run out, prompting the commander in chief to make one of his few speeches. Riding his horse to the head of the regiment on December 31, 1776, the last day of their enlistment, Washington said: "My brave fellows, you have done all I asked you to do, and more than could reasonably be expected; but your country is at stake, your wives, your houses and all that you hold dear. You

have worn yourselves out with fatigue and hardships, but we know not how to spare you..."

The sincere and honest plea from the general saved the cause, for nearly all his troops signed up for another term of service. However, Washington's uphill battle would continue. Following defeats at Brandywine and Germantown in the autumn of 1777, a coalition of officers and congressmen sought to have Washington replaced. But the public strongly supported Washington, and the incident passed.



"To be prepared for war is one of the most effective means of preserving peace." – George Washington

Compassion balanced with discipline

During the winter of 1777–78 at Valley Forge, only Washington's moral fortitude and strength of character held the army together through extreme misery and want. Washington showed heartfelt compassion for the plight of his men, fighting in Congress for better food, clothing and equipment. He also used strict discipline. He once erected a 40-foot-high gallows, writing that, "I am determined if I can be justified in the proceeding to hang two or three on it, as an example to others." He never did use his gallows, but it served as a stern warning to deserters and plunderers.

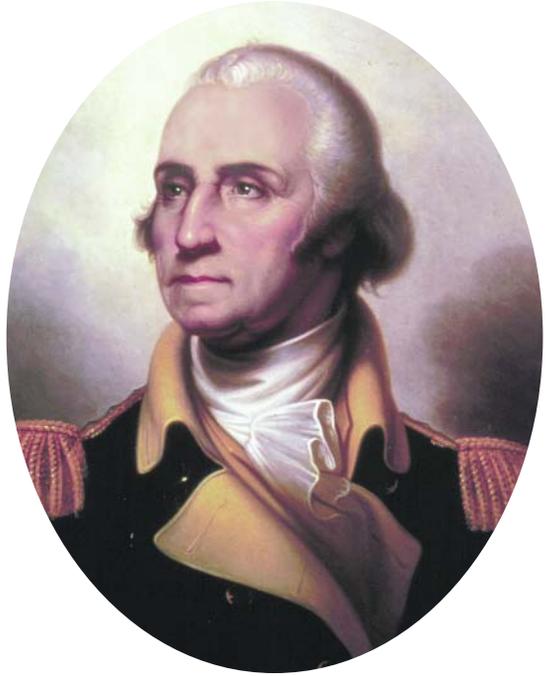
Through his extraordinary ability to hold the confidence and morale of his troops, Washington emerged from winter quarters in spring 1778 with a superbly trained fighting force that was intensely devoted to him. And the fortunes of war began turning in the colonies' favor.

General Washington expanded his role from battlefield leader to directing strategy for several military units and operations. The arrival of French military and naval aid in 1780 assured the success of the colonial cause – though it took Washington's brilliant strategy during the Yorktown campaign of 1781 to bring the



"When we assumed the Soldier, we did not lay aside the Citizen." – George Washington

hostilities to an end.



"I walk on untrodden ground. There is scarcely any part of my conduct which may not hereafter be drawn into precedent."

– George Washington

George Washington First U.S. President

On April 30, 1789, at 12:30 in the afternoon, General George Washington set off for New York's Federal Hall – to be inaugurated by unanimous vote as the first president of the United States of America. He was the sole choice for this honor. Following the Revolutionary War, many had felt he should become king! But George Washington abhorred the idea that his beloved country, which had fought so hard against British tyranny, might so easily be placed under a new dictatorship.

And so, when he finally came to power on this April day, it was by the will of the people. They cast a unanimous vote of confidence for this most worthy man, a president of the people – not a king!

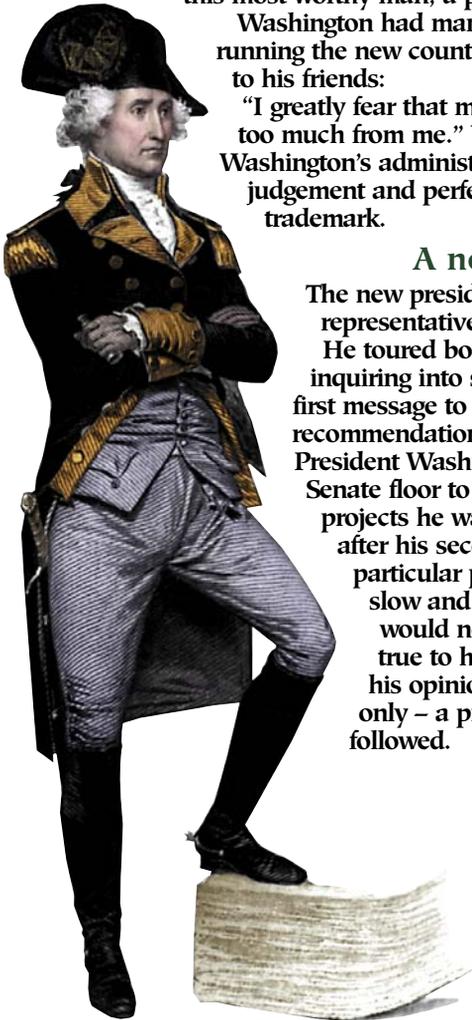
Washington had many doubts about his own abilities in running the new country. After the inauguration, he wrote to his friends:

“I greatly fear that my countrymen will expect too much from me.” Yet, for the next eight years, Washington's administration showed the same cautious judgement and perfectionism that had always been his trademark.

A new precedent is set

The new president took his position as representative of the entire nation very seriously.

He toured both the northern and southern states, inquiring into specific problems as he went. In his first message to Congress, Washington based his recommendations on those concerns of the people. President Washington planned to regularly visit the Senate floor to voice his opinions on various projects he wanted to see approved. However, after his second try at pushing through a particular provision, he found the action so slow and frustrating that he left, stating he would never return to the Senate. He was true to his word. From then on, he expressed his opinions through written communication only – a precedent other presidents have followed.



“I die hard, but I am not afraid to go.”

– George Washington's last words

Washington was a very diplomatic man, who commanded the deep respect of both parties and tried hard to remain unbiased. In choosing his first cabinet, he balanced the two parties evenly – matching Thomas Jefferson (secretary of state) and Edmund Randolph (attorney general) against Alexander Hamilton (treasury) and Henry Knox (war).



Her heart was at Mount Vernon, but Martha Washington supported George's presidency one hundred percent.

Washington hoped that doing this could neutralize any negative effects the two parties might have on the system. It is generally thought he never fully believed in the necessity of party government in a democracy. In time, he drifted toward the more conservative Federalist Party.

A bitter second term

In 1792, he reluctantly agreed to a second term and was again unanimously elected. However, the last four years of his presidency were marked by personal and party hostility. There were two major reasons for this – the Whiskey Rebellion and Jay's Treaty.

During the summer of 1794, farmers in Pennsylvania rebelled against the excise tax that was levied against distilled liquors. Small

farmers, who converted surplus grain into whiskey that they could easily transport and sell, resisted the tax. In July, about 500 men attacked the home of the regional tax inspector. Nearly 13,000 militiamen were sent in to quell the uprising. No battle was fought, but many Americans were appalled at the overwhelming force used by the central government. Thomas Jefferson resigned over the crisis. He then formed the Democratic-Republican Party, which supported states' rights against the power of the federal government, and caused the demise of Washington's Federalist Party.

Many viewed Jay's Treaty of commerce with Great Britain as a diplomatic victory for the English. This and the handling of the Whiskey Rebellion led to the coining of President Washington's nickname, "stepfather of his country."

By the end of this bitter second term, Washington was 64 years old, and had spent more than two decades in public service. His election to a third term would no doubt have been unanimous, but he was tired. He longed for the peace and comfort of Mount Vernon, and spent the last several years of his life there with family and friends.

George Washington, who established the leadership traditions of the presidential office, died as he'd lived – bravely – at 10 P.M. on December 14, 1799.



John Dunsmore's work, The Inspection of the First U.S. Coins. Allegedly, George Washington supplied some of his own silver for these test coins.

Martha Washington

Though much is known about George Washington's contributions to the nation, many people don't realize the important role that Martha Washington played. She made an enormous impact – both by supporting her husband's success as a soldier and statesman, and by her own admirable actions.

Martha was the daughter of wealthy Virginia planters John and Frances Dandridge. When she married Daniel Parke Custis, Martha thought she would spend the rest of her days being a wife and mother, leading a quiet life on the family plantation. Yet, only eight short years later, Daniel died. A year and a half later, she became Mrs. George Washington.

A fine and fitting match

It was a sensible match for both. George took over the reins of running Mount Vernon, their home, and Martha lent order and security to George's life. Their time together at Mount Vernon was precious and much too short!

When hostilities broke out between the colonies and the English, George Washington was given command of all the continental forces. Martha began an eight-year ordeal of running the plantation at Mount Vernon during the summers and sharing the hardships of war with her husband at the various winter headquarters of the Continental Army. The soldiers were always grateful when she arrived in camp each fall, for she brought hope and enthusiasm. She worked tirelessly for the weary, underpaid, ill-equipped troops – knitting stockings, sewing clothes, nursing the sick and wounded, and cooking and serving hot food to the hungry soldiers. In addition to all this, she organized groups of other women to perform similar tasks for the war effort.

Standing by the general

Martha was also a great comfort and inspiration to her husband, who trusted her judgement as much as anyone's about keeping the army together. Martha gave the general his best advice for bolstering the morale of the troops, and she initiated parties and dancing for the soldiers to maintain their spirits during the cold winter months.

Following the war, the Washingtons enjoyed five years of peaceful private life at Mount Vernon. But in 1787, the nation called on George Washington once more – asking him to preside over the Constitutional Convention. And once again, Martha was there to support him in making his decision.



Designer John Flanagan

Although reluctant to get involved in public life again, Martha told him, “You must see the people get the freedom for which they fought.” He accepted and not only went on to coordinate the framing of the Constitution, but before long, he was unanimously elected America's first president.

Martha approached her duties at the White House with the same spirit, efficiency and sensibility that she had demonstrated early on in life. It was she who set the gratefully observed precedent of early hours for the president and his family. At the first gathering after his election, Martha tactfully let everyone know at the correct time, “The general retires at nine o'clock, and I usually precede him. Good night.” The guests took the hint and



Laura Gardin Fraser's design (above) was favored by the Commission of Fine Arts, advisory group to the Treasury.



This John Flanagan design was selected over Fraser's by the U.S. Treasury.

quickly said their adieus.

On the subject of promptness of the White House affairs, Martha was known to have been just as tactful, saying, "I have a cook who never asks whether the guests have arrived, but whether the hour has."

"America's First Lady"

Martha handled the time at the White House with graciousness and was greatly admired, but it was a hardship for her. She was desperately unhappy throughout this period that was to become known as her "lost years." Both she and George longed to be living a quiet life at Mount Vernon. Nevertheless, Washington served two terms, encouraged and supported every step of the way by his dynamic and influential wife, "America's First Lady"! Until her death in 1802, Mrs. Martha Washington lived at Mount Vernon – her favorite place on earth.

U.S. Coinage's Longest Running Quarter Design

The Washington quarter is one of the longest running obverse designs of U.S. coinage. First issued in 1932, the coin was intended to be a one-year-only



1932-1964 Washington Quarters
(Original Version)



1965-1998 Washington Quarters



1976 Bicentennial Quarters

The Washington Quarter

Issued:	1932-64	1965-date
Weight:	6.25 gms	5.67 gms
Diameter:	24.3 mm	24.3 mm
Composition:	90% silver	clad

commemorative celebrating the 200th anniversary of George Washington's birth. But in 1934, U.S. lawmakers voted to continue producing it. Today, the 50 State Quarter designs have brought new verve to the series.

Created by renowned sculptor John Flanagan, whose composition was chosen over 97 other designs in an open competition, the Washington quarter was the second regular-issue U.S. coin to picture a famous American.

The designer's initials, "JF," were placed at the base of George Washington's neck on the obverse of all the Washington quarters. The coins struck at the main U.S. Mint in Philadelphia were not given mint marks, while those produced at the Denver and San Francisco Mints received "D" and "S" mint marks, respectively, placed below the wreath on the reverse.

As with dimes and half dollars, U.S. quarters were struck in 90% fine silver until 1964, when rising silver prices forced a change in composition. By the late 1970s and early 80s, silver prices spiked to over \$50 per ounce in reaction to an attempt to corner the world's silver supply. During this period, huge quantities of U.S. silver coins were melted down. As a result, the number of each pre-1965 silver Washington quarter in existence is unknown (thus, the amount may be smaller than indicated).

Clad Issues of special interest



Flanagan's design on the updated obverse was altered to fit in lettering from the original reverse.



Delaware's Quarter, first in the series, depicts patriot Caesar Rodney racing to vote for independence. California's was the first 2005 Quarter design.

Release Dates for the 50 State Commemorative Quarters Program

1999		2004	
Delaware	1787	Michigan	1837
Pennsylvania	1787	Florida	1845
New Jersey	1787	Texas	1845
Georgia	1788	Iowa	1846
Connecticut	1788	Wisconsin	1848
2000		2005	
Massachusetts	1788	California	1850
Maryland	1788	Minnesota	1858
South Carolina	1788	Oregon	1859
New Hampshire	1788	Kansas	1861
Virginia	1788	West Virginia	1863
2001		2006	
New York	1788	Nevada	1864
North Carolina	1789	Nebraska	1867
Rhode Island	1790	Colorado	1876
Vermont	1791	North Dakota	1889
Kentucky	1792	South Dakota	1889
2002		2007	
Tennessee	1796	Montana	1889
Ohio	1803	Washington	1889
Louisiana	1812	Idaho	1890
Indiana	1816	Wyoming	1890
Mississippi	1817	Utah	1896
2003		2008	
Illinois	1818	Oklahoma	1907
Alabama	1819	New Mexico	1912
Maine	1820	Arizona	1912
Missouri	1821	Alaska	1959
Arkansas	1836	Hawaii	1959

Caring for Your Coins

Proper handling and storage of coins is not difficult and will maintain the natural condition (and value) of collectible coins. Appropriate care also helps preserve your coins for the benefit of future collectors.

Handling: Coins should be held by their edges between thumb and forefinger (see picture). This will protect coin surfaces and designs from fingerprints and the natural oils in fingers or palms that can be corrosive over time.



Gloves should be used when handling coins.

In fact, many experienced collectors prefer to use soft cotton gloves when handling their high-quality Uncirculated or Proof coins.

A wide variety of coin holders and albums is available from Littleton for easy viewing and examination of both sides of a coin without actual handling.

Cleaning: Improper cleaning, more than anything else, has harmed valuable coins. High-quality Uncirculated and Proof coins should never be cleaned, as improper cleaning can cause permanent loss of original mint finish and color (and permanent loss of value). Experts can easily detect an improperly cleaned coin. Most experienced collectors and dealers agree that circulated coins should only be cleaned by experts.

Storage: High humidity, air pollution, salt air, and temperature extremes can sometimes affect the surfaces of coins. It is best to store coins in protective holders or albums, and to keep them in an area of relatively uniform temperature. As your collection becomes more valuable, you may choose to store some or all of your coins in a safe-deposit box. If you choose to keep your collection in your home, we recommend that you check with your insurance company to ensure that your collection is covered for its full replacement cost.

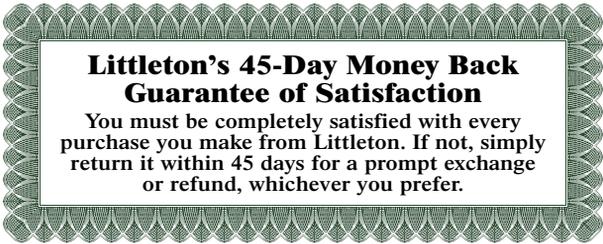
Please note: The clear coin wrappers used by Littleton are sealed to provide protection of coins during delivery, and easy identification and examination without removal. You can store your coins in the clear wrappers, or you can remove them for placement in albums, holders, or other storage containers. When returning coins, we prefer that you keep them in the clear wrappers.

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- You'll earn Profit Shares – trade them in for FREE coins, paper money, and collecting supplies!



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