



**2003 UNITED STATES MINT
PROOF SETS? AVAILABLE**

On Mar. 24, 2003, the United States Mint released its newest set of proof quarters issued under the 50 State Quarters® Program -- Illinois, Alabama, Maine, Missouri and Arkansas -- sealed in a presentation case. The set sells for \$13.95.

Proof coins are manufactured at the San Francisco Mint facility using specially prepared, highly-polished dies. Bearing the "S" mint mark, each coin is struck at least twice to ensure the finest detail in a frosted cameo image on a bright, mirror-like background. The sealed cases containing the coins are inserted into a specially printed sleeve and are accompanied by an official United States Mint Certificate of Authenticity.



Customers may order as many sets as they desire while supplies last. This product is also available through the United States Mint's subscription program. To order, please visit <http://www.usmint.gov>. Also, look for the United States Mint Uncirculated Coin Set? and the United States Mint Silver Proof Set? – coming soon!

**CHECK OUT THE NEW
50 STATE QUARTERS® WEBSITE**

The United States Mint has revamped its 50 State Quarters® Program website in a new interactive and colorful way. Please visit www.usmint.gov to see for yourself!

Visit the U.S. Mint at www.usmint.gov or call us at **1-800-USA-MINT**

**ALABAMA QUARTERS
IN CIRCULATION**

On Mar. 24, 2003, Alabama Gov. Bob Riley joined United States Mint Director Henrietta Holsman Fore at Tusculumbia's "Ivy Green," birthplace of Helen Keller, to unveil the new Alabama state quarter.



Alabama became the 22nd state to be admitted into the Union on December 14, 1819. The Alabama quarter design features an image of Helen Keller with her name in English, and in a reduced-size version of braille. The Alabama quarter is the first U.S. circulating coin to feature braille. An Alabama long leaf pine branch and magnolias grace the sides of the design, and a "Spirit of Courage" banner underlines the central image.

**ALABAMA QUARTERS IN
2-ROLL SETS AND BAGS**

On Mar. 17, 2003, two-roll sets of Alabama quarters — featuring one roll each of Philadelphia and Denver mint marked coins — became available. The sets sell for \$32.00.

Bags of 100 and 1,000 Alabama quarters are also on sale. Each bag is marked with the Mint of origin. Bags of 100 coins sell for \$35.50 and bags of 1,000 coins for \$300.





**UNITED STATES MINT
CONSUMER & BUSINESS
AWARENESS SITE**

The United States Mint's Consumer and Business Awareness website – www.usmint.gov/consumer – explains the variety of replicas and coin-related products in the market that are easily confused with authentic U.S. Mint coins



and medals with helpful and easy to understand information for consumers and businesses.

CLASSY QUARTERS

The United States Mint "H.I.P. Pocket Change" Web site www.usmint.gov/kids offers new resources for students. Just posted on the site is a new set of lesson plans, based on the state quarters of 2003.

Grouped into three grade groups (K-1, 2-3, 4-6), each set of plans consists of six lessons, one for each of the five new quarters and one general plan. Teachers at school and parents at home can use these plans to teach math, geography, social studies, art... a real "wealth" of information and fun activities for eager pupils.

Download the free lesson plans, individually or in sets, as Acrobat (.PDF) files or as electronically-readable rich text (.RTF) files for your student or class. These plans, and other great teaching aids, are kept in our Teachers Section at www.usmint.gov/kids.

Visit the U.S. Mint at www.usmint.gov or call us at **1-800-USA-MINT**

**NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
SYSTEM CENTENNIAL MEDAL
SERIES – COMING SOON**

To honor the centennial of the National Wildlife Refuge System, the United States Mint is proud to offer the National Wildlife Refuge System Centennial Medal Series.

The series features four limited-production commemorative silver medals and one commemorative bronze medal. The initial silver and bronze medals are tentatively scheduled for release in early summer 2003, with the remaining three silver medals to be released throughout the rest of the year.



The series will feature a common obverse depicting President Theodore Roosevelt, the Refuge System's founder, and the inscriptions

"CELEBRATING A CENTURY OF CONSERVATION 1903 – 2003 THEODORE ROOSEVELT" and "NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM."

The four silver medals will feature different reverse designs, with either a bald eagle, elk, salmon or canvasback ducks, to represent the diversity of wildlife that the System protects. The medals will be struck in Philadelphia but will not bear a mint mark.

A portion of the proceeds is authorized to benefit the National Wildlife Refuge System and its conservation effort. For more information on these medals, visit the United States Mint's website at www.usmint.gov or to call toll-free at 1-800-USA-MINT (872-6468).