

## "Drawn and Quartered"

Unless you haven't handled money in a while, you've probably noticed our new designer quarters. While George Washington in profile still garnishes the front of the coin, the side we refer to as "tails" now commentates each of our 50 states. Georgia's coin has, you guessed it, a peach. Delaware, a guy on some kind of pony. And I believe Florida has an elderly woman driving a big Buick with her left turn signal blinking continuously.

These scenes will replace the well known image of the mighty bald eagle clutching some sticks, as you know symbolizing our nation's reliance on wood. How better to honor a nearly extinct national bird than to make it disappear from the back of our quarters as well.

Some late night TV advertisers are telling us that these new quarters will someday be worth a fortune. And for \$19.95 plus shipping and handling, they'll sell you an impressive cardboard map with a hole punched for each state's own coin. Since Rhode Island is smaller than a quarter, its hole will be located 150 miles off the Atlantic coast and both Hawaii and Alaska will be appear to be walking distance from Los Angeles. The mint will strike 5 new coins a year, so this map will provide you with a decade of amusement, and maybe even more if we add any new states in the meantime.

You'll be proud, they'll say, to display this future heirloom on your coffee table, especially if your coffee table is also made out of cardboard. Each map comes with a Certificate of Authenticity, attesting to the display being an authentic paper product, and confirming in writing that you really did pay over twenty dollars for it.

I wonder if this is the same company that years ago offered to name a star or a planet after anyone willing to send them money. With the number of stars out there, they could probably name a few TRILLION after every one of us and still have enough left to name a billion or so after our house pets. Notwithstanding the registration fee, I doubt future astronomers will be saying such things as, "We found a new planet, and it was 15 light years from the galaxy Judy Melnick."

But the coin collection map will be an educational experience for the entire family. What better way to teach children about the value of money than to show just how little \$19.95 plus shipping and handling will buy.