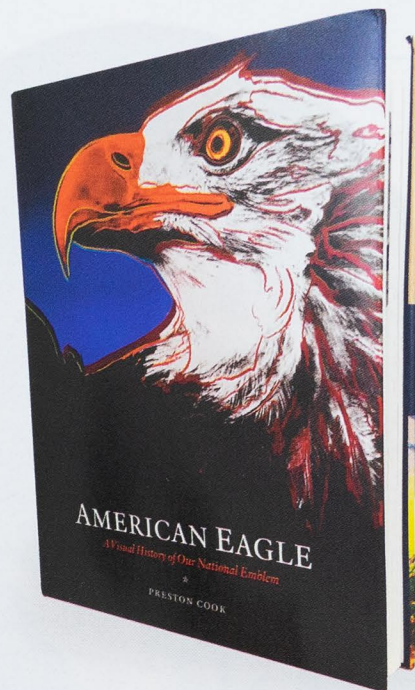


Eloquent Expressions of A National Symbol

A lushly illustrated new coffee-table book by Preston Cook spotlights some of the 25,000 eagle objects collected by the author over the past five decades. *American Eagle: A Visual History of Our National Emblem* (Goff Books, 2019) features illustrations, stamps, engravings, paintings, sculptures and photographs made by thousands of artists since 1782, when the eagle first appeared on the Great Seal of the United States, to the present.



“The bald eagle’s impressive stature and natural nobility are compatible with the notion of independence that continues to be a part of American identity, and which the eagle still eloquently represents after more than 200 years,” Cook writes in the book.

A retired real estate investor, member of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) and lifetime member of the American Bald Eagle Foundation, Cook was inspired to begin collecting eagles after seeing the 1965 movie “A

Thousand Clowns.” He often quotes his favorite line: “You can never have too many eagles.”

The book is proof that he lives by his motto. It explores the bald eagle in American life through objects such as a brass button from one of George Washington’s presidential inaugurations, original prints by John James Audubon, and numerous military insignia and ceremonial badges and pins, including those of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Society of the Cincinnati, SAR and National Society of the Colonial Dames of America.

These objects chart the bald eagle’s appearance in the military, government, politics, commerce, travel, nature and art. In addition to spotlighting fine art prints of eagle illustrations, the huge book shows a dizzying array of the eagle in popular culture, expressed in comic books and on sports memorabilia, hood ornaments, games, playing cards and even cookie cutters. Detailed captions for the more than 1,300 images provide context for the objects, and an annotated chronology gives readers an illustrated timeline of the bald eagle as a living symbol of the nation.

In the future, much of Cook’s collection will be housed and displayed at an expansion of the National Eagle Center in Wabasha, Minn., on the banks of the Mississippi River. The center, which allows visitors to view live bald and golden eagles up close and in the wild, is developing an \$18 million museum to house the objects. To learn more about the center, visit www.nationaleaglecenter.org. For more on the collection, visit <http://american-eaglecollection.com>.

—Jamie Roberts

