

Collector's Journal

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2017 Ozark National Scenic Riverways Quarter - Missouri

Thirty-Eighth in the America the Beautiful Quarters Collection

Ozark National Scenic Riverways in southeastern Missouri is featured on the third of five America the Beautiful Quarters in 2017. It followed the 2017 coins for Effigy Mounds National Monument in Iowa and Frederick Douglass National Historic Site in the District of Columbia, and it will be followed by Ellis Island (Statue of Liberty National Monument) in New Jersey and George Rogers Clark National Historical Park in Indiana.

The America the Beautiful Quarters series honors National Parks and other national sites of "natural or historic significance" in each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the five overseas U.S. territories. The obverse of each coin retains the portrait of George Washington that first appeared in 1932, but the back of each coin is a unique design that highlights the respective park. Five coins are issued each year, and each coin is limited to a minting period of about 10 weeks.

The mint mark under "In God We Trust" on each coin identifies the branch of the U.S. Mint that struck the coin for circulation: "P" is for the Philadelphia Mint, while "D" is for the Denver Mint.

Ozark National Scenic Riverways was the first federal park designed specifically to protect a river system. It was established in 1964, and it encompasses 134 miles of the Current and Jacks Fork Rivers in the Ozark Highlands. The spring-fed rivers are renowned for their beauty as they move through the Ozark countryside, and they are especially popular for boating, canoeing, and fishing.

The park includes some of the largest freshwater springs in the nation, most notably Big Spring, Alley Spring, and Blue Spring. Before the area became a federal park, it supported several communities. More than 200 historic buildings remain, such as the Klepzig Mill sawmill that was powered by Rocky Creek, Alley



Mill that was powered by Alley Spring, and various stores, blacksmiths, and residences.

In addition, Ozark contains over 300 caves, the largest of which has almost seven miles of passages. The most famous and dramatic caves are Round Spring Cave, Devils Well, and Jam Up Cave.

The Ozark National Scenic Riverways Quarter depicts Alley Mill, a steel roller mill dating to 1894 that was originally used to convert wheat and corn into flour. The mill, which was powered by the constant water supply of Alley Spring, is painted a distinctive red color and maintains much of the original milling equipment.

The selected design was one of nine that were submitted by U.S. Mint artists for consideration. Five designs highlighted Alley Mill, with one showing the mill and two white-tailed deer in the foreground to represent the park's wildlife. Another design featured a view of Alley Spring near Alley Mill. Each of the final three suggestions included a canoeist paddling down a river: one displayed the scenic countryside, another had a spiny softshell turtle in the foreground, and one depicted a group of wild horses in the background. The final design was chosen in consultation with representatives from Ozark National Scenic Riverways.

The Ozark National Scenic Riverways Quarter was released by the U.S. Mint in June 2017.

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