

THE STAMP FORUM NEWSLETTER

Volume 1, Issue 4

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April - May 2017

In This Issue

The Cultural Treasures of India



The 1926 Madrid-Manila Flight



President's Message

There has been a lot of excitement on the forum since the last issue.

We had an amazing donation auction due to the generosity of Firstfrog2013, one heck of a Canadian collection which included a full set of Large Queens.

The winner was Beryllium Guy who placed a very generous bid. I also added a penny black to the lot.

Keeping with the TSF tradition, I took some of the donation money and purchased a few items as giveaways for the next few issues of the Newsletter.



This issue we have a Penny Black as the giveaway. How can you win it? Simple, just message me that you would like to have your name added in the draw. I will do a random name generator and use my video screen grab so it will be posted as a video on the forum.

However you will have to wait till the next issue to find out who was the winner. I will post the video the day the Newsletter is released. This giveaway is open to anyone that has made an introduction and the 50 post count is not required. Just an introduction thread and a message to me. To view the stamp just log onto the forum and it will be shown up on the header.

Jack Witcher (Admin)

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Look for the other give-away's in the Newsletter



U.S. STAMPS



Postal Notes and Postal Note Stamps 1945 to 1951

By Steve Tomisek (tomiseksj) [\(click on images for a larger picture\)](#)

If you are looking for an area to collect that is easy to complete and relatively inexpensive, consider adding U.S. postal note stamps to your collection. Although my main collecting focus for the last several decades has been United States issuances, I had no postal note stamps in my collection until the start of this year. My interest in them piqued as I was trying to decide what I might be able to write about for the U.S. section of the Forum's newsletter and they now occupy a completed page in my album. I hope you won't mind if I share what I've learned about these bits of colored paper and their usage.

Background



1883 Postal Note

(Image courtesy of AntiqueBanknotes.com)

The United States' postal money order system was created in 1864. In 1883, Congress authorized postal notes to allow for the sending of sums under \$5.00 through the mail. The law authorized the Postmaster General (PMG) to develop a money order on an engraved form to be known as a "postal note" and to make it available to the public at money order offices and others designated by the PMG for a fee of three cents per note. These postal notes were payable to the bearer at any money order office and they expired three calendar months after the month of issue.

These early postal notes were issued concurrently with money orders and not in place of them. The primary difference between the two was that the notes were sent at the purchaser's risk whereas the Government was responsible to pay money orders to their intended payees. Congress abolished the postal note in an Act approved January 27, 1894 and their use was discontinued on June 30, 1894, when a new schedule of reduced fees for money orders was adopted. Search online for "postal note" and "1883" and you'll find that they can be quite expensive.

On June 28, 1944, the Congress amended the Postal Laws and Regulations (PL&R) to enable the PMG to authorize postmasters at offices that he designated to issue and pay money orders, again to be known as postal notes, in amounts not exceeding \$10.00, at a fee of 5 cents for each note. These postal notes were valid for two calendar months from the date of their issue. The PMG was given the flexibility to adjust the fee to pay for the cost of the system, provided that he notified the Congress sixty days prior to its effective date. This new instrument reduced the administrative burden on postal clerks and the public found them cheaper to use than money orders for sending small sums.



Extract from Postal Bulletin 1887,
January 9, 1945



Postal Note Stamps (Scott PN1-PN18)

All first class post offices were provided an initial supply of postal notes and postal note stamps in advance of their release to the public on February 1, 1945. Notes were produced in eleven dollar denominations from \$0 through \$10, and postal note stamps in eighteen denominations of 1¢ through 9¢ and 10¢ through 90¢ in 10¢ increments. The stamps were printed in black by the American Bank Note Company on a rotary press and were perforated 11 x 10¹/₂; the paper was not watermarked. Two different plates were used for each denomination during this issue's period of service. Theo van der Caaij writes on the [Arago website](#) that two different types of paper were used: the oldest being thick and gray

in color and the newer, so-called melamine paper, being thin and white.

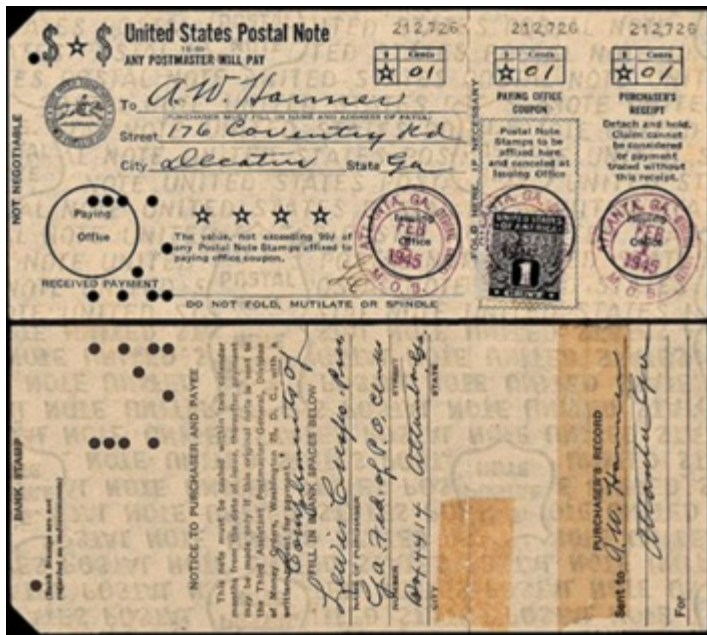


U.S. STAMPS



To facilitate their handling with mechanical sorting equipment, postal notes were pre-punched at time of printing to indicate their denomination and serial number. Each postal note card was segmented into three parts with each segment being imprinted with the same serial number and pre-printed dollar value (\$0 was depicted by a star). The leftmost segment, the postal note, was for the payee's information. The central segment, the paying office coupon, could have one or two stamps affixed, as needed, to reflect the fractional value of the note. The purchaser's receipt, the rightmost segment, was needed to submit an inquiry or claim.

Purchase and Payment



*Postal Note Card with Issuing Office
First Day M.O.B. Stamp Impressions*

The law limited the maximum value of a postal note but it didn't restrict the number that could be sold to an individual at one time. No application was required for their purchase as it was the purchaser's responsibility to write the name and address of the payee on the note's face, as well as his or her own name and address on the back of the note. After placing any required postal note stamps in the space provided, the issuing postal employee was to legibly write the cents value of the note in the space provided on each segment of the card and cancel any affixed postal note stamps with the M.O.B. (money order business) stamp or other postmarking impression. Regardless of whether stamps were affixed, the M.O.B. stamp impression was to be placed in the space provided on each of the three card segments. Lastly, the issuing employee was to initial under the dating stamp impression on the postal note section of the card. Under no circumstances were ordinary postage stamps allowed to be used in lieu of postal note stamps and postal note stamps were not to be sold to the public.

After purchasing a postal note and completing the required information, the purchaser would remove the receipt and mail the note with paying office coupon attached to the intended payee. Postal notes were paid at any post office, provided the notes were presented within the prescribed timeframe and the payee was properly identified. If these conditions were met and the note had been properly stamped by the issuing office, the payee would sign the note and the paying office employee would place the M.O.B. stamp impression in the space provided and initial under it. Coupons of paid notes were to be detached by hand as separation with a cutting knife in the manner used for money order coupons would interfere with their mechanized tabulation in the General Accounting Office.

Modifications Over Time

Almost immediately after their introduction, a manufacturing defect that caused the paying office coupon to detach and become lost was identified and corrective action was taken. Postmasters were initially told to instruct persons presenting notes for payment without the paying office coupon to return them to the purchasers; however, shortly thereafter, postmasters were instructed to cash such notes so as not to inconvenience the public.



*Assorted Paying Office Coupons
with Postal Note Stamps Affixed*

The sale of postal notes was extended to all second class post offices within the continental limits of United States, effective October 1, 1945. Notes were to be paid at any post office within the continental U.S. regardless of whether such post offices were authorized to issue postal notes.



U.S. STAMPS



A number of clerical errors were noted by postal authorities and several “reminders” were issued to postmasters to ensure their window clerks were aware of the proper procedures for issuing postal notes. Some of the more common errors included: omission of the issuing office stamp; illegible office stamps; postage stamps being affixed to the paying office coupon; postal note stamps being placed on the body of the note; postal note stamps affixed for a value of more than 99 cents; and, for example, affixing two 3 cent postal note stamps to represent 33 cents, instead of a 30 cent and a 3 cent stamp.

The January 16, 1947 Postal Bulletin announced that several changes to the appearance of the postal note were being made due to a change in the contracted manufacturer. The new stock would be supplied once the present note inventory had been exhausted. Some of the more noticeable changes included: larger type for the serial number; a lighter line forming the circles for the M.O.B. stamp of the issuing and paying offices; a change in the bank designation; and the pre-punched indicia appearing rectangular rather than round. The \$1 denomination postal note shown here is of the revised style. Although intact postal note cards in denominations of \$0 are fairly commonplace, this is the only dollar-denominated card that I have been able to find; being unused may add to its rarity.

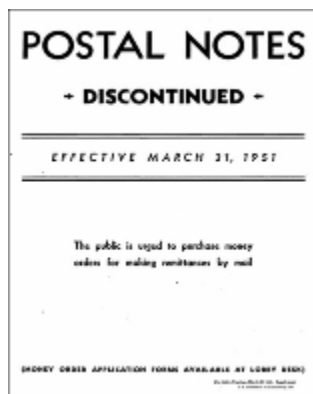
On September 25, 1947 the policy for paying postal notes submitted without the attached paying office coupon was modified to only pay the dollar value of the note. Patrons who declined to accept the dollar value only were instructed to return the note to its purchaser so that it could be reissued. This decision apparently caused the Post Office Department quite a bit of embarrassment as well as inconvenience to the public and the policy was rescinded on December 18, 1947.



Unused \$1 Denomination Postal Note Card
(Image courtesy of eBay seller us_stamp_shop)

The October 14, 1948 Postal Bulletin announced that the period of validity of the notes was being revised to two calendar months from the last day of the month of issue and the fee was being increased to 8 cents for any amount not exceeding \$10.00. Both changes were to take effect on January 1, 1949.

End of the System



Postal Note Discontinuation
Lobby Poster

Postmaster General Order 45533, dated March 12, 1951, directed that postal note issuance was to be discontinued at close of business on March 31, 1951. This directive was the consequence of a new money order system that would be put in place on July 1st of that year. To spare patrons the inconvenience of standing in line to purchase a postal note and then being told they would need to go back to the desk to complete a money order application, a poster announcing the system's end was to be prominently displayed at money order windows and other vantage points.

On and after July 2, 1951, unused postal note stamps were offered for sale to collectors at face value through the Philatelic Agency of the Post Office Department for a period not to exceed 6 months. The 18 stamp denominations were offered in complete sets of singles for \$4.95 per set or in blocks of 4 at \$19.80 per set. Requests for plate numbers were not accepted, but that marginal feature was retained as sheets were broken. The 2017 Scott catalog value for an unused, never hinged set of single stamps (Scott PN1 – PN18) is \$48.60; a used set is valued at \$5.40. Blocks of 4 are valued at four times the unused single value and plate number blocks of four are valued at five to eight times the unused single value. Postal note stamps on postal note cards with first day cancellations are valued in the \$15 to \$25 range. Single stamps on cards canceled on other than February 1, 1945 are valued at \$10-\$15.

Resources:

The Clarion, Jackson, Mississippi, March 21, 1883

Annual Report of the Postmaster General, Fiscal Year 1905

Postal Bulletins 18756, 18787, 18790, 18797, 18799, 18858, 18972, 18997, 19069, 19091, 19175, 19417, and 19447

Smithsonian Institution – Arago website, “Postal Note Stamps”



STAMPS OF THE WORLD



Kyrgyz Express Post (KEP) - New Year's Issue

Given the diversity of Christmas traditions in different countries, KEP has decided to dedicate its first issue in 2017 to both western and oriental particularities of New Year celebration.

The first stamp of the issue reflects the imagery of the New Year holiday, typical of Western cultures: Christmas tree, decorated with star, toys and candles, as well as the sleigh of Santa Claus with gifts for children and adults. Quantity issued 5,000 pieces



The second stamp represents in all its glory the Fire Rooster, which is a symbol of the coming New Year, according to the Chinese calendar, on January 28, 2017. In the Chinese tradition, the rooster symbolizes insight, orderliness, conservatism and self-confidence. Quantity issued 6,000 pieces

As well two minisheets were issued in quantities of 1,000 and 1,600 pieces. *(Click on for larger image)*



These issues and FDC's may be obtained from the KEP [website](http://www.kep.kg).



STAMPS OF THE WORLD



The Cultural Treasures of India

By: Nelson Laviolette (falshung) [\(click on images for a larger picture\)](#)

There are 35 (27 cultural, 7 natural and 1 mixed) World Heritage Sites in India that are recognized by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) as of July 2016, placing them 7th in the world on the totals list. There are also 41 others on a tentative list.

The GVI 1939 issue is not only one of the most attractive engraved series but it also depicts many of these sites that include Hindu, Buddhist, Muslim, Sikh and Jain temples, sculptures, monuments and fortresses.



Ajanta Caves are Buddhist caves that were built in two phases, the first phase was from the 2nd century BC. In the second phase, further additions were made during the 5th and 6th centuries AD. The caves depict richly decorated paintings, frescoes and sculptures. As a whole, there are 31 rock-cut cave monuments which are unique representations of the religious art of Buddhism. The stamp depicts one of the rock carvings.



The **Konark Sun Temple** is a 13th century Sun Temple. It is built in the form of the chariot of Surya (Arka), the sun god with 24 wheels, and is heavily decorated with symbolic stone carvings and led by a team of six horses. The temple is one of the most renowned temples in India and is a World Heritage Site inscribed in 1984. The stamp depicts one of the badly weathered sculptures.



The **Elephanta Caves** are a network of sculpted caves in Mumbai Harbour. It consists of two groups of caves — the first is a large group of five Hindu caves, the second, a smaller group of two Buddhist caves. The Hindu caves contain rock cut stone sculptures, representing the Shaiva Hindu sect. The rock-cut architecture of the caves is dated to between the 5th and 8th centuries.. The caves are hewn from solid basalt rock. The stamp depicts the **Trimurti** sculpture.



The Main Shiva Cave



In Buddhism, **bodhisattva** is the Sanskrit term for anyone who, motivated by great compassion, has generated bodhicitta, which is a spontaneous wish to attain buddhahood for the benefit of all sentient beings.

Bodhisattvas are a popular subject in Buddhist art.





STAMPS OF THE WORLD



Nataraja ("the lord of dance"), is a depiction of the Hindu god Shiva as the cosmic ecstatic dancer. His dance is called Tandavam or Nadanta, depending on the context of the dance.

Nataraja is a well known sculptural symbol in India and popularly used as a symbol of Indian culture, in particular as one of the finest illustrations of Hindu art.



Buddhist Monuments at Sanchi are dated between 200 BC and 100 BC. The site, however, has been conjectured to have been developed in the 3rd century BC. These Buddhist sanctuaries were active Buddhist religious monuments, which flourished till the 12th century.

The sanctuary has a plethora of monolithic pillars, palaces, temples and monasteries in different status of preservation. The stamp depicts the main gate entrance.



Mahabodhi Temple Complex at Bodh Gaya is spread over an area 12.0 acres . The first temple was built in the 3rd century BC (260 BC). However, the temples seen now are dated between 5th and 6th centuries AD. The main temple is 50 m in height, built in Indian architectural style, dated between 5th and 6th centuries, and it is the oldest temple in the Indian sub-continent built during the "Golden Age" of Indian culture.

The main temple is depicted on the stamp.



The **Bhuvanesvara** temple was built around AD 1000. It is acclaimed as the finest example of a temple of the Nāgara style in eastern India. It stands amidst a cluster of 65 smaller shrines in a spacious compound measuring about 160 by 140 meters (530 ft. by 460 ft.). The tower is nearly 55 meters (180 ft.) High. There is a large man made lake of about 1200 ft. X 1000 ft. that pilgrims wash in before entering the temple.

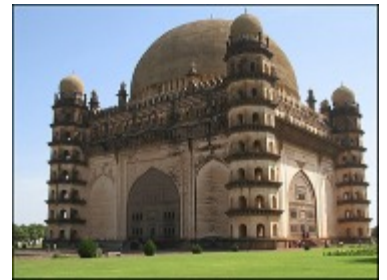




STAMPS OF THE WORLD



In the second half of 16th century, the capital city of Bijapur occupied a prominent place among the celebrated cities of India. It was a great centre of culture, trade and commerce, education. In many respects it surpassed the great cities of Delhi and Agra of Mughal India. **Gol Gumbaz** pictured in the stamp was the symbol of its importance.



Khajuraho Group of Monuments that have survived belong to the Hindu and Jain religious practices with striking fusion of sculpture and architecture; the best example of this outstanding feature is seen in the **Kandariya Temple** pictured on the stamp. Of the 85 temples built, only 22 temples have survived in an area of 6 km². It was inscribed by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site, on October 15, 1982.



Sri Harmandir Sahib is referred to as the "**Golden Temple**". Construction began in 1585 and was completed in 1604. The temple was intended to be a place of worship for men and women from all walks of life and all religions. The upper floors of the temple are covered with gold, which gives it its distinctive appearance.



The Chittor Fort or Chittorgarh is one of the largest forts in India. It is spread over an area of 691.9 acres.

The fort represents the tribute to the nationalism, courage, medieval chivalry and sacrifice exhibited by the rulers and their kinsmen and women and children, between the 7th and 16th centuries. Death was considered as a better option than dishonor in the face of surrender to the foreign invading armies.

In 2013, Chittorgarh Fort, was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The stamp depicts the main tower.





STAMPS OF THE WORLD



The Red Fort constructed in 1639 is an historical fort in the city of Delhi. It was the main residence of the emperors for nearly 200 years. The Red Fort is named for its massive enclosing walls of red sandstone. The original building and contents were plundered or destroyed over the centuries. It was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2007.



The Taj Mahal is a mausoleum in the city of Agra. It was commissioned in 1632 by the Mughal emperor, to house the tomb of his favourite wife. It was essentially completed in 1643. The project employed some 20,000 artisans. It was designated as a World Heritage Site in 1983.



Qutb Minar at 240 feet, is world's tallest rubble masonry minaret. Inside the tower, a circular staircase with 379 steps leads to the top. Construction was started in 1200 AD and continued for over 150 years during which time restorations were conducted. It, along with many components of the surrounding complex were designated a World Heritage site in 1983.



The Palitana temples of Jainism are located on Shatrunjaya hill. The city of the same name has been dubbed "City of Temples". As the temple-city was built to be an abode for the divine, no one is allowed to stay overnight. There are about 863 marble-carved temples on the hills. The main temple is reached by climbing up 3500 steps.



Collecting stamps that depict World Heritage sites would make for an interesting Topical



STAMPS OF THE WORLD

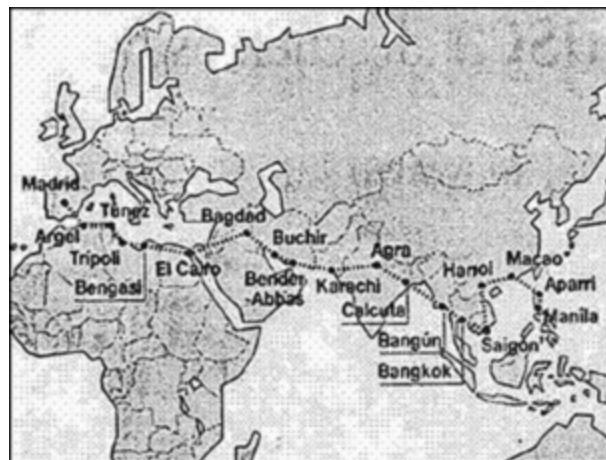


THE 1926 MADRID-MANILA FLIGHT – A PIONEERING JOURNEY

By Chris A. Whitehouse (ChrisW) ([click on images for a larger picture](#))

Introduction

It was in the years following the end of the Great War and during the height of the optimistic “Roaring Twenties” that on April 5, 1926, three Spanish pilots, in three separate planes, left Madrid, Spain for the daring 17,500-kilometer flight to Manila in the former Spanish colony, the Philippines. However, only two of the men - in one battered single-engine plane – ultimately made it to their final destination.



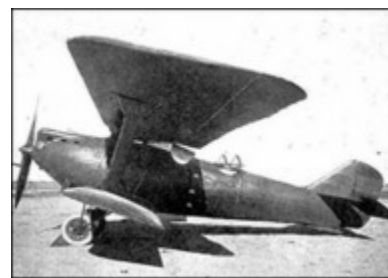
Map of the 1926 Madrid-Manila route

A Pioneering Journey



Left to right, Gallarza, Lóriga, and Estévez.

The three intrepid Spanish aviators were Eduardo González Gallarza, Joaquín Lóriga, and Rafael Martínez Estévez (*shown left*). The three captains and their mechanics formed the Elcano Squadron, consisting of three Breguet 19 model airplanes (*shown right*).



Lóriga's plane named “Magallanes”



Colonel Castejón, head of the Military Aviation, along with the 3 aviators and their mechanics just moments before leaving the Four Winds airport on Monday morning April 5.

They left at 8:10 in the morning from Aerodrome de Cuatro Vientos (Four Winds Airport) in Madrid .

After traveling through Algiers (Algeria), Tunis (Tunisia), Tripoli and Benghazi (Libya), and two flat tires on Estévez's plane, the three had all arrived in Cairo, Egypt by April 9.

In the early morning of Sunday April 11, the three aviators left Cairo. However, because of differences of opinions, Estévez headed toward Damascus, while Gallarza and Lóriga proceeded to Baghdad.

Unfortunately, Estévez encountered a hurricane and lost the route. Due to a loss of gasoline, which had leaked out because of holes in the plane's tank, he was forced to land his plane in the Syrian desert some 100 miles from Amman, Jordan. After six days stranded in the desert, Estévez and his mechanic were found near death on Saturday April 17 by British aviators from Cairo. Despite their desire to continue the journey, they were ordered by the Spanish government to remain in Amman to rest and regain their health.

While Estévez and Calvo were recuperating in Amman, Gallarza and Lóriga continued on. On April 24, they both arrived in Saigon, Vietnam. After some repairs to their planes, on April 26, they left for Hanoi. Due to engine failure, Lóriga was forced to execute an emergency landing, and the crew was missing near Guangzhou in China for several days before their rescue. Fortunately, Lóriga managed to reunite with Gallarza in Macao, and in the morning of May 10, the pair left together in Gallarza's plane headed for Aparri, in the Philippines.



STAMPS OF THE WORLD



The pair landed in Aparri in the afternoon of May 11, where they stayed for two days until they finally flew to Manila, landing at Nichols Camp at 11:20 in the morning on May 13 (*shown right*).

In an account of their journey, the pilots wrote, "...no one would be able to find the exact words for the outcries, the fury and the frenzy of the multitude who greeted us. Wild with joy, they applauded and raised their arms and filled the air with lusty shouts of 'vivas.'" Indeed, the two aviators were welcomed as heroes amid shouts of "Viva España," "Viva Filipinas," "Viva Loriga," and "Viva Gallarza" by the crowds gathered that day to greet the pilots.



Landing at Nichols Camp, Manila, May 13, 1926.

Stamps and Postal History



Cover flown on the 1926 Madrid-Manila flight (front & back)

In addition to official messages of greeting from the Spanish monarchy, letters were picked up by the aviators at various points en route, including in Madrid, Calcutta, Bangkok, Macao, Aparri, and Pamanga. In total, 2,729 letters were handed over to the postal authorities on arrival at Manila on May 13, 1926. Specially prepared postmarks were applied to the covers, one showing an airplane in conjunction with the Coats of Arms of Spain, the U.S.A., and the Philippines, and inscribed "RAID MADRID-Manila" and another (also in the form of an airplane) with lettering on the plane reading, "MADRID TO MANILA FLIGHT ACCOMPLISHED BY SPANISH AVIATORS – MANILA PHILIPPINE ISLANDS, MAY 13, 1926."

In addition, Philippine postal authorities commemorated the event by the overprinting of all values of the 1917-1927 regular issues with an overprint (in red or violet) of an airplane radiator and propeller surrounded by the words, "AIRMAIL MADRID MANILA 1926."

These were the first airmail stamps of the Philippines. The stamps were affixed to the mail brought by the Spanish aviators prior to delivery and were also sold as souvenirs in mint



Philippine airmail stamp Scott C7 with the Madrid-Manila overprint.

condition. The series was prepared on May 12, placed on sale at the post office on the 13th and were sold out on that day.



Spain semi-postal stamp Scott B16 commemorating the 1926 Madrid-Manila flight.

To further commemorate the flight, Spain issued a series of stamps showing a map of the route and a picture of a Breguet 19 airplane. The stamps were used for regular airmail on September 15-17, 1926. Subsequently the unsold stamps were given to the Spanish Red Cross Society and were sold at face value, un-canceled, but they could not be used for postage.



STAMPS OF THE WORLD



Concluding Remarks



1998 US Scott 3184m

In today's modern world of ubiquitous GPS, jet travel, and being able to travel to anywhere on the globe within 24 hours, it may be hard to believe what a pioneering and groundbreaking journey this flight was.

In fact, it should be kept in mind that this flight took place a year before Charles Lindbergh's famous first non-stop flight from New York to Paris in 1927. Gallarza and Lóriga also succeeded in their flight before both Clarence Chamberlin's non-stop flight from New York to Berlin in 1927 and Richard Byrd's famous first flight to the South Pole in 1929.



1933 US Scott 733



Clarence Chamberlin Postcard

The pioneering journey from Madrid to Manila rekindled ties between Spain and her former colony, severed in 1898. Filipino pilots reciprocated a decade later (1936) when pilots Juan Calvo (no relation to Captain Estevez' mechanic Calvo) and Antonio Arnaiz flew to Madrid...but that's another story for another time.



Cover with an almost complete set of Philippine special overprints

Bibliography:

- *The 1926 Madrid-Manila Flight – A Heroic Feat* by Linda Stanfield. *Philippine Philatelic Newsletter*, Nov-Dec 1975.
- *Madrid-Manila Flight Trophies* by Douglas B. Armstrong. *Air Post Stamps*, December 2, 1926.
- *The Madrid-Manila Flight* by Eduardo G. Gallarza and Joaquín Lóriga, *Philippine Airlines*, 1970.
- *Associated Press Report*, *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, Tuesday April 13, 1926



STAMPS OF THE WORLD



Bermuda (*click on images for a larger picture*)

By: Gerben Van Gelder (SWH) - reprinted in his memory with permission



Bermuda
British colony



Bermuda British
overseas territory

Quick reference

General issues: British colony 1865-1968, British colony/Self government 1968-1981, British dependency/Self government 1981-2002, British overseas territory/Self government 2002-Present

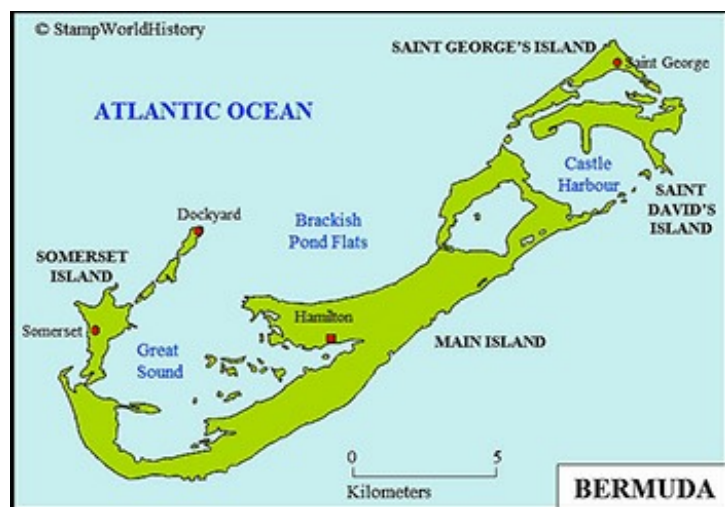
Country name on general issues: Bermuda

Special issues: Postmaster issues Hamilton 1848-1856, Saint George 1860, Hamilton 1861

Currency: 1 Pound = 20 Shilling, 1 Shilling = 12 Pence, 1 Pence = 4 Farthings 1848-1970, 1 Dollar = 100 Cents 1970-Present

Population: 16,000 in 1900, 65,000 in 2013

Political history



Bermuda is a group of islands located in the Atlantic Ocean, about 1,070 kilometers east of the United States east coast. Prior to colonization Bermuda was uninhabited. The first Europeans to explore Bermuda were the Spanish in 1503. The first permanent settlement was established in 1612 by the British in Saint George.

Initially, Bermuda was contracted out to chartered companies, but in 1684 Bermuda was made a colony. Although Bermuda had some form of self government from 1620, it would be in 1968 that self government was embedded in the Bermuda constitution. In 1981, the colony of Bermuda became a British dependency, and in 2002 a British overseas territory.

In the 17th century the chartered companies made a failed attempt at developing agriculture on the islands. After the administration of Bermuda was transferred to the British government, Bermuda, in the 18th century, successfully developed shipbuilding and maritime trade.

Trade waned after the British colonies on the American east coast became independent as the United States – while at the same time the strategic importance of Bermuda increased.

The British, in the 19th century, established Bermuda as a major naval base. Towards the end of the 19th century tourism started to develop.

In the 20th century tourism would grow to become one of the main sources of employment on the islands – although accounting for only 5% of the GDP. Currently, the most important sector is off shore financial services – accounting for 85% of the GDP.

Tourism and the financial services sector have made Bermuda a wealthy country: it ranks fourth in the world in terms of per capita GDP.



STAMPS OF THE WORLD



The largest population groups are blacks, accounting for 54% of the population, and whites, accounting for 31% of the population.

The blacks are descendants of slaves and indentured workers, but also of freed slaves that immigrated to Bermuda and immigrants that arrived in Bermuda from the West Indies in the 20th century.

The whites are, in majority, of British origin, although a substantial 10% of the population are Portuguese that migrated to Bermuda from the Azores.

Postal history

From 1845, the general issues of Great Britain were in use in Bermuda.

The first stamps are issued in Bermuda in 1848 by the postmaster of Hamilton for local use in Hamilton and Saint George.

They consist of an octagonal hand stamp reading 'Hamilton Bermuda' and the year of issue.

The name of the postmaster and the value were inscribed by hand. Stamps of this type were issued until 1856.

Further postmaster issues appeared in 1860 in Saint George and again in Hamilton in 1861. Only a few of these stamps exist – the catalog value is in the very high range.



The first definitives were issued in 1865, showing the portrait of Queen Victoria.

In the classical period Bermuda issued stamps in the style common to the British colonies, but mostly with designs specific for Bermuda.

Also, Bermuda joined in a number of the omnibus issues for the British colonies.



In the modern era Bermuda issued a blend of stamps with designs of national interest and designs aimed at the thematic collectors market.

The Stamp World History website will remain open for at least another year, but no new content will be added.

GENERAL INTEREST ARTICLES

“A Philatelic Christmas Story”

by Chris Dorn (Beryllium Guy)

The 1983 feature film “A Christmas Story” is one of my all-time favorite movies for a variety of reasons:

- I can readily identify with Ralph Parker, the film’s main character;
- Ralph’s father reminds me of my own father in some ways;
- Many of the movie’s scenes were filmed in my hometown of Cleveland, Ohio; and
- The story revolves around a very special Christmas present.



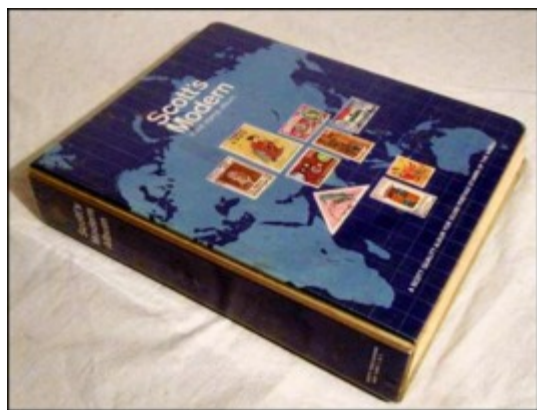
This is a promotional photo from the movie.

I was 8 years old in 1967. Even by that young age, I had already established myself as a collector and accumulator of things: baseball cards, Beatles cards, coins, insects, and more. Clearly, I got these tendencies from my Dad, who encouraged and helped me in those pursuits.

My sisters and I never received “allowance” (weekly spending money) as many of our friends and schoolmates did, but my Mom and Dad always let us pick through their pocket change to find coins to put in our blue cardboard Whitman coin albums. We collected mainly Lincoln pennies in those days.

I was vaguely aware of stamp collecting, but was surprised when for Christmas that year, my two sisters and I each received a Scott’s Modern Postage Stamp album, a packet of 1,000 worldwide stamps, and a packet of Dennison stamp hinges. I can remember to this day all three of us sitting at our big, round kitchen table and opening our stamp packets and spreading them out on the tabletop for a good look-see.

I can also remember my Dad’s telling us that he had also been a stamp collector in his younger days, and showing us how to identify where the stamps were from, and how to mount them with hinges in our albums.



This is what my album looked like, but I no longer have the original one.

Almost immediately, I was hooked. I was fascinated by the idea of owning these bits of paper from far-flung places, many of which I had never heard of, and had no idea where they were.

Because of worldwide stamps, I became interested in other languages, geography, history, and international travel. It has been those interests which ended up forming the basis of my eventual study of several languages, and a 30-year career in international business.

Within a few years of that memorable beginning, my Dad had bought us a set of Scott catalogues, and I learned how to use those. I also graduated from the Modern album to a set of blue-cover Scott International albums, which were only 6 volumes in total at that time (!).

During that same time period, I read my first book on stamp collecting, titled “Let’s Start a Stamp Collection” by John S. Turner, first published in 1940. I found that book in my grade school library, and often longed to read it again years later. Unbelievably, I located a copy of it in a second-hand book bin at a stamp show in the early 2000s and bought it for 50 cents! It is now a permanent part of my personal philatelic literature collection.

GENERAL INTEREST ARTICLES

I also started sending away 10 or 25 cents at a time for offers of stamp mixtures and approvals which were advertised on matchbook covers and in "Boys' Life" magazine, the latter of which I started to receive when I joined the Boy Scouts.

Some of those early stamps-by-mail experiences featured offers from H.E. Harris, Kenmore, Littleton, Mystic, and others. I also remember my Dad's taking me to a couple of local stamp shops in Cleveland, and attending my first stamp show in 1969, an annual event called "Cuy-Lor-Pex", which still continues today.

After high school, I put my collection away for 4 years while at university, followed by another 4 years of military service. But during those times, I still considered myself a collector, and acquired stamps at post offices and shops during my travels, as well as always saving whatever stamps I found on my incoming mail.

By the early 1990's, I decided I wanted to start actively working on my collection again, but was overwhelmed when I realized how many volumes the Scott International albums comprised at that point. So, I decided to sell off my worldwide collection and albums (all except for Volume 1, 1840-1940), and start collecting only early U.S. stamps, as I had been given an old Scott's American Album published in 1936, and that seemed like a well-defined specialty.

For several years, I collected only pre-1936 U.S. stamps. I also became active in a stamp club for the first time in my life, in San Leandro, California, where I was living at the time. One evening in the early 2000's, I attended the club's annual auction.

By the end of the evening, there was one unsold item from the auction, which was a 1928 edition of the Scott International Junior stamp album, and I ended up taking it home for a one-dollar donation to the club.

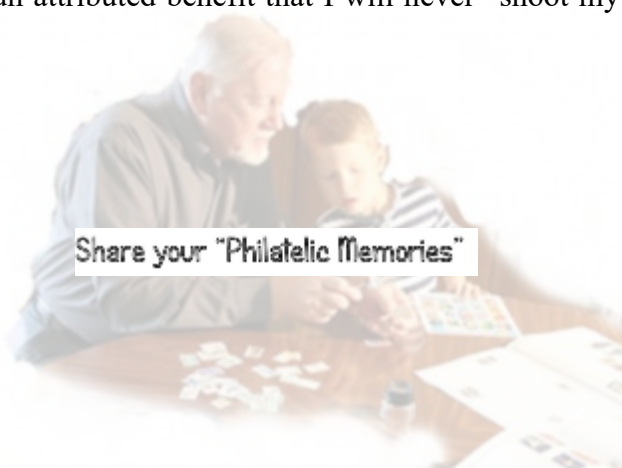
The album contained no stamps, and although it had been used, its condition was not too bad, especially considering its age. I started looking through that album and began to hear the "siren's song" of worldwide collecting. So, I decided to start collecting pre-1930 worldwide stamps, and availed myself of the club's "penny box" stamps to get started again at minimal cost.

As I acquired a few complete sets of stamps for which there were not spaces for the entire set in my International Junior, I decided that I needed albums which were more complete compared to the catalogue listings.

In 2010, I went to the APS AmeriStamp exhibition in Riverside, California, and I was able to buy at auction a barely used set of 3 brown-cover Scott International albums, which covered essentially all worldwide stamps up to 1929. It is those albums that I use today to house my primary collection, and I hope to keep on working with them for the rest of my life.

In "A Christmas Story", Ralph Parker concludes the movie by stating that his Red Ryder BB gun was "the greatest Christmas gift (he) had ever received or would ever receive." In my "Philatelic Christmas Story", it is clear to me now that stamp collecting was the greatest Christmas gift I would ever receive, and it is one which has continued to enrich my life, and bring me joy and friendship for nearly 50 years.

And, it has the added, hitherto un attributed benefit that I will never "shoot my eye out" as a result of collecting stamps!



Share your "Philatelic Memories"

GENERAL INTEREST ARTICLES

Why I Collect Stamps

By: Mark (madbaker) (*click on images for a larger picture*)

Edited from the original article on the [Regina Stamp Club](#) website.

I've had an on-again, off-again interest in stamp collecting since I was 10 years old. And when it's been on, the collecting fire has roared white hot inside me. Why is that? What's the attraction to collecting these tiny, colorful bits of paper?

There are as many reasons to collect stamps as there are stamp collectors, I bet. Here are my main reasons that I collect postage stamps.

Stamp Collecting Brings Order From Chaos



A stamp mix sorted by year. A mix of French stamps sorted by year of issue on 'the grid'. From here, they get mounted on album pages.

I love stamp packets, mixtures and box lots. I love the process of taking a mish mash of chaos and slowly figuring out what I have and putting them in order.

- From a random pile of postage stamps to individual envelopes for each country of issue.
- Then pulling out my sorting grid and, with the help of my stamp catalogues, sorting an envelope's contents by year of issue.
- Finally, taking each year and either filling spaces in my stamp album or making a new album page.

I'm a general worldwide collector, so there aren't many valid postage stamps that I won't include in my collection. But even specialized or thematic collectors have to sort through new material and figure out what to add to their collection. We all get to have this fun.

Postage Stamps Celebrate Geography, History And Culture



A selection King George VI stamps, issued for colonies during the final decades of the British Empire. The Falklands are still a British Colony (although Argentina would disagree!)

GENERAL INTEREST ARTICLES

The very first postage stamps had one purpose: to pay the postage for a letter. But it didn't take long for people to start collecting stamps.

In order to keep collectors happy (and make some extra money) postal administrations began issuing more intricate and colorful pictorial stamps reflecting their nation. More interesting stamps to collect, up to a point, meant more stamp collectors.

Stamp designs also reflected the state of the Empire. The first 100 years of postage stamps coincided with the peak of European imperialism. Postage stamps from that time illustrate a fascinating (and often brutal) story of how European powers carved up territories around the world and then traded these areas around. Later stamps tell the story of gradual independence and the growth of new nations.

175 years later, postage stamp designs show what were, and still are, important to nation-states. Stamps commemorate national heroes, artists and musicians, historical achievements and significant events, which would otherwise be unknown to average folk.

Postage stamps also illustrate geography, flora and fauna from all over the world. From the majestic Canadian Rocky Mountains to the fjords of Norway, from the Kodiak bear to the koala, the whole world can be found in postage stamps. (And beyond – let's not forget about the myriad of postage stamps depicting outer space!)

Postage Stamps Reflect The Printer's Craft

The history of postage stamps is also the history of print making, typography and graphic design. For what are stamps but miniature prints?



Amazingly detailed engraving in this 1973 Sweden stamp. Engraved by Czeslaw Slania.

Postage stamps have been printed by many methods over the years, from delicate line engravings to photogravure to multicolor lithography.

Some collectors get deep into the printing techniques and can tell you who engraved each stamp, or the machinery used to print and perforate the stamps.

My interest is a bit more basic; I tend to enjoy the detail and formality of an engraved stamps (which are expensive to produce and difficult to counterfeit), but am also fascinated by how “poorer” nations issued stamps anyway, by whatever means were at hand.

GENERAL INTEREST ARTICLES



Art Nouveau typography from Czechoslovakia, 1919.

Postage stamps also reflect the design sense of the issuing nation. There's a sturdy elegance to classic Canadian stamps, but my heart also has room for the Art Nouveau styling of early Czechoslovakia issues and the stylized engravings of 1940's Swiss definitives. And only the Dutch can explain their unique sense of design.



I don't get it. But that's OK. Stamps offer something for everyone!

Offset lithography is now the dominant form of stamp printing and most modern stamps now take their inspiration from posters rather than elegant banknotes. But there is still much to love about modern issues when done well.

Order. History. Design. That's why I collect. How about you? Add to the story!

From The TSF Member Archives



Selected Posts From TSF Members *(click on images for a larger picture)*

Post by Ryan on Dec 15, 2016

And to throw in a trivia note here - those two German stamps are from the brief era when they had sulfuric acid as a component in their gum (yikes!). The Ostropa semi-postal souvenir sheet is the famous example of this, you may have seen pictures of the sheet with holes eaten through it when the gum was left intact (that sheet is watermarked and the watermark impression leaves thin portions of paper, so the gum eats through that part first).

There's a catalogue value of \$875 on that sheet so you won't find it in too many giveaways here on TSF. But the two German airship stamps are cheap in used condition, and if you happen to come across some with gum remnants, then give them a soak!



As an example, here's an Ostropa sheet nabbed from an eBay auction showing what can happen if the gum has been left on too long.

Images of Posts by JamesW to the [US Cinderella thread](#)



Continued on the next page.....

From The TSF Member Archives



*Published by Success Printing & Lithographing Co. Inc.
Three of them bear a union label Local 23 Amalgamated Lithographers of America, Indianapolis.*

Continued on the next page.....

From The TSF Member Archives



Post by PostmasterGS on Feb 11, 2017

I've begun mounting my collection of Zeppelin items, and I thought I'd share here. Scans of mail items open to higher-res images. Scans of cancels don't.

First, the 1. Amerikafahrt (1st America Flight), 11 October - 1 November 1928.

On 11 October 1928, the Graf Zeppelin (LZ-127) departed Friedrichshafen for Lakehurst, NJ, on its first America Flight. It arrived on 15 October 1928, and remained until 29 October 1928, when it departed on its return flight. It arrived back in Friedrichshafen on 1 November 1928.

Mail from Germany can commonly be found with the 1928 Zeppelin airmail stamps (MiNr 423 & 424), as they were released less than 2 weeks prior to the flight's departure.

As of this date, the Graf Zeppelin did not yet have an on-board post office, so all mail was canceled prior to being loaded. For mail on the Germany to Lakehurst leg, this was often the Graf Zeppelin's home in Germany, Friedrichshafen. Mail on the Germany to America leg should have a confirmation stamp (Bestätigungsstempel) in blue, violet, green, or red, and sometimes has a board stamp (Bordstempel) in red.

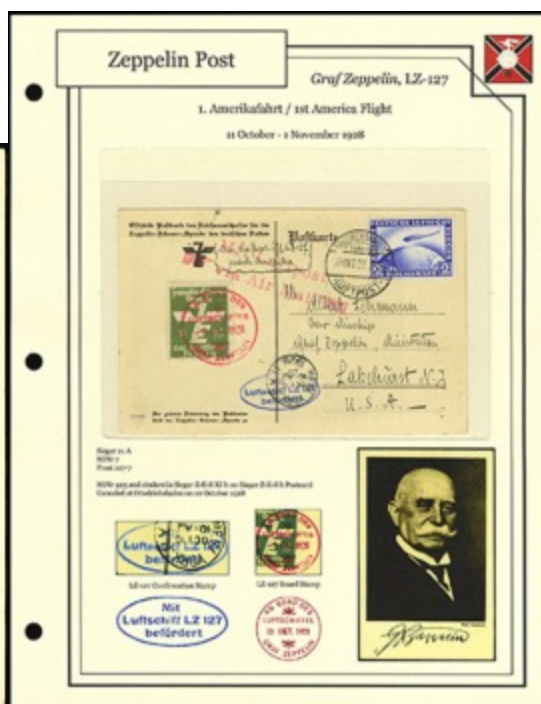
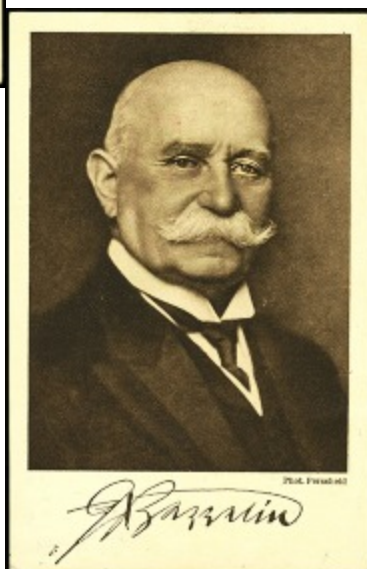


This is a Zeppelin-Eckener-Spende fundraising postcard (Sieger Z-E-S b) containing stamp MiNr 423 and a Zeppelin-Eckener-Spende cinderella, Sieger Z-E-S XI b (more on the Zeppelin-Eckener-Spende in a future post!). It was canceled at Friedrichshafen, and carries both the confirmation and board stamps.



It catalogs as Sieger 21 A, Michel 7, and Frost 127-7.

Here it is mounted in the album.





CINDERELLAS & LOCALS



Londonbus1 Cinderella Corner - What is a Cinderella ?

By: Michael Hide (Londonbus1)

When I first got back into Stamp Collecting back in 1990 after a 25-year break, I did not know the answer to this question. Stamps were stamps and I pretty much cast aside what did not fit in. I was, in a sense, a beginner having ignored most things postal or Philatelic for a quarter of a century. I hadn't a clue.

As my obsession with our hobby grew, so did my knowledge of covers, cards, back-of-book.....and Cinderellas.

"Hang on a sec, aren't Back-of-Book the same as Cinderellas?"

"Course not mate, my Postage Dues are Back-of-Book in my catalogues and they are NOT Cinderellas?"

"Aren't they? But they are not postage stamps, they didn't carry the mail, did they?"

"Yes they did, they carried the mail from the receiving center to the addressee didn't they? Anyway, what about your Strike Mail labels that you have in your Cinderella Collection. They WERE used to carry the mail so they are in the wrong collection aren't they?"

"No they aren't, they are not in my Gibbons or Scott catalogues"!!

And so on.

The arguments are endless. Is there a right or wrong? Can we say without any doubt that an Unissued Stamp listed in Gibbons is not a Cinderella? Or that my postally-used Strike Mail label is not a postage stamp? And what about those forgeries? They can't be Cinderellas can they because they were produced [albeit illegally] to carry the mail? Or does that depend on whether they have been cancelled or not? Could it be that a Mint forgery is a Cinderella while a postally used one is not?

WOW!! Hang on a sec. Isn't that taking the argument a bit far?

In truth yes. But why? First of all our collections are our own and no one should determine what we can and cannot collect except ourselves. I joined the UK's Cinderella Stamp Club a few years ago and their general 'Rule of thumb' is that anything not listed in a General Stamp catalogue is a Cinderella. "I'll go along with that", I thought. But it does make the task of a general Cinderella collector an almost impossible one given that there are far more items to collect outside of those catalogues than there are in it. Some narrowing-down or specializing would be an absolute must.

Here are a few examples of items that I might consider to be a Cinderella, while any one [or more] of our readers may not.

A Semi-Official [Private] Air Mail Label (or Stamp!)



A forgery

An unissued Stamp





CINDERELLAS & LOCALS



A Private Overprint (But still postally valid)



Local (This would be a subject all on it's own !)



A Perfin

A Mail Strike Label



Etc, etc. Pictured above are a few items that one might collect in their Postage stamp collections or their Cinderella collections. What do you think ? Cinderellas or not ?

I am cutting it short on this occasion due to time constraints but I hope it has given you food for thought about ' What is a Cinderella' and we will return to the subject in future articles.

The TSF Newsletter 'Giveaway' No.2 was won by firstfrog2013 and congratulations to him, a worthy recipient after all his Forum work and wonderful Donation auctions. Now for the.....

TSF Newsletter Giveaway No.3.....a Congress Surprise

On the third day of the Cinderella Congress back in September at the end of the first session we were all treated to a very surprise. An extra one-off auction of a single lot was to be conducted by the Chairman, Chris Harman. He had just finished a wonderful PowerPoint presentation on Cinderella Collecting and Locals of the world and the room was still buzzing from that. Hence, some of the details of this story are missing or incomplete....or maybe just incorrect !

Grover & Co ltd began making perforators in 1910 and continued for 90 years until being sold to Germany's Wista perforators in the year 2000. In 1912, a Grover Perforator was used at the International Stamp Exhibition in London for demonstration on sheets of Waterlow & Layton 'Ideal Stamps' in various colours.

Sheets of 240 were supplied to Grover Imperforate, all with Jubilee line around and Plate numbers at the bottom of the sheet.

During the summer of 2016 during building work [somewhere in Southern England- location to be confirmed], the British Postal Museum & Archive was informed that some old perforating equipment and archive material was in the process of being disposed of as rubbish and would they liked to see it first !

What was found, along with other artifacts, was the actual Perforating Machine used at the 1912 Exhibition together with some sheets of the 'Ideal' Stamp.

That was quite a haul being left for local Council rubbish tip !! Some of the sheets were given to the CSC to be used at Congress and that included large blocks of 60 with and without Plate numbers.

In total 5 different plate numbers were found but from Plate A, only one sheet. The auction was to be for 5 Blocks of 60 labels, all from the bottom of the sheets and with those 5 different plate numbers !!!!!



CINDERELLAS & LOCALS



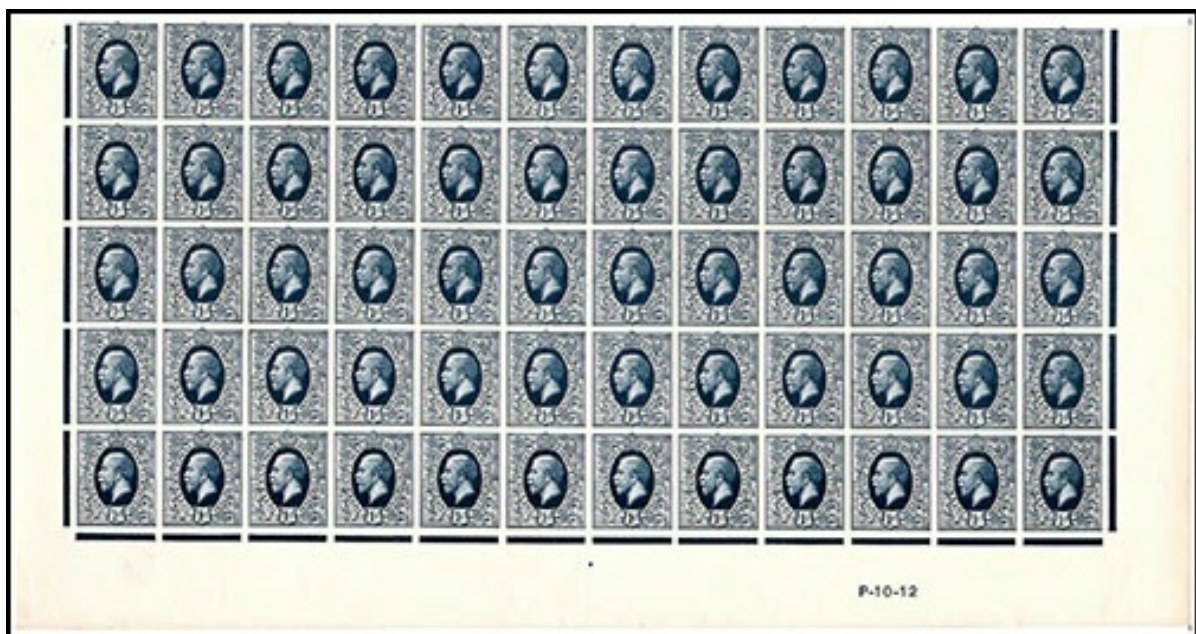
I could not contain my excitement as my main collection of Exhibition material would be all the richer for these.....but with a room full of collectors, did I stand a chance.
Well the answer was yes, in a very nervous auction (at least for me) I came out on top albeit for a large sum of money !!

So on to the Giveaway.

SPECIAL

I am offering one of these Blocks of 60 in one of the many shades of New Blue with Plate No. P-10-12 as our Newsletter Prize for Giveaway No.3. After the Newsletter becomes available I will post it up on the forum and you can get your names down to go into the hat. Or you can write to me or message me through the forum. Good Luck.

The Block is shown here and I will post it again on the forum.



This is is a Grover Perforator advertising label.

Next time I shall be reporting on the March Cinderella Stamp Club Meeting and my visit to the Southern England Stamp Show.....all with Cinderella connections of course !!!



CINDERELLAS & LOCALS



50 years ago: A look back at Cinderella stamps issued for

Canada's centennial celebrations and Expo67 - By Ronald G. Lafrenière (cindyanc2)

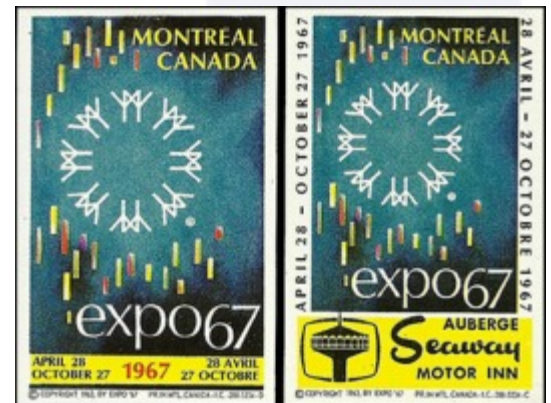
In the February issue of the TSF Newsletter, we took a look back at the Canadian cinderella stamps issued 50 years ago in 1967 for Canada's centennial celebrations. In Part 2 of our retrospective, we'll look at cinderellas issued in relation to Expo67, the world exposition held in Montreal.

Part 2: Expo67 [\(click on images for a larger picture\)](#)

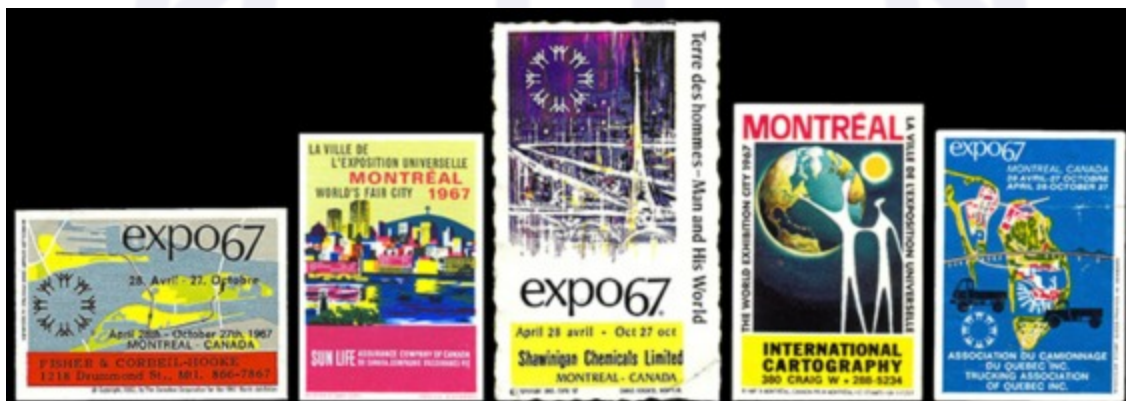
The Universal and International Exposition of 1967, or Expo67 as it was commonly known, was held from April 28th to October 27th in Montreal. But it almost didn't happen. Originally the bid for a World Exposition in 1967 was awarded to the USSR in May 1960 to mark the 50th anniversary of the Russian Revolution. But in April 1962, citing financial and security concerns, the USSR backed out of its World Exposition ambitions. And it wasn't until November of that year that Canada got the green light for its world-class fair to go ahead. It was Montreal Mayor Jean Drapeau who spearheaded the effort. Using dirt excavated from the ongoing extension of the Montreal Metro subway lines, several small islands located in the St Lawrence River were greatly expanded to create the Expo67 fair grounds.

In May 1963, a group of prominent Canadians chose the fair's theme "Man and His World", based on the 1939 book entitled *Terre des Hommes* by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry. In Saint-Exupéry's words: "To be a man is to feel that through one's own contribution one helps to build the world". The exposition was thus fashioned around several sub-themes: Man the Explorer (polar regions, oceans, space, health), Man the Provider (agriculture), Man the Producer (inventions, materials), Man the Creator (arts), and Man in the Community (children's centres, Habitat). Montreal artist Julien Hébert designed the Expo67 logo, using an ancient pictogram as a symbol of man, with two pictograms linked to represent friendship, and repeated in a circle to represent friendship around the world.

From the philatelic point of view, many countries from around the world issued special Expo67 postage stamps to commemorate the event. An entire article could easily be written about these. But less known are the non-postage stamps issued prior to, during, and even after the exposition. An early example of these was used to advertise the event and displays the attractive logo on a blue background. The same design was used for a large series of corporate advertising stamps. Each stamp has a yellow box at the bottom to advertise the company name or logo. At least 187 varieties have been seen, and certainly more exist that have yet to be catalogued.



At least five other styles of corporate sponsorship labels were promoted. They feature maps of the Expo67 fair grounds, city scenes or even a view of planet Earth! The funds raised by such sponsoring activities helped pay the estimated \$283M cost of the exposition.



CINDERELLAS & LOCALS



Over 50 million people visited the exposition in 1967, even though Canada's population at the time was only about 20 million. With so many tourists, it was only natural that some of them would visit the nearby region.

Two stamps, in English or French versions, were issued to entice tourists to "Visit the Laurentians", a mountain region north of Montreal peppered with quaint villages, crystal clear lakes and meandering rivers.

The admission ticket to Expo67 was termed a "passport", and for the 7-day or season pass, a "passport book" was issued that allowed the visitor to collect stamps from each pavilion they had visited.

Most of these were printed hand stamps, and some country pavilions used actual postage stamps, but a few countries issued special stamps or labels, some with the Expo67 logo, which could be affixed to the passport pages.

At least 14 types of cinderella stamps or labels have been seen in Expo67 passports. Some of these feature a Viking longship, a flying fish, a double-decker bus, and even a doll reading a book.



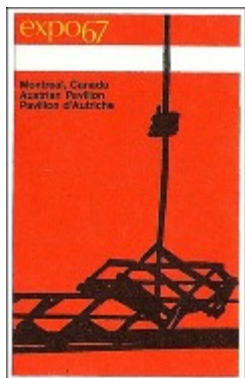
About 120 different nations participated in Expo67. They exhibited in their own pavilions, or combined with other countries in regional pavilions (e.g. Scandinavia, Africa Place). Some pavilions featured particular Canadian provinces or American states.

In addition to the 60 national/provincial/state pavilions, there were 53 pavilions featuring private exhibitors, sponsors, or special themes.

A sheet of 30 stamps featuring various country pavilions was included in an Expo67 edu-kit, which also included a bilingual information booklet, a map of the fair grounds, a fact sheet, and colour-by-number cards featuring the Canadian and US pavilions.



CINDERELLAS & LOCALS

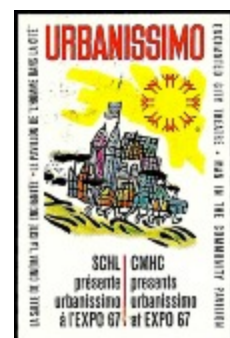


Two other labels have been seen for specific pavilions: an elegant black on red label for the Austrian pavilion with its geometric motif and 120-foot pylon, and a green and gold label for the Canadian Pulp and Paper Industry pavilion, with its green pyramids mimicking a forest.



Apart from the pavilions to visit, Expo67 visitors were treated to sporting events, concerts, theatre and dance productions, an amusement park, and exhibits of fine art, photography and films. One of the films featured was *Urbanissimo*, a short (6 min.) animated comedy directed by John Hubley. The plot concerns a feisty battle between a city with legs and a farmer.

A single label has been seen advertising the viewing in the Enchanted City Theatre, in the Man in the Community pavilion.



To help advertise the International Fine Arts Exhibition, the African Republic of Burundi issued a set of 6 souvenir sheets each containing two stamps. One stamp featured a famous work of art that was exhibited at Expo67 and the other featured the Expo67 logo and the “Man and his World / Terre des Hommes” slogan, in either English or French versions.

Expo67 was also the subject of some fantasy stamps produced under the “Ile Roy” banner. At least 18 varieties of stamp have been seen, each with the same basic design, but with different colour combinations. They feature the Expo67 logo at centre, and “7” denomination.



Though Expo67 officially closed in October 1967, many millions visited the “Man and his World” exhibition in the following years while many of the pavilions were still in operation. Three labels were issued to advertise these subsequent expositions held in 1968-1970.

After the 1971 season, the whole Notre Dame Island site was closed down and renovated to become the rowing basin for the 1976 Olympics. Over the next decade the Expo67 buildings deteriorated until the entire site was closed in 1984.

Today only a few remnants of the Expo67 pavilions still exist, and the two islands created for Canada’s largest centennial event have been turned into a vast park, named in honor of mayor Jean Drapeau, who is widely credited with the exposition’s success.

Considered to be the most successful World's Fair of the 20th century, Expo67 was a landmark event in Canadian history that brought proud Canadians together to celebrate the country’s centennial, and brought the world together to marvel in Man’s achievements and future potential.

Ronald Lafrenière is the publisher of the
Field Guide to the Cinderella Stamps of Canada
Available from [Bird Bear Press](http://www.birdbearpress.com)

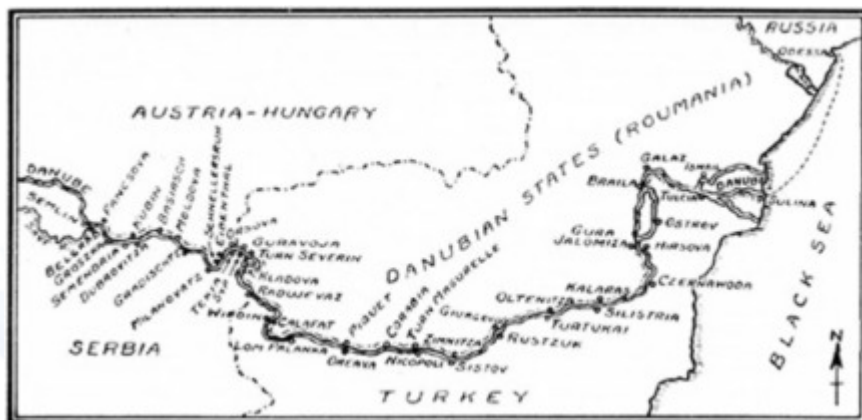
FAKES & FORGERIES

DDSG Forgeries *(click on images for a larger picture)*

This is a partial excerpt from a blog By Nelson Laviolette (Falshung)

The Donau Dampfschiffahrt Gesellschaft (DDSG) was established in 1829 by John Andrews and Joseph Pritchard, two British engineers in Vienna. The Austrian government granted them exclusive commercial navigation rights on the Danube.

In 1846 the DDSG agreed to carry mail between Austria and the Consular P.O.s in the Levant, and in 1866 the DDSG formally took responsibility for mail handled by its agents along the Danube. A uniform letter fee of 17k was charged (reduced to 10k in 1867) and the first DDSG stamps were issued.



Route served by the DDSG

The stamps were lithographed by H. Engle & Sohn, Vienna. By the time the use of stamps ended in 1880, there was sufficient collector demand for the stamps to be reprinted, and various reprints were made between 1880 and 1900.

Three different printing stones were made

Stone 1 - 17k in 10 different fields in regular repetition for a sheet of 100.

Stone 2 - According to records, the 10k was made by changing the "7" to a "0". This resulted in worn plates. This is a Type I and the 17k and 10k have specific characteristics.

Stone 3 - About 1878 a new die was made for printing the 10 k.

Green in type II, 20 different fields in five regular repetition.

It is estimated that at least 7 editions were printed resulting in many color variations.

Genuine Issues



Michel 1A, perf 12, probably a plate variation with flat top on the "s" of "schif"

The features of a genuine Type I 17k and 10k are clearly shown.

The flat tops of the "f"s. The two dots of color and the line between the ovals above the first "k"

As the printing stone wore these two dots tended to become faint, one or the other even disappearing on certain positions in the sheet.

Below Michel 1B & Michel 2 in dull lilac





FAKES & FORGERIES



Michel 3I with flat "f" top and Michel 3II with rounded "f" top. Right Michel 4 Type I

Forgeries

Three forgery types exist for all values and colours. Engelhardt Fohl and Francois Fournier both sold forgeries of DDSG stamps, but probably neither actually designed or printed DDSG forgeries themselves. The actual origin of the three forgery types remains a mystery.

Type F1

17 kreuzer, red.



1. "1" in "17" has only a very faint and rudimentary serif.
2. The "7" has an unusual shape and is the main trait



3. The background lacks wavy lines
 4. The "D" of "Dampf" is not inclined
 5. Large white margins
 6. The bar cancel is common with this forgery
 7. The inside oval has an irregular shape
 8. The perfs have small holes
- I have seen this forgery attributed to Spiro.

10 kreuzer, lilac-gray, green, red.

This has most of the issues shown above. The key is the missing dot after the "0".

The letters are all misshapen.



FAKES & FORGERIES

Type F2

10 kreuzer



Overall very crude

The "0" in "10" is higher than the "1"

White separating border

Most large letters touch the oval line

Type F3

This series has the best execution of quality. The perforations are very clean.

All of the letters of the inscription are slightly larger than those on the original stamps.

17 kreuzer



1. Cross bars on "t"s and "f"s go only to the right.
2. The "7" is curved
3. Tops of the "f" are rounded as in die II

10 kreuzer



An imperforate noted as fake (falsch)

All have the same characteristics as the 17k above

The forgeries are the easiest issue with DDSG stamps. The real challenge lies in the multitude of reprints/forgeries. These are covered in the [Falshung's Worldwide Forgeries](#) blog accessible as a TSF member.

References;

The Danube Steam Navigation Company - Hurt and Kelly, 1950

Forgery & Reprint Guide 7-8 - Barefoot, 1983

Austrian Post Offices Abroad by S.D.Tchilinghirian, 1962

Oesterreich 1850-1918 by Dr. Ulrich Ferchenbauer, 1974

Austria Netto Katalog, 2015

Michel Europe, 2012

Album Weeds by the Rev. R. B. Earee

FAKES & FORGERIES

How Common Are The Forgeries Of Classic Stamps And Why Are They So Plentiful?

By: Keijo Kortelainen (scb) ([click on images for a larger picture](#))

Originally published on scb's [Blog](#)

Carl Sagan, famous astronomer once said 'You have to know the past to understand the present'. These words hold very true for philatelic fakes, forgeries, facsimiles, reprints and the whole shady she-bang territory that comes along with collecting classic postage stamps. In order to understand the size and complexity of the problem, one has to understand the backgrounds that made stamp forgeries possible and common in the first place.

Though postal administrations have always been on the frontier of prevention of postal forgeries with use of cutting edge technical solutions such as watermarks, hidden identifiers, perforations (and later on phosphorescence, micro printing, holograms) etc., there has very rarely been any need of such protective measures. True postal forgeries are very rare creatures. Likely this relates to fact that postage stamps are legal tender, and the punishments for counterfeiting have been very severe throughout the world.

Instead the history of stamp forgeries is very much a history of early philatelic trade. Francois Fournier, Jean Baptiste Moens, Spiro Brothers, John Walter Scott, Senf brothers, Arthur Maury, Charles Hirschburger, Bela Szekula,... Names above are not just famous stamp forgers of the past, but many were also highly successful and even respected stamp dealers of their time, and some, like Scott and Maury exist even today as major brands. Huge quantities of different kinds of 'philatelic facsimiles' were ordered-to-manufacture by early stamp dealers, and then sold to stamp collectors.

At first in the 1850/60's creating facsimiles was small side-track designed to keep some wealthy collectors happy when filling spaces of exotic countries where even dealers struggled to provide genuine pieces, but as the popularity of stamp collecting grew in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, it became a bulk industry where massive numbers of both common and rare stamps were forged for the packet trade to fill the dreams and spaces of stamp hungry collectors. Needless to say many of these forgeries are still circling around, sometimes in much larger quantities than genuine pieces.



1919 Latvia Liberation of Kurland, showing St. George slaying the dragon. On the left a genuine pair, on the right a fake made for packet trade.

The key difference between these two is different stroking on the armpit and on foot. Also paper and perforation differ clearly from the original.

Neither stamp dealers, stamp collectors nor the officials found anything morally suspicious with the practice at first. In the 19th century it was considered quite acceptable to fill a space in stamp album with a facsimile or reprint when/if the genuine stamp was unavailable at reasonable costs.

Sometimes both buyer and seller knew the truth about the false origins, sometimes not. It was not until the rise of organized, more expensive and more specialized philately

in the 20th century that the practice of providing facsimiles and forgeries became frowned upon (this is also the era when Jean de Sperati, master forger extreme, created most of his work, and became known as only the forger who was able to fool philatelic experts, dealers and collectors hundreds of times before getting caught).

From the viewpoint of a general world collector possibly the most interesting question is how large a percentage of different classic era stamps have been forged in the 'old times'? Or in plain English, what is the risk of getting some forgeries when buying a world collection that has been untouched for 40-50 years or more?

FAKES & FORGERIES

Armed with a copy of G. Kock's 'World Forgery Catalogue' (free PDF book from author's website) and various stamp count data I've accumulated over the years, I did spend a couple of 'fun days' building an Excel sheet to combine different sets of data and crunch some numbers.

And the results are genuinely frightening. About 60% of major catalog number stamps from the Victorian era (1840-1899) have been forged in some extent, and about 20% of stamps issued between 1900-1940 are known to have forgeries. And remember, this is based on a list of forgeries known before the rise of Internet. The numbers are guaranteed to be even higher these days, so it is definitely buyer beware.

That said, the above numbers do not reflect the true quantity of forgeries out there. Many of the early forgeries were produced in very limited numbers, and the forgeries are often times scarcer than the original pieces. Also the forgeries are often times heavy on specific countries or stamp types (such as overprints and genuinely hard-to-get stamps) whereas other truly common stamps are pretty much unaffected by the issue. As such the real world risk decreases significantly for majority of countries/entities.

For example I've got closer to 12,000 different (IMHO) genuine stamps from the classic era, and only about ~500 forgeries. So the real world odds (at least on the 'entry level' where I'm collecting) are more like five fakes per hundred additions. But the further (and more difficult areas) one advances, the plenty they will likely come.

Possibly the hardest challenge for world a collector like myself is to become and remain aware of most common forgeries out there, and what countries/issues to specifically look out for. That is something where having and studying reference lists such as Kock's book provides an invaluable starting point. But if there are somewhat endless number of genuine stamp varieties to hunt for, the list of stamp forgers and their works and characteristics is equally long and varied. And I fear most of the stuff out there is not listed in any of the reference books or guides. The best a stamp collector can do is read, learn, observe with their own eyes, and share any tidbits that cross their path.



1892 Reunion, genuine or not. Both Fournier and his assistant/successor Charles Hirschburger reproduced stamps of the Navigation and Commerce series used in 29 French colonies, contributing potentially up to 500 face different forgeries of these stamps in large quantities for packet mixtures.

Genuine stamps should have perforation of $14 \times 13\frac{1}{2}$ with the small fruit (on the left side of bowl) round and not protruding the edge of bowl. In addition Mars should have a belly button, and the hand on the staff should have well defined fingers.

With fakes the perforations are either 12 (Fournier) or $13\frac{1}{2} \times 14$ (Hirschburger), the small fruit should merge/protrude with the edge of bowl, Mars has lost his belly button, the hand on staff should appear blurred. In addition there are modern fakes on these that are very convincing except that they appear line perforated.

The problem with this pair is that the right side stamp fails the fruit bowl test, but passes on the others. Is it just a

harmless inking freak or something more sinister? And for the record, true perforation of genuine stamps is IMHO 14.3×13.4 , not $14 \times 13\frac{1}{2}$ as mentioned in catalogs and various references. When it comes to identification of forgeries, then it all comes down to tiny details and precision.

Stamp Oddities

WILL ROGERS

US 1948 Famous Americans



BEFORE SETTLING DOWN AS THE COMMON MAN'S PHILOSOPHER, HE HAD BEEN ALMOST EVERYTHING ELSE. HE WAS A CIRCUS PERFORMER AND AN ACTOR ON STAGE AND FILM. HE WAS A SYNDICATED NEWSPAPER COLUMNIST, A LECTURER, AND AUTHOR OF MANY BOOKS.



COWBOY HUMORIST (1879-1935)
WILL ROGERS, THE COWBOY HUMORIST OF STAGE, SCREEN AND RADIO WAS THE MOST BELOVED FIGURE OF HIS TIME.

WILLIAM ADAM ROGERS WAS BORN ON A RANCH AT OOLOGAH, IN WHAT WAS THEN INDIAN TERRITORY, BUT CALLED CLAREMORE, OKLA., HIS HOMETOWN. EXPERT COWPUNCHER AND LARIAT THROWER, YOUNG WILL ROGERS WAS PROUD OF HIS CHEROKEE INDIAN HERITAGE. ONE OF HIS FAMOUS REMARKS WAS "MY ANCESTORS DIDN'T COME OVER ON THE MAYFLOWER. THEY MET THE BOAT."



Wrong Person



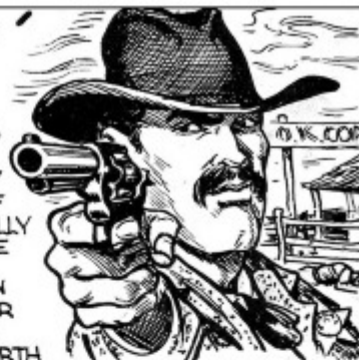
This Newfoundland stamp of 1897 depicts John Cabot the explorer and navigator whose name was actually Giovanni Caboto. However his son, Sebastian Cabot is shown.

'WYATT EARP'

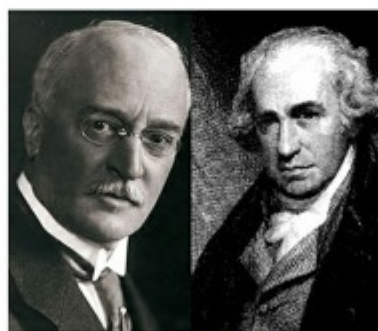
THE SHIP, THE 'WYATT EARP' FEATURED ON THIS FALKLAND ISLANDS DEPENDENCIES STAMP HAD AN UNUSUAL CAREER. BUILT AS A MOTOR FISHING VESSEL IN NORWAY IN 1910 WITH A DISPLACEMENT OF 400 TONS, THE SHIP WAS ORIGINALLY NAMED 'FANEFJORD'. IN 1935 THE VESSEL WAS ACQUIRED BY THE AMERICAN EXPLORER LINCOLN ELLSWORTH



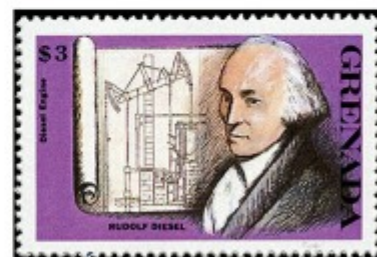
WHO RENAMED HER 'WYATT EARP' - AFTER THE NOTORIOUS MARSHAL OF TOMBSTONE, ARIZONA. AFTER MANY TRIPS TO ANTARCTICA, THE SHIP WAS RE-NAMED 'WONGALA' AND SERVED IN AUSTRALIAN COASTAL WATERS....



Two Wrongs Don't Make A Right



Rudolf DIESEL James WATT



The images of James Watt and Rudolf Diesel were interchanged on these two Grenada stamps



TSF Highlights

Several member offerings highlighted the past two months:



bobby1948

Bobby offered packets of all different stamps from over 35 countries with 1000's of stamps - **FREE**.

Winners were drawn regularly and the draws continue. Join in on the **next one!**



jl

A nice set of US prexies was offered on a give-away in March



JamesW

James offered a great assortment of stamps for **auction**. The proceeds went to a worthy cause - Ride To Conquer Cancer



Firstfrog2013

A key highlight was the auction donation from firstfrog to support the forum costs. Day after day, early Canada stamps were added - mints, blocks, imperforates, coils, pairs kept coming.

Here is a PORTION of what was offered.



Thanks go out to **firstfrog** for his generous offer and **Beryllium Guy** who posted the winning bid.

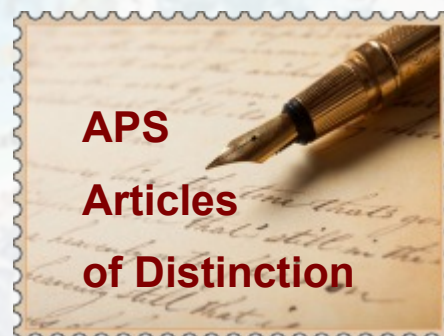
THE STAMP FORUM



APS Chapter 1591 News

By Steve Tomisek, APS Chapter Representative

In September 2017 we'll conduct our first [APS Articles of Distinction](#) competition to select the "best article" submitted during the previous year. Information on the competition and article submission is available [in this thread](#) on the Forum. Although still not formalized, initial thought is for a two-part selection process. The first part would use the Forum's polling feature to select the "best" article from each issue; the second part would involve polling to select the best of those chosen from each issue."



If you've been on the APS website lately you should have noticed that PayPal service is available for purchases from [StampStore](#), Circuit Sales, and APS specialty items, including books, souvenirs, and other merchandise. There are more than 300,000 stamps and covers for sale on StampStore; books, DVDs, neckties, polo shorts, hobby supplies, and event souvenirs are sold through the [APS Specialty Shop](#). You don't need to be an APS member to make purchases; however, members receive a discounted price.

APS held its AmeriStamp Expo in Reno, Nevada during March and StampShow is set for Richmond, Virginia during August 2017.

If you plan on joining the American Philatelic Society, please remember that our Chapter will receive \$5 for each new member that it has referred. When completing your application, enter "Chapter 1591 APS#C-222596" on the sponsor line. Contact me by forum message if you'd like more information.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding our Chapter or the APS, please feel free to contact me (tomiseksj) via the Forum's private messaging system.

Forum Membership:

As of this writing (March 10), we have 380 members on our rolls, having joined 28 new members in the roughly two months since our last newsletter was published. Twelve of those new members have created a thread on the New Member Introductions board and are now able to take part in almost all areas of the Forum.

We still have quite a few members who have not logged in to the forum for over a year (160) and a similar number (152) who have yet to post their introductions so are unable to participate in discussions.

If you have ideas on how to increase member participation, please send them to me via the Forum's private messaging system.

Newsletter Giveaway:



If you'd like to be included in the giveaway drawing for a used set of U.S. postal note stamps just log in to the forum and send a message to tomiseksj indicating your desire to participate. The only requirement for entry is that you must have introduced yourself on the New Member Introductions board.

The winner will be chosen on May 1, 2017 in a random drawing from among all those who have sent their messages prior to Midnight, New York time on April 30th.

THE STAMP FORUM



The Stamp Forum Newsletter is a bi-monthly publication of The Stamp Forum. Opinions expressed in articles in this newsletter are not necessarily endorsed by the forum and the forum cannot be responsible for the accuracy of any information printed herein.

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Steve Tomisek (tomiseksj)*

***APS Chapter Representative**

EDITOR: Nelson Laviolette (falschung)

Forum staff may be contacted using the private message system

**JOIN THE
FORUM**

Membership is free; apply online.

Members enjoy ad-free viewing when signed in

Once you have made your introduction, staff will add you to the ****Members**** group. You will then be able to post in all the boards except the Buy Sell and Trade (for this you will need 50 quality posts and membership for at least two weeks).

Voluntary donations support ad-free viewing.

Send information requests to stampforum.net@gmail.com