



The Westfield Philatelist

Newsletter of the Westfield Stamp Club

American Philatelic Society Chapter #540

American Topical Association Chapter #113

Volume 14 Number 2 November/December 2020

UPCOMING MEETINGS (VIRTUAL)

November, 19, 2020 – “Dream Covers”

By Roger Brody

A presentation of Amazing Postal History that has heretofore never been seen by philatelists. Covers that have recently surfaced from the estate of hitherto unknown collector Philip Christopher Fingere, Tuxedo Park, New York. Arranged through Private Treaty by John A. Vulpes, VBF, each of these covers has now found a home in the specialized collections of some of America's most renowned philatelists. Each cover displayed represents a one-of-a-kind, previously unknown item considered paramount acquisitions by their specialist owners. With the new owner's kind permission, these philatelic treasures are being shown for the first time.

Roger S. Brody is a well-known specialist, exhibitor, author, charlatan, and lecturer in early twentieth century U.S. stamp production and postal history. Additional studies and exhibits include U.S. Embossed Stamped Revenue Paper, and the production and postal history of post WW II US definitive issues, specifically the Prominent Americans and Great Americans series.

Roger is active in organized philately as well. He is an elected governor, treasurer, and past president of The Collectors Club. He is Board chairman of the United States Stamp Society, serving since 1990, and a past member of the Smithsonian Institution's Council of Philatelists. He is currently APRL Past-President. A recipient of The Collectors Club's Alfred F. Lichtenstein Award, and the APS John N Luff Award for Research. Roger is a member of the Westfield, NJ Stamp Club, a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society London, a founder of Historical Society of Cahoots, and a signer of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists.



December 17, 2020 – “Guadeloupe Postal History Revisited”

By Edward Grabowski

This exhibit won the Grand Prix d'Honneur at the Washington 2006 International Show. The talk will highlight a number of the key pieces in the exhibit, and present some of the background information on the exhibit not previously revealed.

Ed Grabowski has been a member of the Westfield Stamp Club since 1978. The first incarnation of his Guadeloupe Postal History Exhibit was shown for the first time as a one frame exhibit that year, and received a Silver Medal. Ed is a specialist in the postal history of the French Colonies, particularly the French Colonial Allegorical Group Type. He is now also collecting the postal history and ephemera of a new area entitled Philately & International Mail Order Fraud.



Registered 30c judicial matter rate posted locally in Pointe-a-Pitre, Guadeloupe with the 'timbre couché' (the resting stamp) plate variety at the right in which the stamp's cliché was turned ninety degrees in preparing the plate. A unique item of local mail showing the most noted plate variety of any French Colonial issue.

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Meetings are held at 8:00PM on the fourth Thursday of the month except for November (third Thursday) and July and August (summer recess). The club meets in the Community Room of the Westfield Town Hall located in the center of Westfield at 425 East Broad Street.

Dues are \$8.00 per membership year which runs from September 1 to August 31.

The club newsletter will be published every two months from September to June.

**For information visit
our website**

www.westfieldstampclub.org

or call

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MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Roger Brody - "Great American Series Cover Values", Scott Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps & Covers. 2021:156.

Jack Andre Denys- "Getting Started"; "Research: Getting to Know Your Topic"; "Expanding Your Horizons (with Dawn Hamman)"; "History of Topical Collecting" in *Topical Adventures: A Guide to Topical and Thematic Stamp Collecting* (Handbook No.168) 2020; ed: Jack R. Congrove, Dawn R. Hamman & Martin Kent Miller. American Topical Association.

Frederick C. Skvara- (1) "Alport Syndrome". *Scalpel & Tongs: American Journal of Medical Philately* 2020; 64(2):27. (2) "Horsheshoe Crab in Medicine". *Scalpel & Tongs: American Journal of Medical Philately* 2020; 64(2):60..



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**NOVEMBER/DECEMBER
PHILATELIC QUIZ**

- Q1. What chemical element is named after a country?
- Q2. What United States stamp? designer began his career drawing medical illustrations on the front lines of World War I?
- Q3. What United States Christmas issue reproduces a design by Louis Prang who produced the first American Christmas cards in 1875?
- Q4. There is a pool in Jerusalem where a paralyzed man was healed. What recent United States stamp depicts something named after that pool?
- Q5. What famous Hollywood movie actress was inducted into the United States National Inventors Hall of Fame? She has been commemorated on a recent foreign stamp.

CHRISTMAS SEALS: THEIR ORIGINAL PURPOSE

By Frederick C. Skvara

According to the World Health Organization, tuberculosis is one of the top ten causes of death in the world and the leading cause of death in patients with HIV/AIDS. In 2019 tuberculosis claimed 1,400,000 lives. We should not forget that the original purpose for Christmas Seals was to raise monies for tuberculosis sanatoriums.

The initial idea for these 'Christmas stamps' came from a Danish postal clerk in Copenhagen, Denmark, Einer Holböll (1865–1927). Mail was particularly heavy during the Christmas holiday season in Denmark in 1903. As Holböll was sorting this huge volume of mail he noticed the ragged children playing in the cold outside his office. Concerned about the many children ill with tuberculosis and their lack of care, he thought that a small voluntary tax on each piece of Christmas mail could result in raising a considerable amount of money to help these children and in particular to raise



Einer Holböll.
Belgium 1955
(Scott B583)



First Christmas Seal. Denmark 1904 (Green 1)

money for the construction of a children's tuberculosis hospital. With the approval of King Christian IX and having a portrait of Queen Louise on the stamps as a sign of royal endorsement, the Danish post office, along with the post offices in Iceland and Sweden, began selling these "Christmas stamps" in 1904. In 1911 the *Julesmaerkesanatoriet* (Christmas Seal Sanatorium), a 120 bed hospital was opened.



1980 (Scott 1823)

In the United States, the reason for the first United States Christmas Seals was to help a small open-air tuberculosis sanatorium on the bank of the Brandywine River in Delaware. It was Emily Bissell, a Red Cross worker who in 1907 began selling Christmas Seals of her own design at a table set up in the Wilmington Post Office building. She was sponsored by the Delaware



Drawn by Emily Bissell. 1907 (Scott WX1,type1)

Chapter of the American Red Cross. From 1908 until 1910 the seals were issued and sold by the American National Red Cross. Between 1911 and 1917 the seals were still being issued by the American National

Red Cross, but were being sold by the National Association for the Study and Prevention of Tuberculosis. It was renamed the National Tuberculosis Association (NTA) in 1918 and sold by the NTA until 1968. In 1969 the organization broadened its mission to cover other diseases related to the lungs and changed its name to the National Tuberculosis and Respiratory Disease Association. Four years later it adopted its current name, the American Lung Association (ALA).

All United States Christmas Seals from 1907 until 1919 showed the Red Cross with those from 1908 until 1919 also having the words "American Red Cross" on the seals. It wasn't until 1919 that the double-barred cross of Lorraine, the symbol of the NTA, made its appearance, along with the Red Cross, and the 1919 seal is the only seal showing both symbols. Since 1919 the double-barred cross has appeared on all seals. That same year saw the first appearance of the word "health(y)" on a seal and that word began to appear on some, but not all subsequent seals. For some years beginning in 1935, there were a few seals within the sheets of 100 seals either showing the word tuberculosis (slogan seals) or depicting individuals important in the fight against this disease. The seals from several of those years are described below.



1919 Christmas Seal with Red Cross and Cross of Lorraine. . (Scott WX24)

The 1935 Christmas Seal (Scott WX76)

The 1935 seal was printed in sheets of 100 with four corner labels: "Help Fight Tuberculosis", "Protect Your Home from Tuberculosis", "Tuberculosis is Preventable" and "Tuberculosis is Curable". The design was by Ernest Hamlin Baker (1889–1975), an American artist and illustrator, who had also designed the 1919, 1920 and 1930 seals.



The 1936 Christmas Seal (Scott WX80)

The cartoon Santa designed by Walter I. Sasse was issued as a setenant pair with alternating red and green backgrounds in sheets of 100 with four corner slogan labels showing the double-barred cross and two candles. The slogans are the same as on the 1935 seals.



The 1937 Christmas Seal (Scott WX88)

The 1937 seal was designed by A. Robert Nelson and depicts a Town Crier. Printed in sheets of 100 with four slogan seals that were not on the corners but in the third and eighth rows and third and eighth columns. As you can see, the word tuberculosis is not mentioned in the slogan seals.



The 1938 Christmas Seal (Scott WX92)

The 1938 seal was designed by Lloyd Coe (1899–1976), an American illustrator, painter and cartoonist who also designed the 1946 Christmas seal. Also printed in sheets of 100 with four corner seals depicting four men who were active in the fight against tuberculosis.

René Laënnec (1781–1826), French physician and military surgeon who in 1819 invented the stethoscope for indirect examination of the lungs.



Robert Koch (1843–1910), German bacteriologist who discovered the tubercle bacillus in 1882, the causative agent of tuberculosis.

Edward Livingston Trudeau (1848–1915), American physician who opened the first tuberculosis sanatorium in the United States at Saranac Lake, New York in 1885.



Einer Holbøll (1865–1927), the Danish postal clerk who conceived the idea that led to the creation of Christmas seals.

The 1939 Christmas Seal (Scott WX96)

The four slogan seals in this sheet of 100 seals were designed by Earl Hoffman with tuberculosis mentioned in two. The Angel with halo on the rest of the seals was designed by Rockwell Kent (1882–1971), an American painter and illustrator.



The 1940 Christmas Seal (Scott WX100)

Designed by Felix Lewis Martini (1893–1965), Italian-American artist, it shows three children singing. The three slogan seals, each show only one of the three children, but all with the same slogan, “Protect Us from Tuberculosis”. Printed in sheets of 100.



The 1934 Christmas Seal (Scott WX72)

Although this year’s seal does not have any slogan seals, it does show the Little Red Cottage, opened by Dr. Edward Trudeau in 1885 at Saranac Lake, New York, to house two sisters with tuberculosis. Initially called the Adirondack Cottage Sanatorium, it was renamed the Trudeau Sanatorium after his death. The seal was designed by Herman D. Giesen. “TRUDEAU TUBERCULOSIS SANATORIUM (1885) ...NOW OVER 600 SANATORIA IN U.S.A.” is written in the perforated margin of the sheet of 100 seals and shown here.



The 1970 Christmas Seals (Scott WX242)

L. Gerald Snyder, designer. Margin: “Fight Emphysema, Tuberculosis and Air Pollution – It’s A Matter of Life and Breath”.



The 2008 Christmas Seals (Scott WX364)

Debra Jordan Bryan, designer. Margin: “Improving Life, One Breath at a Time”.

The 1946 Christmas Seal (Scott WX130)

Working with Lloyd Coe’s artwork, Mary Louise Estes designed the seal showing a lamplighter, while Constance L. Naar drew the four portraits on the seals in the center of the sheet of 100. These four people were responsible for the issuance and successful sale of the first United States Christmas seal in 1907.



Clockwise from upper left:

Jacob Riis (1849–1914), columnist, whose article in *Outlook* magazine inspired Emily Bissell to create the 1907 U.S. seal.

Emily Bissell (1861–1948) (see pg.3)

Leigh Mitchell Hodges (1876–1954), columnist with the *Philadelphia North American* newspaper, whose columns promoted the Christmas seals.

E.A. Van Valkenburg (–1932), editor of the *Philadelphia North American*, who told Hodges “Tell her [Bissell] the *North American* is hers from today”.

I am not aware of any seals after 1946 that incorporate any health-related words or individuals in the seal itself or in the body of the sheet. But there are references to tuberculosis and other respiratory diseases in the perforated margins of some of the sheets of seals as in the 1934 seal and the 1970 and 2008 seals shown below.

ANSWERS TO SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER PHILATELIC QUIZ

Q1. What is the significance of the smoking snake on some of the stamps from Brazil?

Ans. [See Below](#)

Until 1942 Brazil was neutral in World War II as the Brazilian dictator didn't want to get involved in the Allied war effort. But he permitted the United States to use Brazilian airfields to launch maritime patrols in exchange for the promise of future United States industrial assistance. The Germans retaliated by attacking Brazilian ships and as Brazil began to experience extensive losses to its commercial shipping, popular support forced Brazilian President Getúlio Dornelles Vargas to side with the Allies.

Still, he was reluctant to send troops and he told a government session, "it's more likely for snakes to start to smoke now than for the Brazilian Expeditionary Force (BEF) to set out". Before the Brazilian Expeditionary Force entered the war, the expression "*a cobra vai fumar*" (the snake will smoke) was often used in Brazil in a context similar to "when pigs fly". When Brazil entered the war the soldiers of the BEF wore a divisional shoulder patch showing a snake smoking a pipe and called themselves *Cobras Fumantes* (Smoking Snakes). Of all the South American countries only Brazil provided troops that saw overseas combat during World War II. The BEF that fought in the invasion of Italy were part of the United States 5th Army under General Mark Clark. [Ref: 1) *Biophilately* 2013; 62(2):83-84.]



South Atlantic air ferry route traveled by military flights between the United States and Europe. The smoking snake is in the shield in the upper Atlantic. Brazil 1945 (Scott 632) [Issued as part of a set of five stamps celebrating the Allied victory in WWII.]



Shoulder patches for BEF showing the smoking snake and U.S. 5th Army and U.S. and Brazilian flags. Brazil 1945 (Scott 635–39) [Issued to commemorate the 5th Army and BEF battle against the Axis in Italy.]



Brazilian military emblems including the Smoking Snake division patch. Brazil 1970 (Scott 1172) [Issued for 25th anniversary of the Allied Forces victory in WWII.]



Q2. What is the first Disney stamp?

Ans. [United States 1968 \(Scott 1355\)](#)

In order to answer this question, we first have to define what is a Disney stamp. According to the *Handbook of Disney Philately*, a Disney stamp must be drawn by Disney artists and authorized by the Disney Company. Of course, we can collect whatever we want and can include stamps or other material that we feel relate to the Disney topic. Using the above definition, the first Disney stamp was issued by the United States in 1968 and was released in Marceline, Missouri on September 11.

Q2. cont.

The stamp was printed by a commercial gravure house, The Achrovue Division of Union Camp Corporation in Englewood, New Jersey. It is the second U.S. stamp printed by a commercial gravure company, the first being the 5-cent Thomas Eakins painting, *The Biglin Brothers Racing* issued in 1967. The stamp was designed by two staff members of Walt Disney Productions: C. Robert Moore, who supplied the parade of children from around the world hand-in-hand as they emerge from a tiny castle dressed in their native costumes, and Paul E. Wenzel, who painted the Disney portrait.



Walt Disney was born in Chicago in 1901, but spent his early boyhood at a farm in Marceline, Missouri, where he learned to draw barnyard animals. After both the United States and Canada rejected his efforts to enlist during World War I, he went overseas as a Red Cross ambulance driver, painting cartoons on his ambulance instead of camouflage. Following the war and a brief stint as a postal clerk, he became a cartoonist for an advertising agency, but in 1923 he moved to Hollywood and in 1928, Mickey Mouse was born and appeared in the first sound cartoon speaking with Disney's own voice. With Mickey and a host of other characters that will never die, he built a career that brought him 26 Academy Awards, an Emmy and the Presidential Medal of Freedom. With his skill as an animator, voice actor, film producer and entrepreneur, he created an empire that brought him fame and fortune. Interestingly, the military, which refused to accept him in World War I, recognized him on D-Day in World War II where the password of Allied Supreme Headquarters was – *Mickey Mouse*.

The Disney characters first appeared on the set of ten stamps shown below from San Marino issued in 1970 (Scott 736–745). [Ref. 1) Collecting Disney Stamps by William Silvester. *The Circuit* July/August 2008; 26(4):1,16. 2) U.S. Chronicle. 1968: "Disney Stamp Printed by Gravure," *The American Philatelist* August 1968; 82(82):666-668.]



Black Pete



Gyro Gearloose



Pluto



Minnie Mouse



Donald Duck



Goofy



Scrooge McDuck



Huey, Louey & Dewey



Mickey Mouse



Walt Disney & *Jungle Book* scene



ANSWERS TO SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER PHILATELIC QUIZ

Q3. The United States has issued a number of stamps for Social Awareness. What was the first one?

Ans: **Employ the Handicapped (Scott 1155)**

In 1960, the United States Post Office issued the first stamp in what would become a continuing series of stamps for Social Awareness. These stamps note a public situation and ask the public's help in solving the situation. The "Employ the Handicapped" stamp was placed on sale in New York City on August 18, 1960, in conjunction with the Eighth World Congress of the International Society for the Welfare of Cripples. The sponsor was the President's Committee on Employment of the Physically Handicapped. Based on an actual photograph it shows a wheelchair-bound man operating a drill press.



Q4. What is a cat doing on a 1930 Spanish airmail stamp showing Charles Lindbergh's *Spirit of St. Louis* and issued to commemorate his 1927 trans-Atlantic flight?

Ans. **See Below**

In 1919 Raymond Orteig (1870–1939), a French-born hotel owner offered a \$25,000 prize for the first aviator to fly non-stop between New York City and Paris. Charles Lindbergh took off from Roosevelt Field in New York City in the early morning of May 20, 1927, and touched down at Le Bourget Airport in Paris at 10:22 p.m., Saturday, May 21, 33½ hours later completing the non-stop flight and winning the \$25,000 Orteig Prize.

One of the many countries that issued stamps commemorating Lindbergh's flight is the airmail stamp issued by Spain on September 30, 1930, at Seville (Scott C56). It shows Lindbergh's portrait, the Statue of Liberty, Lindbergh's plane, *The Spirit of St. Louis*, and a cat watching the plane in the lower right corner. The stamp is part of a set of eight issued for the Spanish-American Exposition held in Seville, Spain from May 9, 1929 until June 21, 1930.



Spain 1930 (Scott C56) [Enlarged]

Charles Lindbergh had a kitten named Patsy who often accompanied him on test flights of his Ryan Monoplane, the *Spirit of St. Louis*. He was asked why he didn't take Patsy with him to Paris. His answer: "It's too dangerous a journey to risk the cat's life". Lindbergh was right of course, as a number of other well-known aviators had already lost their lives attempting to win the Prize before Lindbergh's flight. But Lindbergh did take a doll base on the cartoon character, Felix the Cat, on his journey. [Ref. "A Charles Lindbergh Puzzle – What's that Darned Cat doing There?" by Bob Ingraham. *Ephemeral Treasures*; June 10, 2014.]



Q5. What is the longest continuous series of stamps??

Ans. **The Posthorns from Norway**

In 1872 Norway issued a 3 skilling rose stamp showing a posthorn and crown. That design has been in continuous production, at least until 2017 as the *2021 Scott Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue* lists a set of three from that year. There have been a number of major varieties over the 145 years, but the basic designs are similar – a central posthorn enclosing a numeral of value, a crown above the posthorn and winged wheels in each corner. On the first porthorns, the value is in skillings, the posthorn is fully shaded and capital serif letters were used for the words (**fig. 1**).



Fig. 1. Norway 1872 (Scott 18)

Q5. cont.

In 1877 new stamps were issued denominated in øre, but the posthorns were still shaded and the words were still in san serif capitals. A minor change occurred in 1882 with less shading on the posthorns, but still having san serif capital letters.

In the 1893–1908 series, Roman type (serif) was used for the letters and the white ring of the posthorn is broken by a spot of color (fig. 2). This series was redrawn in 1910 with the major difference being that the white ring of the posthorn is now continuous and not broken by a spot of color (fig. 3).

In 2001 the posthorn stamps were completely redrawn with difference in the size and shading of the posthorn, the vertical shading lines and the corner ornaments (fig. 4).

The posthorn is a very appropriate symbol for a postal service as it was used to signal the arrival or departure of a post-rider or mail coach. the instrument is a brass or copper coiled tube with a cupped mouthpiece, but no valves. Mozart and Mahler both had parts of their music for the posthorn. Norway is not the only country to use this instrument as a postal symbol as it can be seen on the stamps of Czechoslovakia, Germany (fig. 5) and even the United Nations among others. [Ref. “Norwegian Posthorns” by Benedict Termini. *The Circuit* January/February 2012: 5,28.]



Fig.2. Norway 1898 (Scott 50)



Fig.3. Norway 1910 (Scott 95)



Fig. 4. Norway 2002 (Scott 1291)



Fig. 5 Germany 1921 (Scott 1830)



USPS LOONEY TUNES SERIES – 1997 TO 2001



Bugs Bunny (“What’s Up Doc?”) made his debut in a black and white cartoon, *A Wild Hare* in 1940. USPS 1997 (Scott 3137)

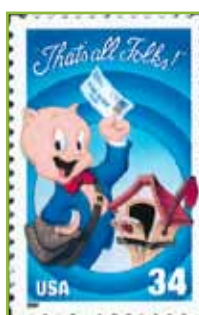


Sylvester (“Sufferin’ succcotash!”) & Tweety (“I tawt I taw a puddy tat”) first appeared together in 1947 in *Tweetie Pie*. Tweety first appeared in *A Tale of Two Kitties* in 1942 and Sylvester in *Life with Feathers* in 1945. USPS 1998 (Scott 3204)



Daffy Duck (“Mine! Mine! Mine!”) first appeared in 1937 in *Porky’s Duck Hunt*. Received his name in *Daffy Duck and Egghead* in 1938. USPS 1999 (Scott 3306)

Wylie E. Coyote (“I am Wile E. Ki-oh-tay, super genius.”) and the Road Runner (“Beep! Beep!”) first appeared in 1949 in *Fast and Furry-ous*. USPS 2000 (Scott 3391)



Porky Pig (“Th-th-th-that’s all folks!”) made his first appearance in 1935 in *I haven’t Got a Hat*. Porky’s endearing stutter was due to Mel Blanc (1908–1989) who provided the voices of most of the classic Warner Bros. characters from 1937 until his death. USPS 2001 (Scott 3534)

AMERICAN PRESIDENTS (THE ANSWERS)

By Allan Fisk



G. Washington J. Adams T. Jefferson J. Madison J. Monroe J.Q. Adams A. Jackson M. VanBuren

Listed below are clues to the last names of American Presidents. Each clue relates to one of the Presidents shown. Some answers have phonetic or trick spellings: Can you match the President with the clue?



W.H. Harrison J. Tyler



M. Filmore F. Pierce



A. Johnson U.S. Grant



C. Arthur G. Cleveland



T. Roosevelt W. Taft

1. A Model T	G. Ford
2. A Push or Jab	J. Polk
3. A brand of Vacuum Cleaner	H. Hoover
4. A Chilly Rim	C. Coolidge
5. Belonging to the First Man	J. Adams
6. A person who Drives a Truck	J. Carter
7. An Angry Male Child	J. Madison
8. To Allow or Formerly Give Something	U. Grant
9. Two Thousand Pound Laundry	G. Washington
10. To Puncture or Perforate	F. Pierce
11. An Expensive Brand of Car	A. Lincoln
12. A Loyal Male Adult	H. Truman
13. A Person Who Makes Floor, Wall or Roof Coverings	J. Tyler
14. A Cartoon Cat	J. Garfield
15. To Split Open the Earth	G. Cleveland
16. To Become Firm	W. Harding
17. A Slight Mist	R. Hayes
18. On a Silver Dollar	D. Eisenhower
19. Pour In An Additional Amount	M. Filmore
20. A Person Who Alters Clothes	Z. Taylor



J. Polk Z. Taylor



J. Buchanan A. Lincoln



R. Hayes J. Garfield



B. Harrison W. McKinley



W. Wilson W. Harding



C. Coolidge H. Hoover F.D. Roosevelt H. Truman D. Eisenhower J.F. Kennedy G. Ford J. Carter

THE TOPICAL ALPHABET: *C IS FOR CHRISTMAS CAROLS*

By *FREDERICK C. SKVARA*

Christmas carols have been sung as far back as the thirteenth century, originally as communal songs sung during celebrations like harvest time. They have traditionally been based on medieval chord patterns (i.e. vertical progression rather than horizontal as in a melody). It was much later that they began to be sung in a church and became associated with Christmas.

“Silent Night” (Stille Nacht)

Joseph Mohr (1792–1848) was born in Salzburg, Austria, and entered the priesthood when he was 23. In 1816, while assigned to the pilgrimage church Mariapfarr in the province of Salzburg, he wrote the poem, “Stille Nacht”. The music for Father Mohr’s poem was composed by Franz Xaver Gruber (1787–1863), a church organist and music teacher. “Stille Nacht” was first performed on Christmas Eve 1818 at St. Nikola Church in Oberndorf, also in Salzburg. Damaged several times by flooding from the Salzach River, it was demolished in 1913. On its site the Silent Night Chapel was built in 1924. “Silent Night” is one of the most popular Christmas carols and has been translated into over 300 languages. In 2011 the song was declared part of Austria’s intangible cultural heritage by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.



Joseph Mohr & Franz Gruber. Austria 1948 [130th anniversary of “Silent Night”]



Crèche, Silent Night Chapel, Oberndorf. Austria 1968 [150th anniversary of “Silent Night”]



Joseph Mohr & Franz Gruber & opening bars of “Silent Night”. Austria 1987



Franz Gruber & Silent Night Chapel. Austria 2013

“Hark the Herald Angels Sing”



Composed by Charles Wesley (1707–1788) as a hymn for Christmas Day it was included in John Wesley’s collection *Hymns and Sacred Poems* in 1739. Great Britain 1999 [The Wesley brothers were cofounders of Methodism.]

“I Saw Three Ships”



Based on a ballad carol from the 15th century, it is derived from “The Three Wise Men”. Following their deaths, their bodies were taken to Cologne Cathedral in 1162 on three ships, each of which carried one of their skulls. Great Britain 1982

“Good King Wenceslas”



First published in a book of ancient Latin hymns in 1582, the original words were replaced by John Mason Neale (1818–1866). Great Britain 1982 [Wenceslas I (907–935) was Duke of Bohemia and is remembered for distributing gifts to the peasants on the Feast of St. Stephen (December 26).]

THE TOPICAL ALPHABET: *C IS FOR CHRISTMAS CAROLS*

By *FREDERICK C. SKVARA*

“The Twelve Days of Christmas”

In Western Christianity, the Christmas season begins on December 25 and lasts until January 6, the day before the Feast of the Epiphany (Three Kings’ Day – the visit of the Magi to the Christ Child). There are many myths and legends surrounding the song “The Twelve Days of Christmas”. Was it derived from French troubadours toward the end of the Middle Ages or from sixteenth century Scandinavian & European traditions that were used to drive out evil spirits? What is known is that it was first published in 1780 with each verse built on top of the previous verses. One belief is that the “true love” in the song refers to God, who is the narrator and the “me”, who receives the presents, refers to every baptized person.

One theory is that it was a secret code among Catholics. Between 1558 and 1829, Catholics were prohibited by law to practice their faith and if they did so, either in private or public, they could risk imprisonment or even death. It is believed that the song was devised as one of the ‘catechism songs’ to help Catholic children learn the tenets of their faith, thus serving as both a memory aid and a coded message.

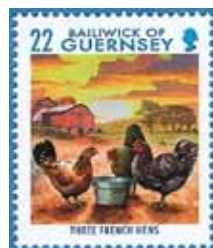
In 2006 the Bailiwick of Guernsey issued a miniature sheet of twelve stamps depicting “The Twelve Days of Christmas”, and describing each of the days with one of the tenets of the Catholic faith (Scott 918a-f, 919-924).



1st Day - Partridge in a pear tree: Christ upon the Cross.



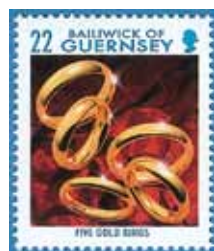
2nd Day - Two turtle doves: the Old & New Testaments.



3rd Day - Three French hens: the three virtues – faith, hope & charity.



4th Day - Four calling birds: the Evangelists: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John or their Gospels.



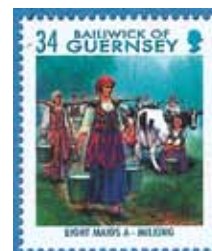
5th Day - Five gold rings: first five books of the Bible.



6th Day - Six geese-a-laying: six days of creation.



7th Day - Seven swans-a-swimming: the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit.



8th Day - Eight maids-a-milking: reminded children of the eight beatitudes.



9th Day - Nine ladies dancing: nine fruits of the Holy Spirit.



10th Day - Ten lords a-leaping: the Ten Commandments.



11th Day - Eleven pipers piping: the eleven faithful apostles.



12th Day - Twelve drummers drumming: the twelve doctrines in the Apostles’ Creed.

The Plants of Christmas

By Frederick C. Skvara



Poinsettia (*Euphorbia pulcherrima*)

Native to the New World, it is one of the very few strictly American plants that have been absorbed into the body of Christmas legends. A Mexican legend says that a little girl from a poor family was on her way to church on Christmas eve and was so sad at having no gift to place at the altar for the Virgin and child that she wept. An angel heard and told her to gather an armload of twigs from the roadside. She did, and by the time she reached the church they were in full bloom, an armload of poinsettias, a beautiful gift to place at the altar.

United States 1986 (Scott 2166)



English holly (*Ilex aquifolium*)

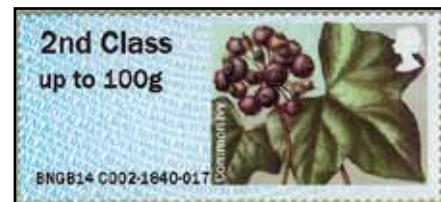
Since the leaves remained green, early British Druids and Roman pagans considered it a symbol of everlasting life and to ward off evil spirits. According to a German legend, the berries in Christdorn (Christ's crown of thorn) were believed to have been white, until they were stained by Christ's blood when the thorns of his crown cut his forehead. From that time holly has borne red berries, a reminder of Christ's suffering and love for all man. Great Britain 2014 (SG FS112b)



European mistletoe (*Viscum album*)

From earliest times, mistletoe was never allowed inside a church, partly because of its pagan association. But also because it was originally thought to be the tree that was used for Christ's cross and because of that, legend says, it was shrunk to a parasitic shrub.

Great Britain 2014 (SG FS110b)



Ivy (*Hedera helix*)

Used as a decoration for churches and homes at Christmas as it was considered an emblem of happiness, fertility and honor.

Great Britain 2014 (SG FS109b)

Glastonbury thorn

(*Crataegus monogyna*)

Joseph Arimathea was a disciple of Jesus who assumed responsibility for Jesus' burial. According to legend this tree grew from a staff Joseph thrust into the soil when he arrived to Christianize England. It blooms on Christmas and trees grown from its cutting were believed to heal any who touched them on Christmas day.

Yugoslavia 1961 (Scott 600)



Christmas rose (*Helleborus niger*)







Best known as black hellebore, it has been used as a medicine, and a poison, for thousands of years. One of the legends about this plant concerns a little peasant girl who tended sheep near Bethlehem. When the three Magi came by she went along and watched as they placed their gifts at the foot of the manger. She wept because she had no gift for the child. An angel took pity on her and with a lily for a wand touched the earth and immediately the ground was covered with Christmas roses. She picked an armful and took them to the stable. She was exalted when the Christ child turned from the gifts of the Magi and reached for the flowers.





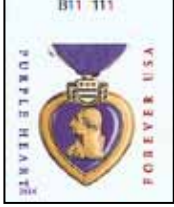

Germany 1975 (Scott B525)

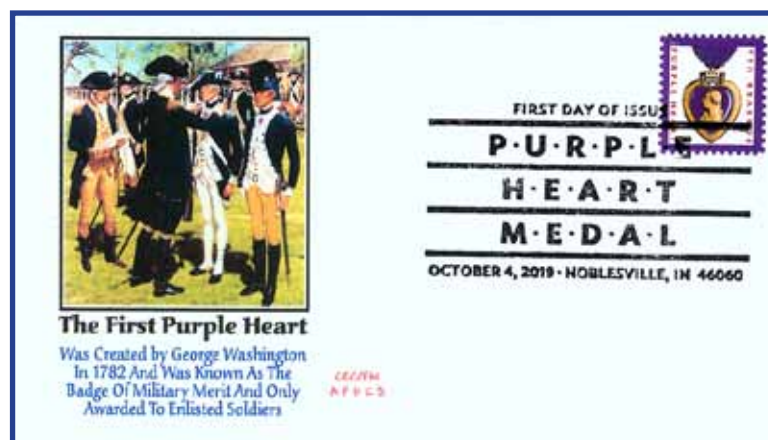
THE UNITED STATES PURPLE HEART STAMPS

By Frederick C. Skvara

During the last year of the American Revolutionary War, Hasbrouck House in Newburgh, New York, was the headquarters of George Washington from April 1782 until August 1783 while he was in command of the Continental Army. It was here on August 7, 1782, that he established the **Badge of Military Merit**, the forerunner of the **Purple Heart**, for enlisted men and non-commissioned officers. It was the first place where the badge was awarded. Although it was discontinued after the war, the purple heart medal was again awarded beginning in 1932, on the 200th anniversary of the birth of George Washington, to members of the United States Army. Eventually, members of all branches of the United States Armed Forces who have been wounded or killed while serving in action were eligible to receive the Purple Heart. Since 2003, the USPS has issued twelve Purple Heart stamps with various design differences.

Issued	Denomination	Description	Printing	Scott No.	
May 30 2003 (2003 printed on stamp)	37¢		No ribbon on medal, microprinted "USA" at base of bust, left of Washington's epaulet, Plate No.: B + 4 digits	Pane of 20, self-adhesive, serpentine dye-cut (11¼ x 10¾), block tagging on stamps, Banknote Corp. America, Carl Herrman (designer)	3784
Aug 1 2003 (2003 printed on stamp)	37¢		No ribbon on medal, microprinted "USPS" to left of Washington's epaulet, Plate No.: P + 4 digits	Pane of 20, self-adhesive, serpentine dye-cut, (10¾ x 10¾), phosphored paper, Ashton-Potter (USA) Ltd., Carl Herrman, designer	3784A
May 26 2006 (2006 printed on stamp)	39¢		No ribbon on medal, microprinted "USPS" to left of Washington's epaulet. Plate No.: P + 4 digits	Pane of 20, self-adhesive, serpentine dye-cut (11¼ x 11), phosphored paper, Ashton-Potter, Carl Herrman, designer	4032
Aug 7 2007 (2007 printed on stamp)	41¢		No ribbon on medal, microprinted "USPS" to left of Washington's epaulet. Plate No.: P + 4 digits	Pane of 20, self-adhesive, serpentine dye-cut (11¼ x 10¾), phosphored paper, Ashton-Potter, Carl Herrman, designer	4164
Apr 30 2008 (2008 printed on stamp)	42¢		No ribbon on medal, microprinted "USPS" to left of Washington's epaulet. Plate No.: P + 4 digits	Pane of 100, water-activated, perforated (11¼), phosphored paper, Ashton-Potter, Carl Herrman, designer	4263
Apr 30 2008 (2008 printed on stamp)	42¢		No ribbon on medal, microprinted "USPS" to left of Washington's epaulet. Plate No.: P + 4 digits	Pane of 20, self-adhesive, serpentine dye-cut (11¼ x 10¾), phosphored paper, Ashton-Potter, Carl Herrman, designer	4264

Issued	Denomination		Description	Printing	Scott No.
Apr 28 2009 (2009 printed on stamp)	44¢		No ribbon on medal, microprinted "USPS" to left of Washington's epaulet. Plate No.: P + 4 digits	Pane of 20, self-adhesive, serpentine dye-cut (11¼ x 10¾), phosphored paper, Ashton-Potter, Carl Herрман, designer	4390
May 5 2011 (2011 printed on stamp)	(44¢) First-Class Mail Forever		Ribbon on medal, cream background, microprinted "USPS" to right of Washington's family crest at top of medal. Plate No.: S + 8 digits	Pane of 20, self-adhesive, serpentine dye-cut (11¼ x 10¾), block tagging Banknote Corp. America, Sennett Security, Jennifer Arnold, designer	4529
Sept 4 2012 (2012 printed on stamp)	(45¢) First-Class Mail Forever		Ribbon on medal, white background, no microprinting. Plate No.: C or V + 6 digits	Pane of 20, self-adhesive, serpentine dye-cut (11), prephosphored paper, Avery Dennison (CCL Label), Jennifer Arnold, designer	4704
Oct 11 2014 (2014 printed on stamp)	(49¢) First-Class Mail Forever		Ribbon on medal, white background, no microprinting. Plate No.: C + 6 digits	Pane of 20, self-adhesive, serpentine dye-cut (11), prephosphored paper, Avery Dennison (CCL Label), Jennifer Arnold, designer	4704b
Oct 2015 (2014 printed on stamp)	(49¢) First-Class Mail Forever		Ribbon on medal, white background, microprinted "USPS" at left of ribbon. Plate No.: S or B + 6 digits	Pane of 20, self-adhesive, serpentine dye-cut (11), block tagging, Banknote Corp. America, Sennett Security, Jennifer Arnold, designer	5035
Oct 4 2019 (2019 printed on stamp)	(55¢) First-Class Mail Forever		Ribbon on medal, white background, purple frame, microprinted "USPS" at right of ribbon. Plate No.: B + 6 digits	Pane of 20, self-adhesive, serpentine dye-cut (11¼ x 10¾), block tagging, Banknote Corp. America, Bryan Duefrene, designer	5419



CEC/FM American First Day Cover Society cachet. United States 2019 (Scott 5419) First Day Cover.

“REMEMBER THE LADIES”, WOMEN’S SUFFRAGE & THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 19TH AMENDMENT, PART 3

By Frederick C. Skvara

President Woodrow Wilson (1856–1924) switched his stand on women’s voting rights from objection to support through the influence of Carrie Chapman Catt, who had a less combative style than Alice Paul. Wilson also tied the proposed suffrage amendment to American involvement in World War I and the increased role women had played in the war efforts. On October 1, 1918, Wilson addressed the Senate and said, “I regard the extension of suffrage to women as vitally essential to the successful prosecution of the great war of humanity in which we are engaged.”

Despite Wilson’s support the proposal failed in the Senate by two votes and wasn’t taken up by Congress for another year.



Woodrow Wilson (1956)

Timeline of the 19th Amendment

1914 - Women’s suffrage amendment is introduced in the United States Senate, but fails.

1918 - The 19th Amendment (known as the Susan Anthony Amendment) passes the United States House of Representatives and fails in the Senate by two votes.

February 10, 1919 - The 19th Amendment fails in the United States Senate by one vote.

May 21, 1919 - The 19th Amendment passes in the United States House of Representatives.

June 4, 1919 - The 19th Amendment passes in the United States Senate.

June 10, 1919 - Wisconsin and Michigan are the first states to ratify the 19th Amendment.

August 18, 1920 - Tennessee is the 36th state to ratify the 19th Amendment law, passing the three-fourths threshold requirement for the amendment to become law.

August 26, 1920 - The 19th Amendment was certified by United States Secretary of State Bainbridge Colby and it was then adopted as part of the United States Constitution.



1995 - 75th Anniversary of 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. [A montage of two photos: 1) March 3, 1913 - Suffragists marching in front of U.S. Capital. & 2) May 16, 1976, Springfield, IL - Supporters of the Equal Rights Amendment]



1998 - Celebrating the 19th Amendment giving women the Right to Vote. [Celebrate the Century - 1920s]

Ida Wells-Barnett (1862–1931)

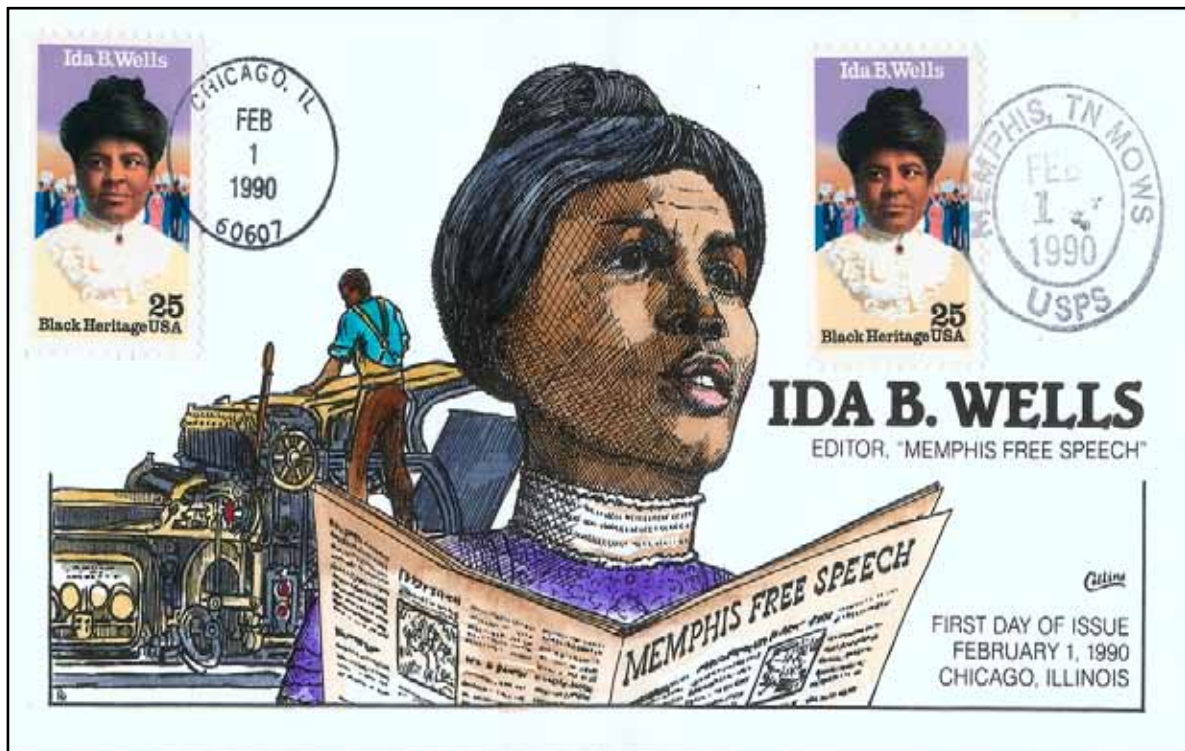
Ida Wells-Barnett was active in the women's suffrage movement belonging to the National American Women Suffrage Association and was a delegate of the Alpha Suffrage Club, which she founded, to the National Suffrage Parade on March 3, 1913, in Washington, D.C.

She fought all her life against racial injustice, but she is today honored most for her relentless and literally death-defying campaign against racial lynching.

Wells-Barnett was an early predecessor of Rosa Parks in her refusal, in May 1884, to give up a train seat in the white section. Removed by force, she sued and won in the circuit court, but the Tennessee Supreme Court later reversed the decision. The incident galvanized her desire to fight for racial equality, using the weapon she wielded best – the pen. She became a full-time journalist in 1891, and for many years she defied mob violence and terror to train a relentless and harsh light on the national disgrace of lynching, even taking her campaign abroad.



1891 portrait in Library of Congress
[Pomegranate Publications]



1990 Ida B. Wells (Fred Collins first day cover)

Discover the World: *Principat d'Andorra*

Area – 183 sq.mi. Population – 86,000 (2020)
(Parliamentary coprincipality)



Tending sheep.
Andorra(Fr).
2003 (Scott 570)

Located in the eastern Pyrenees Mountains between France and Spain, it consists of a cluster of mountain valleys ringed for the most part by towering peaks. The valleys, rarely below 3,000 feet, end in impassable, deep, steep-walled recesses. There are numerous streams and waterfalls attractive for fishing and which generate hydroelectric power. A six-month snow season makes the country a popular ski resort area and tourism is a major driver of the economy. There is excellent pasture land for cattle and sheep raising and agricultural products include tobacco, rye and wheat.

At La Margineda, one of the few passable sites through the Pyrenees, evidence has been found of a seasonal settlement dating to 9,500 B.C. used by ancient nomads that later became a permanent settlement used by Romans, Visigoths and the Moors. Thousands of ceramic, iron and bronze objects have been found at the site.

In 801 Charlemagne and his son Louis I drove the Moors from the area and gave over part of the territory of what is now Andorra to the Spanish bishop of Urgell. This was contested by the French counts of Foix until 1278 when arbitration confirmed the valleys independence with the bishop and count as co-princes. The rights of the House of Foix in 1589 passed to the French crown with the accession of Henry IV and finally to the president of the French republic. A parliamentary system was adopted in 1993 although the co-princes remain heads of state.

The coat of arms seen at the top of the page depicts four shields – the top left shows the mitre and crozier of the Bishop of Urgel while the three bars representing the arms of the Count of Foix are on the top right. The four bars at the bottom left are the arms of Catalonia, the region in northern Spain that has had a close relationship with Andorra and the two cows with horns at the bottom right are the arms of the Viscounts of Béarn, the historical feudal lords of Andorra.



Ransol village.
Andorra(Fr).
1987(Scott 354)



Charlemagne Crossing Andorra to invade the Islamic states in Iberia ; Louis I giving founding charter of Andorra, c 805; 1288 Feudal treaty (second pareage) between Count of Foix and Bishop of Urgell establishing joint sovereignty over the territory of Andorra. Andorra (Fr) 1963 (Scott 156, 157, 159)



Andorre ovpt. on
1900 France (Scott
109).Andorra (Fr)
1931 (Scott 1)

Although it has no postal administration, France and Spain each operate postal services in the principality even though all domestic mail is carried free of charge. Stamps are only used for outgoing mail. The Spanish postal service in Andorra first issued stamps in 1928 and were followed by the Andorran French postal service in 1931.

The national flower of Andorra is the Grandalla or poet's narcissus (*Narcissus poeticus*). the six petals represent the six original parishes and the two crowns in the center represent the two co-princes.

Madriu-Perafita-Claror Valley, a glacial valley that is a haven for rare and endangered wildlife. Andorra(Fr) 2014 (Scott 731) [Only Andorran UNESCO World Heritage Site.]



Narcissus poeticus.
Andorra(Sp). 1966
(Scott 60)

