



# The Westfield Philatelist

Newsletter of the Westfield Stamp Club

American Philatelic Society Chapter #540

American Topical Association Chapter #113

Volume 13 Number 4 March/April 2020

## UPCOMING MEETINGS



### March 26, 2020 – "Farewell to the Group Type"

A retrospective about a collection that was 40 years in development, via its *Crème de la Crème*.

By Edward Grabowski



Navigation & Commerce.  
Reunion 1901 (Scott 58)



### April 23, 2020 – "Exploring the Back of the Book"

Interesting stamps and their use, that never made it through the mails. The traveler's guide to venturing past page 700 of the 2019 edition of the *Scott's Specialized Catalog of United States Stamps and Covers*.

By Roger Brody



Playing Card Revenue  
Stamp. 1930 (Scott RF24).

## March to April USPS Stamp Issues

March 4	Arnold Palmer. One (55¢) forever commemorative stamp.
March 14	Maine Statehood. One (55¢) forever commemorative stamp.
April 2	Contemporary Boutonniere. One (55¢) forever special stamp.
April 2	Garden Corsage. One (70¢) 2-ounce rate special stamp
April 18	Earth Day. One (55¢) forever commemorative stamp
April 24	Chrysanthemum. One (\$1.20) global forever definitive stamp.

## The 2020 Westfield Stamp Show

March 14 (10 AM to 4PM)

Westfield Municipal Building  
425 East Broad Street, Westfield, NJ

Commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the  
19th Amendment to the  
United States Constitution



Show Cover/Special Cancellation

34 Frames of Exhibits

Eight Dealers Including USPS



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## The Westfield Philatelist

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## The Westfield Stamp Club

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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](http://www.westfieldstampclub.org)

or call

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908-233-3045

## RECENT ARTICLES WRITTEN BY MEMBERS

**John B. Sharkey** - "The Hometown Post Offices: Westfield, NJ and its Mountainside Branch". *The Journal of the New Jersey Postal History Society* 2018; 46(3): 137-146.

## JOTTINGS FROM A WORLDWIDE STAMP COLLECTOR

By Frederick C. Skvara

### 2019 Nexophil Philatelic Awards

The jury for the above awards was formed by Presidents of the Federation of European Philatelic Associations (FEPA) from its 33 constituent countries. FEPA was formed in 1989 to represent and promote European philately, although there are now several non-European countries. The 2019 awards were given on October 19, 2019, at the Spanish Royal Mint in Madrid, Spain, for stamps issued in 2018. There are ten categories of awards with first, second and third place winners in each category. I am illustrating only two of the winners below.



Snowy Owl (*Bubo scandiacus*). Norway 2018 (Scott 1841) [First Prize for the Best Stamp in the World]



Styrian hat (embroidered stamp). Austria 2018 (Scott 2757) [First Prize for Most Innovative Stamp]



## MARCH/APRIL PHILATELIC QUIZ



- Q1. What country was the first to print postage stamps using thermography?
- Q2. What country, at one time, used a barrel to deliver mail?
- Q3. 2020 is the 400th anniversary of the landing of the *Mayflower* at Plymouth Rock. What is the origin of the ship's name?
- Q4. What United States postage stamp depicts the first publicly-operated historic site in the United States?
- Q5. What country issued the first dinosaur postage stamp?

## 2019-2020 PROGRAM

Submitted by Edward J. Grabowski and Robert Loeffler  
Co-Chairmen, Program Committee

May 28, 2020 – TBA

June 11 or 18, 2020 – "Japonica: What It's All About Philatelically"  
By Ken Kamholz. (and election of officers & board members)

# CORAL REEFS ON UNITED STATES POSTAGE STAMPS

By Frederick C. Skvara

Most coral reefs are built by stony (hard) corals and are mainly restricted to the shallow waters of the tropics and subtropics. They are more common in the Indian and Pacific Ocean regions but are also seen in the western Atlantic Ocean, the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea. United States associated areas in which you find coral reefs included Hawaii, Florida, Texas, Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Island, American Samoa, Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands. The reefs are built by skeletal structures of coral polyps.

Coral polyps are members of the phylum coelenterata, which also includes jellyfish and sea cucumbers and all have a large cavity that serves as an intestine. Stony coral polyps usually form colonies where each polyp secretes a limestone cup of calcium carbonate around its base that remains long after the polyp dies. As each generation of corals adds to the accumulation of limestone, coral reefs are formed, which can become quite massive (i.e. the great barrier reef off the coast of Australia stretches over 1,000 miles). These skeletal remains can assume bizarre shapes such as seen in brain and staghorn corals.

Coral reefs have great economic importance, for they serve as habitats for a large variety of organisms, such as sponges, worms, echinoderms, mollusks, and many kinds of fishes.

The United States has issued postage stamps showing coral reefs in 1980, 2004 and 2019.

## Coral Reefs Issue, August 26, 1980 (Scott 1827-1830)

Two Brain corals (hard corals) with a soft coral, a Sea Fan in the foreground & Beau-gregory fish. U.S. Virgin Islands



Elkhorn Coral & two Porkfish. Florida

Chalice Coral & Moorish Idol fish with soft corals & cructose coral-line algae at the bottom. American Samoa

Finger Coral with cructose coral-line algae growing around the base & Sabertooth Blenny fish. Hawaii

The underwater scenes show coral formations and tropical fish found in waters of the United States, its territories or possessions. The stamps were designed by Chuck Ripper (1929–2019) from Huntington, West Virginia, and printed on the gravure press. They were issued in blocks of four, se-tenant in panes of fifty stamps.

Chuck Ripper has designed numerous U.S. postage stamps including the 1987 North American Wildlife pane of fifty stamps. He has also illustrated every National Wildlife Federation conservation stamps for two decades.

## Coral Reefs Issue March 29, 2019 (Scott 5363-5366 & 5367-5370)

Four nondenominated (35¢) postcard-rate stamps showing stylized images of stony corals and associated coral reef fish were issued in panes of twenty and coils of one hundred. Both were printed by Ashton Potter with pressure-sensitive adhesive. They were designed by Tyler Lang of Portland, Oregon. The coil stamps are shown here.



Coney Grouper, Neon Goby & Pillar coral



Blue-striped Grunt & Staghorn coral



French Angelfish & Elkhorn coral



Spotted Moray Eel & Brain coral

[The other United States postage stamps showing corals was a set of 10 37¢ Pacific Coral Reef stamps in a single pane on January 2, 2004 (Scott 3831a-j). Those stamps are not shown here.]

# INFLUENZA PANDEMICS

By Frederick C. Skvara

## Some Background

During the Medieval period there was a severe illness known as “sweating sickness” which was probably influenza. It was regarded as a cosmic, telluric or celestial “influence” (*influentia coeli*). That name first appears in Domenico Buoninsegni’s *History of Florence* in 1580 referring to an epidemic of 1357 in Florence.

The first influenza pandemic agreed upon by all authors appears to have originated in Asia and spread to Africa, Europe and then America in 1580.

Influenza pandemics are caused by relatively harmless viruses in wild birds, mainly waterfowl such as ducks and geese, and some mammals (swine, etc.), that host-switch into human beings and cause respiratory infections that can become highly virulent. Influenza viruses easily mutate and is the reason why we need to have a new flu shot every year.

## The 1918–1919 Influenza Pandemic

Although it is often called the Spanish flu, it did not start in Spain. The most prominent theory is that this pandemic originated in the United States. On March 4, 1918, Albert Gitchell, a United States Army cook checked into the base infirmary at Camp Funston in Kansas with flu-like symptoms. In January of 1918, there was an outbreak of a respiratory illness that might have been flu in the rural county from where he came from. Some experts now speculate that he “unwittingly” carried the virus to the Army camp. It then spread to Europe as army and naval training personnel of the American Expeditionary Force (AEF), the name given to the United States Armed Forces sent to Europe in World War I, were transported to military depots in Europe in the spring of 1918 including the depot at Bordeaux. From there it spread to Europe, Russia, Africa and Asia, but the influenza seen in the March to July 1918 period was not particularly virulent.



Brest in northwest France on the Atlantic Ocean was an important seaport and debarkation point for American troops and supplies in World War I. France 1957



Bordeaux in southwest France on the Garonne River is a commercial seaport upstream from the Girond estuary and in 1918 was an American military base. France 1955



The United States enters World War I, April 2, 1917 Guyana 1999



Guyana 1999



Major General John J. ‘Black Jack’ Pershing, commander of the AEF and ‘doughboys’. The pandemic killed 25,000 men in this force. France 1987

However, in August 1918, a new outbreak in Europe spread from Brest, France, a main port of France serving the needs of the war, and was much more virulent. It arrived in Boston by ship from Europe and eventually causing the death of 50 million to 100 million persons. Laura Spinney in her new book *Pale Rider: The Spanish Flu of 1918 and How it Changed the world* (2017) states:

*In terms of single events causing major loss of life, it surpassed the First World War (17 million dead), the Second World War (60 million dead), and possibly both put together. It was the greatest tidal wave of death since the Black Death.*

While the germ theory was largely accepted at this time, viruses, such as the one that caused the flu were still a mystery and it wasn't until 1931 that a Rockefeller physician, Richard Shope, confirmed that the flu was caused by a virus when he isolated an influenza A virus from an outbreak of swine flu in Iowa pigs. It was subsequently shown that viral fragments from preserved lung tissue of victims of the 1918-1920 influenza pandemic were closely similar to the influenza A (H1) virus isolated by Shope.

### Woodrow Wilson (1856–1924)

Hong Kong 2007  
Scott 1252)

Woodrow Wilson (1856–1924), born in Staunton, Virginia, became President of Princeton University (1902), Governor of New Jersey (1910) and the 28<sup>th</sup> President of the United States (1913–1921). He received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1919 for his efforts after WWI at the Treaty of Versailles and in forming the League of Nations. He sailed for France on December 4, 1918, to attend the Peace Conference at Versailles. The stress of hammering out the treaty and establishing the principles of the League of Nations took a physical and mental toll on him and on April 3, 1919, he was diagnosed with the flu after an episode of violent coughing and a temperature of 103°F.



United States 1956  
(Scott 1040)



Letter mailed on December 12, 1918, from California to Bolivia with United States 5¢ stamp (Scott 504) paying the correct 5¢ first ounce letter rate for this destination.

The letter contains a reference to the 1918 influenza outbreak

*...no S.S. or Church we are again under quarantine, quite a good many cases developed this week so Dr. Marks thought it best to close up places...your Papa has some cold...*

and President Wilson's trip to Europe for the Peace Conference

*...In these perilous times our President has shown wonderful wisdom. I can't convince myself yet that it was just the best thing for him to leave the country now. Neither could I voice the reason I feel – so it's not for me to say or dictate. I do have a fear he will not come back as great a man as he went. Why I can't say. I pray he will be kept safely from harm...*

### Other Influenza Pandemics

Since the 1918-1919 pandemic there have been three other influenza pandemics: 1957 (1-2 million deaths); 1968 (1 million deaths) and 2009 (500,000 deaths). All were due to the Influenza A virus and were a result of a mutation in birds or pigs combining with a preexisting human strain. No influenza pandemics have been associated with the influenza B virus.



# ANSWERS TO JANUARY/FEBRUARY PHILATELIC QUIZ



**Q1. Do you know the event that led to the awarding of the first United States Army Congressional Medal of Honor?**

Ans. **The Great Locomotive Chase**

On April 12, 1862, James J. Andrews, a civilian and a secret agent of the Union Army, along with another civilian and 18 Union soldiers, arrived in Marietta, Georgia, all in civilian clothes. Their object was to steal a train traveling from Atlanta to Chattanooga and moving north, destroy wooden bridges and track along the way, thus hindering the movement of Confederate troops and supplies north. When the *General*, hauling passenger and freight cars and traveling from Atlanta arrived in Marietta, Andrews and his “raiders” boarded the train with tickets for various destinations so as not to arouse suspicion. The first stop out of Marietta was Big Shanty, Georgia, and where Andrews men, after uncoupling most of the cars, stole the train and headed north. Since no other trains were coming into Big Shanty and the station had no telegraph services to warn southern soldiers up ahead, Andrews felt success was certain.

Unfortunately, for the northerners, the train’s conductor, William A. Fuller, was tenacious and pursued them on foot, in sidecars and even with an engine parked on a siding. Near Adairsville, Georgia, Fuller met a scheduled south-bound train, pulled by the *Texas*, an engine similar to the *General*. *Texas* off-loaded its freight cars on a siding and with Fuller took off, in reverse, after the northerners. Just north of the Chickamauga Creek in Georgia, the *General* stopped dead – out of fuel and water, both of which were necessary to run the steam engines of the day. The “raiders” abandoned the *General*, split up and ran for their lives. Remember, once they moved behind Confederate lines in civilian clothes they were considered spies and would be executed if caught.

And caught they were, all of them. Andrews and seven were hanged as spies. Six others were imprisoned in Atlanta, but escaped on October 16, 1862, and the remaining six were exchanged as prisoners from Libby Prison in Richmond, Virginia, on March 18, 1863. One of those exchanged was private Jacob Parrott, a United States Army volunteer from Ohio who was awarded the first United States Army Congressional Medal of Honor on March 25, 1863, by Secretary of War Edwin Stanton. Five other Union soldiers who were part of Andrews “raiders” received the Medal of Honor at the same time.

The *General* that was stolen by Andrews’ “raiders” was built in Paterson, New Jersey, by the Rogers, Ketchum and Grosvenor Company in 1855 and sold to the Western and Atlantic Railroad of Georgia for \$8,500. Two films have been made about Andrew’s “raiders”. In 1926, Buster Keaton directed and starred in *The General* and in 1956, Walt Disney Studios produced *The Great Locomotive Chase* with Fess Parker as Andrews, Jeffrey Hunter as Fuller and Claude Jarman Jr. as Jacob Parrott.



The USPS issued a booklet illustrating five historic locomotives on July 28, 1994, one of which was the *Hudson’s General* (Scott 2843). The *General* was built by William Hudson, a locomotive engineer in the Paterson company. [Ref: “The Great Locomotive Chase” by J.G. Nash. *Scott Stamp Monthly* 1985; 3(7):8-11]



**Q2. Who are the Americans portrayed on the 1940 “Famous Americans” stamp series that have a tie with the American Civil War?**

Ans. **Louisa May Alcott, Walt Whitman and James A. McNeill Whistler**

At the age of 30 **Louisa May Alcott (1832–1898)** a volunteer nurse from Concord, Massachusetts, spent several weeks tending to wounded soldiers at the Union Military Hospital, a converted hotel, in Georgetown. After only several weeks she became ill with typhoid and was sent home and was expected to die. Typhoid, a highly contagious disease was a dreaded killer during the Civil War and was responsible for thousands of death. But Alcott survived and went on to publish *Hospital Sketches* in 1863 about her Civil War nursing experiences and later *Little Women*, her most famous work.



1940 (Scott 862)  
[Famous Americans Issues]



1993 (Scott 2788)  
[Classic Books]

Q2 cont.

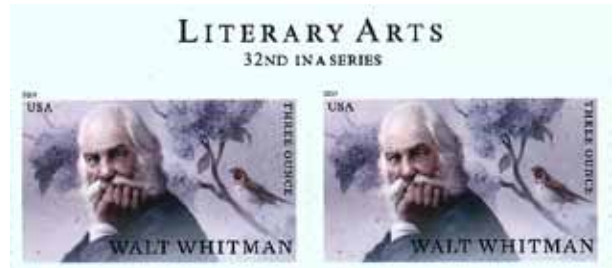
After his brother was wounded in Virginia during the Civil War, **Walt Whitman (1819–1892)** served as a volunteer nurse in a hospital near Washington for several months. He had already published several editions of *Leaves of Grass* and would publish several more after the war. In 1865 he published *Drum taps* containing poems about the Civil War including “The Wound Dresser” about his nursing experiences.

On September 12, 2019, the USPS issued a nondenominated (85¢) stamp honoring Walt Whitman. Since the words “Three-Ounce” is printed on the stamp, it will always be valid for that rate. It is the 32nd stamp in the Literary Arts series and shows a portrait of Whitman based on an 1869 photograph by Frank Pearsall. The bird in the background is a hermit thrush and is sitting on a branch of a lilac bush, a reference to Whitman’s elegy for President Abraham Lincoln “When Lilacs Last in the Door-yard Bloom’d”.

Near the end of 1863, a blockade runner left the Cape Fear River on the North Carolina coast carrying a New England passenger, Anna McNeill Whistler, who was a Southern sympathizer. She was going to visit her son in London. That son was **James Abbott McNeill Whistler (1834–1903)**, an American painter and etcher who lived in Paris and then London. For the Mothers of America Issue in 1934 commemorating Mother’s Day, the USPOD issued a 3¢ stamp based on Whistler’s 1872 painting *Arrangement in Grey and Black: The Artist’s Mother*. [Ref: “The Little-Known Civil War” by Winfred Partin. *Scott Stamp Monthly*1985; 3(8)6-8]



1940 (Scott 867)  
[Famous Americans Issues]



2019 (Scott 5414)



Q3. When was the first European regular mail service begun and why was it instituted?

Ans. 1490 for the convenience of the Holy Roman Emperor

On January 12, 1990 Austria, Belgium, Germany, Germany Berlin and the German Democratic Republic each issued a single stamp to mark the 500th anniversary of the first European regular mail service. Previous mails were organized by trade guilds and some cities, but in 1490 a service of regular mounted postmen was inaugurated between Malines (Mechelen) in Belgium and Innsbruck, Austria. The service was for the convenience of the Holy roman Emperor whose court resided in Innsbruck. The service began within a few weeks from New Year’s Day, 1490 and was organized along a route from Innsbruck through Germany to Belgium linking the Emperor’s distant northwestern provinces to the court at Innsbruck.

The design for the stamp is based on a copper plate engraving by Albrecht Dürer. It’s original title is *Der Kleine Postreiter* and can be dated from the late 15th century. Reinhold Gerstetter of the Federal Printing Office in Berlin designed the stamp in four versions and shows the rider with a sword and whip riding through a wooded landscape. [Ref: “500 Years of European Mail” by Edgar Lewy. *Scott Stamp Monthly* 1990; 8(12): 22-23]



Belgium 1990  
(Scott 1332)



Germany 1990  
(Scott 1592)



Germany Berlin 1990  
(Scott 9N584)



GDR 1990  
(Scott 2791)





# ANSWERS TO JANUARY/FEBRUARY PHILATELIC QUIZ

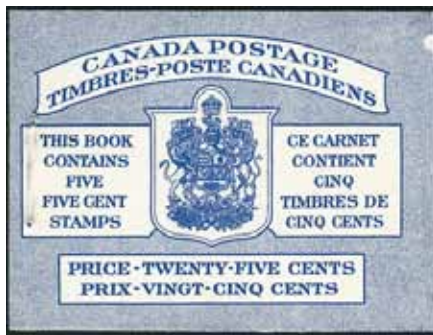


**Q4.** What was the first Canadian commemorative postage stamp issued in a booklet format?

Ans. **1954 5¢ Beaver**

Canada's first stamp booklets were issued on June 11, 1900, and contained two panes of six 2¢ stamps depicting a Queen Victoria regular issue. It wasn't until 1954 that Canada issued a commemorative stamp in booklet format. On April 1 of that year Canada Post issued two wildlife stamps – a 4¢ stamp depicting a walrus and a 5¢ stamp depicting a beaver. The beaver stamp was issued in panes of 100 and booklets containing a single pane of five stamps with a label. Booklets were either stapled or stitched and with English or bilingual covers.

These two stamps were issued for National Wildlife Week, the week in which April 10 occurs. April 10 is the birthday of the late Jack Miner (1865–1944), a Canadian naturalist and author who is regarded by some as the “father” of North American conservationism. [Ref. Linn's Stamp News 1998; January 26]



Canada 1954 (BK48a Bilingual booklet cover, stapled)



Canada 1954 (Scott 336a)



Canada 1954 (Scott 336)

**Q5.** Who was the first woman to design a United States postage stamp and what stamp did she design?

Ans. **Elaine Rawlinson - the 1938 1¢ George Washington in the Presidential Series (Scott 804)**

Franklin D. Roosevelt asked the Postmaster General in 1937 to run a contest to allow the general public to submit designs for a new Presidential series of stamps depicting all deceased United States Presidents. Of the over 1100 designs submitted for the 1¢ George Washington issue, the winning design was from a 27-year-old New York City artist, Elaine Rawlinson (1910–1989), who received the first prize of \$500. She not only was the first woman to design a United States postage stamp, she was also the first non-governmental employee to design a stamp.

She based her design on a copy of the bust by Jean Antoine Houdon (1741–1828), a French sculptor, that is now at Mt. Vernon. The 1¢ George Washington in the Presidential series was issued on April 25, 1938, the first of that series to be issued. It was also decided that all the non-dollar stamps in the upcoming series would be patterned after Rawlinson's design.



Scott 839



Scott 848



Scott 804



Scott 804b