



The Westfield Philatelist

Newsletter of the Westfield Stamp Club

American Philatelic Society Chapter #540

American Topical Association Chapter #113

Volume 6 Number 2 November/December 2012

Calendar of Events

DECEMBER 20 WESTFIELD STAMP CLUB HOLIDAY PARTY & AUCTION

A Philatelic Quiz

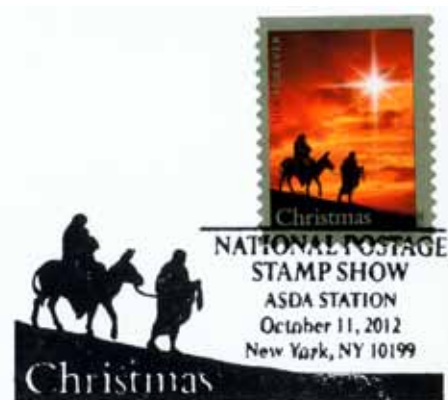
- Q1. What United States postage stamps show sculptures, other than Mount Rushmore, by Gutzon Borglum, ?
- Q2. What Central American country has issued only airmails and postal tax stamps from 1944 to 1984?
- Q3. Clara Maass' contributions can be associated with which one of the following: Thomas Edison, Alexander Graham Bell, Walter Reed or Albert Gallatin?
- Q4. What is the first United States domestic rate postal card to show an additional illustration on the indicium side of the card?
- Q5. This woman has appeared on more different United States postage stamps than any other woman. Who is she?

2012 United States Christmas Stamps

By Frederick C. Skvara



The first day ceremony for a very nice setenant block of four nondenominated (45¢) forever stamps entitled "Santa and Sleigh" was held on October 13 at the American Stamp Dealers Association's National Postage Stamp Show in New York City. The illustration for the block was created by Paul Rogers who also created the illustrations for the 2009 Thanksgiving Day Parade stamps and the 2012 Cherry Blossom Centennial stamps. The Santa stamps were designed by Howard Paine.



The first day of issue for the "Holy Family" stamp was October 10 in Washington, D.C., but a special dedication of the stamp was held on October 11 at the above mentioned show. The illustration was created by Nancy Stahl who has illustrated a number of United States postage stamps. The designer was Greg Breeding who served as the art director for the USPS 2012 stamp "The War of 1812: USS *Constitution*".

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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

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War of 1812: Canada – Guernsey Joint Issue

By Frederick C. Skvara



This set of stamps is the first in a series that Canada Post plans for the bicentennial of the North American War of 1812¹. Briefly, there were two main reasons for the war: 1) The United States was frustrated by trade restrictions established by Britain and 2) the United States wanted to remove British and Canadian obstacles to United States westward expansion. In June 1812 the United States Congress declared war on Britain. The war was fought in Upper and Lower Canada² and along the Atlantic coast.

The stamps from both Canada and Guernsey show identical images of Major General Isaac Brock on the left stamp and War Chief Tecumseh on the right stamp. Behind General Brock is a circa 1812 European settlement while behind Tecumseh one can discern several Native American encampments.

Sir Isaac Brock (1769–1812), who was born in St. Peter Port, Guernsey, was a British Army officer and administrator eventually commanding all British forces in Upper Canada. When American forces invaded Canada in July 1812, Brock launched an attack on Fort Detroit capturing it, thereby eliminating the main American force in that area. He successfully defended Niagara from an American invasion, but died during that battle on October 13, 1812.

War Chief Tecumseh (1768–1813), a Native American chief of the Shawnee, was born near Chillicothe, Ohio. Opposed to the continuing American encroachment by the Americans on Indian territory, he established a large tribal confederacy with the aim of setting up an independent Indian nation under British protection. During the War of 1812 he sided with the British and aided in the capture of Fort Detroit. He was killed by the Americans at the Battle of the Thames (near present-day Chatham-Kent, Ontario, on October 5, 1813). With his death Tecumseh's Confederacy disintegrated.



Notes:

¹ There was another war in 1812 — Napoleon's disastrous French Invasion of Russia (also known as the Patriotic War of 1812) in which Napoleon lost over 450,000 men.

² Upper Canada - British province equivalent to the southern part of modern province of Ontario.

Lower Canada - now the modern province of Quebec

Charles John Huffam Dickens (1812–1870)

By Frederick C. Skvara

A number of postal entities are issuing stamps to celebrate the bicentennial of the birth of the great English novelist, actor and playwright, Charles Dickens. He was born in Landport, part of what is now Portsmouth, England, the son of a clerk in the navy pay office and over his lifetime created some of the most popular tales. He died suddenly at Gad's Hill, Kent in England. Some of his most notable works include *The Posthumous Papers of the Pickwick Club* (1836-37), *The Adventures of Oliver Twist* (1837-39), *The Life and Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby* (1838-39), *David Copperfield* (1849-50), *Bleak House* (1852-53), *A Tale of Two Cities* (1859), and *Great Expectations* (1860-61). A number of these tales will certainly find their way onto the stamps being issued for this bicentennial.

Of course, the most appropriate Dickens' creation for this time of year is *A Christmas Carol*, a novella that was first published on December 19, 1843 and was the subject of a beautiful set of stamps issued on November 15, 2012 by the island of Jersey in the English Channel. The stamps and the cover of the Presentation Pack were painted by Mark Wilkinson and printed by Lowe Martin in Canada in offset lithography in sheets of ten.



Cover of Presentation Pack



Bah Humbug! Ebenezer Scrooge in his counting house.



Scrooge with Marley's Ghost. Jacob Marley; Marley's ghost visits Scrooge.



The Ghost of Christmas Past takes Scrooge back to previous Christmases.



The Ghost of Christmas Present takes Scrooge to Bob Cratchit's house; Cratchit's crippled son.



The Ghost of Christmas Future shows Scrooge his own graveyard headstone.



Bob Cratchit and Tiny Tim. Scrooge promises to embrace Christmas.



A Merry Christmas One and All. Scrooge spreads Christmas cheer in the street.



The End of It. Scrooge attends his nephew Fred's party and lives out his days displaying kindness.

Answers – September/October Philatelic Quiz

Q1. Why is David Schwarz, a Hungarian lumber merchant, regarded an aviation pioneer?

Ans. **Designed the first rigid airship.**

David Schwarz (1845–1897), born in Kesthely, Hungary, had a lumber business and an interest in aviation engineering. In 1892, a rigid airship that he designed was built, but never flew. However, on November 3, 1897, a rigid balloon airship of his design did make a successful flight. Unfortunately, Schwarz never witnessed the flight as he died eleven months earlier. One of the spectators of that flight was Ferdinand Graf von Zeppelin, who in 1898 obtained all rights to Schwarz's inventions.

[Contributed by Allan Fisk]



David Schwarz & Ferdinand von Zeppelin.
Hungary 1948 (Scott C57)



David Schwarz's rigid airship.
Hungary 1967 (Scott CB247)



Q2. What homes of United States Presidents have been depicted on United States Postage Stamps?

Ans. **George Washington's Mt. Vernon** – Scott 785 (1936), Scott 1032 (1956) • **Andrew Jackson's Hermitage** – Scott 786 (1937), Scott 1037 (1959) • **Franklin D. Roosevelt's Hyde Park home, Springwood** – Scott 930 (1945) • **Theodore Roosevelt's Sagamore Hill** – Scott 1023 (1956) • **Thomas Jefferson's Monticello** – Scott 1047 (1956) • **Abraham Lincoln's log house** – Scott 1282 (1965) • **James Madison's Montpelier** – Scott 3545 (2001)

[Contributed by Jack Denys]

George Washington,
Nathanael Greene &
Mt. Vernon.
U.S. 1936 (Scott 7850)



Q3. There have been seventeen Chief Justices of the United States Supreme Court. Who are the six that have been portrayed on United States Postage Stamps.

Ans. **John Jay** – Scott 1046 (1958)

• **William Howard Taft** – Scott 685, 687 (1930), Scott 831 91938), Scott 2218h (1986) • **Charles Evans Hughes** – Scott 1195 (1962) • **Harlan Fiske Stone** – Scott 965 (1948) • **Earl Warren** – Scott 2184 (1992) • **John Marshall** – Scott 263 (1894), Scott 278 (1895), Scott 313 (1903), Scott 480 (1917), Scott 1050 (1958), Scott 2415 (1990)

[Contributed by K. David Steidley]



John Jay. U.S. 1958
(Scott 1046)



Q4. What South Pacific Ocean island, a former French colony, became part of French Polynesia in 1893?

Ans. **Tahiti**

Tahiti, one of the Windward Islands in the Society Islands, became a French protectorate in 1842 and a French colony in 1880. Along with several other island groups it was incorporated into the French Oceanic Settlements at the end of the nineteenth century and placed under a single administration in 1903. In 1957 it took on the new name of French Polynesia and in 1958 it became an overseas territory of France.



Rowland Hill, Centenary of Death. French Polynesia 1979 (Scott 322) [Stamps shown: Great Britain 1867 Queen Victoria (Scott 53) and Tahiti 1893 overprint on French Colonies 1881-86 Seated Commerce (Scott 28)]



Q5. What United States postage stamp is nicknamed "Pork Chop"?

Ans. **Philippine Issue** – Scott 925 (1944)

The stamps shows an aerial view of Corregidor and the entrance to Manila Bay in the Philippines. It surrendered to the Japanese on May 6, 1942, and retaken by the Americans on February 22, 1945. It was nicknamed "Pork Chop" because it looks like a pork chop.



Philippine issue.
U.S. 1944 Scott 925)