



The Westfield Philatelist

Newsletter of the Westfield Stamp Club

American Philatelic Society Chapter #540

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Richard Nazar Wins 2013 Hopkinson Memorial Literature Award

The "Society News" column of the March 2014 issue of *The United States Specialist*, the journal of the United States Stamp Society, announced that Westfield Stamp Club member Richard J. Nazar will receive the Walter W. Hopkinson Memorial Literature Award for his series of articles that appeared during 2013 in the above journal. The award will be presented at the 2014 Annual Meeting of the USSS on May 31 during NOJEX 2014.

The award, one of the most prestigious awards of the USSS, was established in 1953 and is given annually for the best article or series of articles published in *The United States Specialist*. Rich's four articles are clearly written and beautifully illustrated and describe new information on the production processes of modern United States coil stamps. The exhaustive research that went into any one of these articles was remarkable, but to publish four articles on different subjects with the amount of information and level of detail seen in the articles, in one year, is quite an accomplishment.

Below, I have given a little information about the four articles for which the award was won, but you should search out the articles. You will not be disappointed.



"What Color Is the White House?"

First issued on April 23, 1992, the stamp was intended as a definitive issue paying the 29¢ first class letter rate. The stamp was in production for three years and over that period there were numerous press runs and printing sleeve changes. The result of these changes were four distinct color varieties besides the normal blue ink used to print the stamp. These varieties are clearly described and explained in Rich's article. (March 2013, pgs.119-130)

"Discovery of 'Star-Spangled Banner' Linerless Self-adhesive Test Coil Stamp"

In this article Rich details what is currently known on a new linerless self-adhesive test coil stamp. He also notes that, up to the the publication of his article, four linerless coil stamps have been issued by the USPS: Presorted First class (25¢) Juke Box (Scott #3131); 32¢ Flag over Porch (Scott #3133); 33¢ Fruits & Berries (Scott #3404-07) and 37¢ Snowman (Scott #3680-83). He covers the design and production of the new test stamp describing plate numbers, perforations, tagging, plate layout, etc. (August 2013, pgs. 366-380)

"Updated Information on the 29¢ Eagle Linerless Self-adhesive Test Coil Stamp"

This article updates the production information of this stamp that was previously written about by John Larson in the May 2001 issue of this journal. The stamp's design is based on the 29¢ Eagle self-adhesive stamp produced in 1994 in two formats: convertible booklet of 18 stamps (Scott #2598) and coils of 5004 stamps (Scott #2598b). (October 2013, pgs. 453-462)

"Die Cut Production Varieties of the 32¢ Flag over Porch Self-adhesive Stamp Produced by the BEP in coils of 100."

The article mentions that this stamp, which shows a red "1996" date in the lower left corner, was the "first self adhesive coil produced in mass quantities for general distribution to post offices". In order to achieve this the BEP "embarked on a period of live-production testing to develop the optimum type of die cut for self-adhesive coil stamps". This resulted in numerous production varieties which Rich describes and illustrates. (November 2013, pgs. 510-524)

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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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☞ **Calendar of Events** ☞

March 27 - Mail Order Mojo: The Postal History of the de Lawrence Company

By Dan Piazza



April 24 - Towards Freedom: The Emergence of Independence in the British West Indies 1860–1960 as Reflected in the Design of Their Stamps.

By Richard Maisel

Most British colonies, including those in the West Indies, achieved independence around 1960. but the underlying movement towards independence began over 100 years earlier. The presentation will show how this movement is reflected in the design of British West Indian stamps. It will also illustrate two different but complimentary ways to study the design of stamps.



Sitting Britannia.
Barbados 1876
(Scott 56)



Queen Victoria.
St. Vincent 1885
(Scott 43)



Blue Basin.
Trinidad & Tobago
1935 (Scott 42)



Sea Island Cotton Cultivation.
Montserrat 1955 (Scott 140)



March 27–30 ASDA Spring Postage Stamp Show 2014

**The New Yorker Hotel
481 Eighth Avenue, New York City**

☞ **A Philatelic Quiz** ☞

- Q1. What United States President made an undersea voyage on Plunger, a submarine built by John Holland whose submarine USS Holland has been pictured on a United States postage stamp?
- Q2. What two native animals appear on the Australian coat-of-arms?
- Q3. Who was the American architect that designed the Australian city of Canberra?
- Q4. What sport was honored on an envelope issued in Milwaukee, Wisconsin?
- Q5. What United States postage stamp depicts a sculpture by Bruce Wilder Saville?

Collecting The World

Alexander Graham Bell & President James Garfield

The Death of President James Garfield

On July 2, 1881, as President James Garfield and Secretary of State James Blaine were walking through the Baltimore & Potomac Railroad Station in Washington, D.C., the president was shot in the back by Charles J. Guiteau, an insane, pro-Stalwart lawyer (i.e. the Stalwarts were a faction of the Republican Party that favored continuation of the “spoils system” for appointments to federal positions). As X-rays had not been invented yet, the only way of knowing where the bullet was located was manual probing along the bullet’s track and then surgery to remove it. But manual probing was unsuccessful and with each subsequent probe, the risk of infection and hemorrhage increased. Surgical gloves had not been invented as of yet and surgeries were routinely performed without masks, sterile conditions and antiseptics. Unwashed probes and fingers were the tools of the day for probing wounds.



1986 (Scott 2218b)

The Metal Detector

Bell read a newspaper account of an interview with Simon Newcomb of Baltimore, an astronomer and friend of President Garfield, in which Newcomb noted that when metal was placed near wire coils that had electricity running through them, a faint hum could be heard. Newcomb suggested that if he could improve his invention, it could be used to find the bullet in the president, but, given the condition of the president, it would take too long to perfect the apparatus. Bell offered to help and using a similar “metal detector”, Bell and Newcomb were able to detect the bullets in a number of Civil War veterans whose bullets had never been removed.

On July 26 Bell with his assistant Charles Sumner Tainter and Newcomb went to the White House and made the first attempt to locate the bullet (depicted on the stamp shown here). But no matter where the instrument’s wand was placed, a faint hum was heard everywhere. They ran more experiments in their lab and the Old Soldier’s Home and confirmed that the instrument worked fine. They



Bell & Newcomb at Garfield’s bedside with their metal detector. Burundi 2012

returned to the White House on July 31st and again failed to locate the bullet as a faint hum could be heard no matter where the wand was placed.

A few weeks after Bell’s last attempt Garfield was moved to the Francklyn Cottage in Elberon (part of Long Branch), New Jersey, where he died on September 19, 1881. The autopsy report was released the next day giving hemorrhage as the immediate cause of death, but noting numerous areas of infection and sepsis. Although the report doesn’t state it, as the post-mortem examination was carried out with the assistance of the president’s physicians, the sepsis and hemorrhage are most certainly the result of the manual probes by those very same physicians. The bullet itself was found below the pancreas and behind the peritoneum completely encased in a cyst. Ironically, the president would have had a better chance of surviving if the surgeons would have not probed the wound caused by the bullet as it had been walled off in a non-vital area.

So why did the invention of Bell and Newcomb fail when used on the president, but worked fine on the wounded soldiers. One theory is that the White House received one of the first metal coil spring mattresses that had just been invented. Very few people knew they even existed as there had been no national advertising at the time of the assassination. There was so much background noise from the metal in the mattress that the hum from the bullet was being masked. If the president had been moved off the bed to a table or the floor, the bullet would have been located and the surgeons could have removed it, possibly saving the president’s life.

Another theory is that the bullet was too far from the instrument’s wand. Bell and Newcomb had determined through experiments in their laboratory that the distance between the wand and the metal being searched for could not be greater than five inches otherwise you would not hear the hum.

Alexander Graham Bell

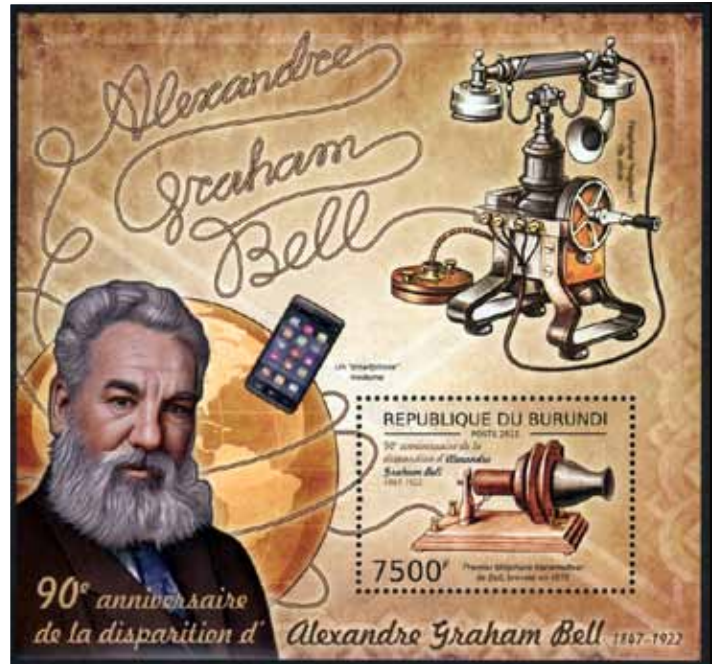
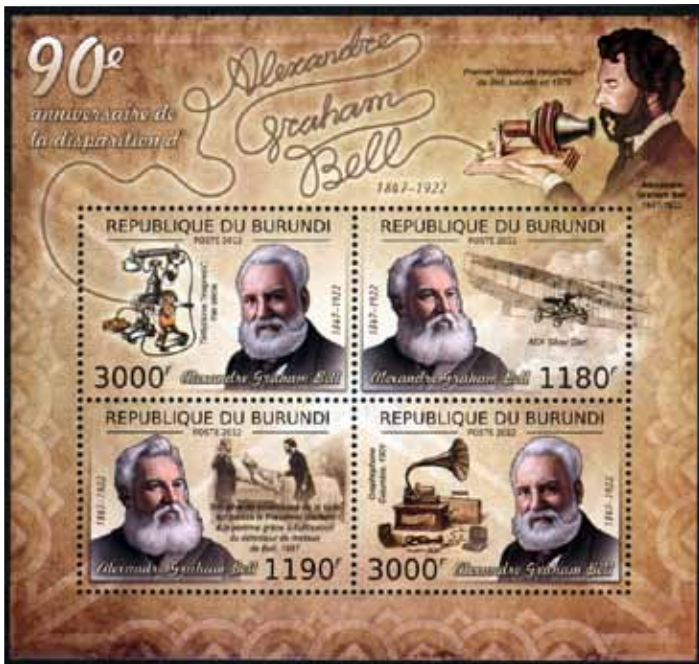
Alexander Graham Bell was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, on March 3, 1847, emigrating to Canada in 1870 and moving to Boston in 1872 where he opened a school to train teachers of the deaf. (Bell’s mother and wife were both deaf).



1940 (Scott 893)

The Telephone

Studying the transmission of sound by electricity led to his 1876 invention which, with later improvements, would become the modern telephone. In March of that year, Alexander Graham Bell was awarded a patent for the electric telephone by the United States Pat-



90th Anniversary of the Death of Alexander Graham Bell.
Burundi 2012

ent and Trademark Office and it became the master patent of the telephone. His 1876 invention can be seen in the stamp on the souvenir sheet and in the selvedge of the miniature sheet. A later version with a hand-cranked magneto is shown on the top left stamp of the miniature sheet and in the selvedge of the souvenir sheet.

But Bell's interests were far-reaching and his inventions covered optical telecommunication, hydrofoils and aeronautics. His name appears on thirty patents.

The Photophone

In 1880 Bell and his assistant Charles Sumner Tainter sent a wireless voice telephone message using a photophone, a device that allowed the transmission of sounds and normal human conversation on a beam of light. The photophone was the precursor to the fiber-optic communications systems that became widespread a century later.

Motor-powered Heavier-than-air Aircraft

Bell's interest in developing motor-powered heavier-than-

air aircraft led to the formation of the **Aerial Experiment Association** in 1891. Initially experimenting with various tetrahedral box kites, the association built *Red Wing* in 1908, a heavier-than-air biplane with a frame of bamboo, covered by red silk and powered by an air-cooled engine. A public flight of *Red Wing* took place over Keuka Lake, New York that same year. A number of improvements were made to their aircraft and on February 23, 1909, *Silver Dart*, the final aircraft of the Aerial Experiment Association, made the first aircraft flight in Canada. That aircraft is depicted on the top right stamp of the miniature sheet.

The Graphophone

A 1901 Colombian Graphophone developed at the Volta Laboratory (Alexander Graham Bell Laboratory) in Georgetown, Washington, D.C. can be seen on the lower right stamp on the miniature sheet. It was an improved version of the phonograph developed by Thomas Edison.

Alexander Graham Bell died in 1922 from complications of diabetes mellitus.



Ukraine: Local issues (c. 1990s)



Trident overprints on a 1988 postage stamp of Russia (Scott 5723). The trident is part of Ukraine's national coat-of-arms. At the time of the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991, numerous Ukrainian local issues were issued with trident overprints on Russian postage stamps. They are not listed in the Scott catalogue. The first national Ukrainian postage stamp after independence from the Soviet Union was in 1992.

✦ Answers – January/February Philatelic Quiz ✦

Q1. Who was Otto Lilienthal and why were Orville and Wilbur Wright interested in his work?

Ans. **The Wright brothers became interested in the possibility of powered flight after reading about Lilienthal's glider flights.**

Otto Lilienthal (1848–1896) was a German engineer often referred to as “The Father of Flight” and the “Glider King”. In 1889 he published *Bird Flight As a Basis for the Art of Flight* based on his studying the gliding pattern of birds. From those studies he developed the principles of aerodynamics and recognized the advantage of a curved rather than a flat surface for wings. He made a successful flight in a batwing glider in 1891 and in 1896 built a glider with a small engine. But before he could test it, he was killed in another glider flight that same year. On the centenary of his 1891 flight a number of nations issued stamps to honor this aviation pioneer.



Germany 1934
(Scott C55)



Q2. The following inventors have all been honored on United States Postage stamps. Can you match them with their inventions? [Ans. [See page 6](#)]

1. Edwin Armstrong	A. Patented the reaping machine
2. Philo T. Farnsworth	B. Received patent for sewing machine
3. Cyrus Hall McCormick	C. Regenerative circuits in radio
4. Benjamin Franklin	D. Experiments in TV
5. Elias Howe	E. Invented bifocals



Q3. Although Julius Sterling Morton has not appeared on a United States Postage stamp, an event that he popularized has been commemorated on a stamp?

Ans. **Arbor Day**

Julius Sterling Morton (1832–1902) was an American journalist and politician who served as secretary and acting governor of the Nebraska Territory. In 1893 President Grover Cleveland appointed Morton Secretary of Agriculture. The idea of dedicating one day each year for tree planting came from Morton's friend Robert W. Furnas, a nursery owner and Governor of Nebraska. But it was Morton who promoted the idea and on April 10, 1872, Nebraska celebrated its first Arbor



1932 (Scott 717)

Day. In 1885 Nebraska changed the date for celebration to April 22, Morton's birthday. First Day ceremonies for the Arbor Day stamp were held on April 22, 1932, in Nebraska City and in Adams, New York (Morton's birthplace) and Washington, DC the next day.



Q4. Other than being portrayed on two United States postage stamps, what other connection does George Washington Carver have to postage stamps?

Ans. **Created postage stamp glue.**

George Washington Carver (ca 1864–1943), inventor, educator and agricultural scientist developed dozens of uses for sweet potatoes. One of his accomplishments was a paper paste from sweet potatoes and in a 1937 *Popular Mechanics* article by Charles Morrow Wilson, the author stated that “today when you seal an envelope or lick a stamp, chances are 20 to 1 that the glue is made from sweet potato...”



1956 (Scott 953)



Carver shown with microscope & peanut plant. 1998 (Scott 3183c)



Q5. Who was Charles Dana Gibson and what creation of his appeared on a United States postage stamp?

Ans. **The Gibson Girl**

Charles Dana Gibson (1867–1944), an American illustrator and artist was born in Roxbury, Massachusetts. He studied at the schools of the Art Students' league and in 1886, began illustrating some of the leading magazines of the day – *Life*, *Collier's Weekly*, *Harper's Weekly* and *Harper's Bazaar*. He married Irene Langhorne, a beautiful and elegant woman who became the first model for his creation “The Gibson Girl”. With an hourglass figure and high-piled hair, she set the standard for American feminine beauty. Also named after him is the Gibson martini made with an onion rather than an olive.



1998 (Scott 3182m)

❖ Answers – January/February Philatelic Quiz ❖

Q2. Ans

1. Edwin Armstrong (1890–1954)

C



1983 (Scott 2056)

Regenerative circuits in radio.

Born in New York City he invented the first radio amplifier (regenerative circuit) and the superheterodyne receiver that is part of every radio, TV or radar tuner today. In 1933 he demonstrated the wide-band frequency modulation system known as FM and in 1940 established the first FM Station in Alpine, New Jersey.

2. Philo T. Farnsworth (1906–1971)

D



1983 (Scott 2058)

Experiments in TV.

Born near Beaver, Utah, he invented a video capture tube and the first fully functional and complete all-electronic television system.

3. Cyrus Hall McCormick (1809–1884)

A



1940 (Scott 891)

Patented the reaping machine.

Born in Rockbridge County, Virginia he demonstrated a successful reaper in 1831 and received a patent for it in 1834. All subsequent grain-cutting machines are based on the principles of his machine.

4. Benjamin Franklin (1706–1790)

E



2006 (Scott 4022)

Invented bifocals.

United States statesman, inventor and scientist who among other things invented bifocal glasses.

5. Elias Howe (1819–1867)

B



1940 (Scott 892)

Received patent for sewing machine.

Born in Spencer, Massachusetts, he was an American machinist and inventor who received a patent in September, 1846 for a practical sewing machine.