



The Westfield Philatelist

Newsletter of the Westfield Stamp Club

American Philatelic Society Chapter #540

American Topical Association Chapter #113

Volume 15 Number 1 September/October 2021

UPCOMING MEETINGS

September 23, 2021– Show & Tell (**In Person**)



October 28, 2021; “Postal Rates and Uses of the U.S. Parcel Post Postage Due Stamps on Domestic and International Mail - 1913 to 1920s” (**Virtual**)

By *Wade Saadi*



Parcel Post Postage Due.
United States 1913 (Scott JQ4)



FROM THE EDITOR'S DEN

Two recent foreign stamp issues celebrate Postcrossing, a project that enables anyone to exchange postcards with random people around the world. The premise of the project is simple: for every postcard you send, you will receive one back from another postcrosser somewhere in the world. Currently, there are over 800,000 postcrossers in 215 countries.

Here is how it works:

- 1) Sign up (free) and request an address and a Postcard ID. Postcrossing gives you an address and a Postcard ID. You then pick a postcard that you have, write a friendly message along with the ID and the address given. You should write something cheerful on the left side of the postcard about your day, your hobbies, where you are, etc.
- 2) Add stamps and mail the postcard to that address.
- 3) Receive a postcard from another postcrosser.
- 4) Register the Postcard ID you have received

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SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER PHILATELIC QUIZ



Q1. What different functions did the 10¢ denomination of Canada's 1946 Peace and Natural Resources stamp issue serve?

Q2. When was the Bill of Rights Day established and by whom?

Q3. What famous Baltimore landmark celebrates its 200 anniversary in 2021 and was commemorated on a previous United States commemorative postage stamp?

Q4. What does the 1956 Nassau Hall, 1964 Shakespeare, 1970 Wildlife Conservation and 1976 Telephone Centennial stamp issues have in common?

Q5. What United States commemorative stamp shows a court martialled officer of the United States military?

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Because of the pandemic, meetings are currently virtual on the fourth Thursday of the month except for November (third Thursday) and July and August (summer recess). 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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908-233-3045

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Roger S. Brody - "1907 One-Cent Jamestown Internment Postal Card – War Rate" by Roger S. Brody & Richard F. Winter. *The United States Specialist* September 2021; 92(9):400-412.

Allan Fisk - "Flight 93. Let's Roll" [Large Silver] (Seapex 2021)

Edward J. Grabowski - [Ed entered four exhibits in the American Topical Association's virtual "My One-Page Exhibit" program. The exhibits are available for viewing through October 31, 2021 at www.americantopical.org/my-one-page-exhibit. Go to the Postal History category to view his exhibits which are listed below:

- 1) International Mail Order Fraud: Dr. Peebles Institute of Health
- 2) International Mail Order Fraud: The American Institute of Mentalism
- 3) International Mail Order Fraud: The New York Institute of Science
- 4) International Mail Order Fraud: The Oxypathor Company

Frederick C. Skvara - "Physician Poets". *Scalpel & Tongue: The American Journal of Medical Philately* April/June 2021; 65(2):40-42.



FROM THE EDITOR'S DEN (cont.)

Legibility is important not only on the message, but also on the address and the Postcard ID. Remember, you don't have to write your address on the postcard since each postcard has the Postcard ID that uniquely identifies a postcard in Postcrossing. The ID is composed of 2 parts: 2 letters (the country code) and a number.

I have been aware of this project for several years, but have never used it. But I am going to try it. Have any of our members had any experience with Postcrossing? I would like to hear from those who have.

Postcrossing (Guernsey 2021)



Golden Guernsey Goat with Torteval Church



Guernsey Chancre Crab & Pleinmont Observation Tower



Herm Puffin with Herm and Jethou Islands.

Postcrossing (Belarus 2021)



The Day of the Dead (*DÍA DE MUERTOS*)

By Frederick C. Skvara

The Mexican holiday, Day of the Dead (*Día de Muertos*) takes place over three days coinciding with All Hallows Eve (Halloween), All Saints' Day (All Hallows) and All Souls' Day (1). It involves costumes, skeletons, and treats as well as visits to graveyards and death imagery. The celebration includes altars in the home which are often elaborate with treats for the souls, and visits to the graves of family members who have died. Although it is observed throughout Latin America the tradition originated in Mexico which has issued stamps for the Day of the Dead since 2009. Examples are illustrated below.

On September 30 the USPS will issue four nondenominated (58¢) Forever stamps in panes of 20 for first-class letters under one ounce to celebrate the Day of the Dead. The four stamps were designed by Luis Fitch. The central image in two of the stamps shows a small skull representing children who have passed away while the other two stamps each shows a larger skull for deceased adults (man and woman). The skulls are surrounded by marigolds, a popular flower for the celebration and lighted candles to guide the deceased loved ones on their annual return to the land of the living.

Dia de Muertos



Woman honoring dead (left) & Ferris wheel with skeleton riders (right). Mexico 2009



Mexico 2010



Mexico 2011



Mexico 2012



Mexico 2014



Mexico 2013



Mexico 2015



Mexico 2017

The Day of the Dead (DÍA DE MUERTOS) (cont)

By Frederick C. Skvara



Mexico 2018



Mexico 2019



Mexico 2020

Notes:

1) The Celtic culture in Ireland, Britain and Northern Europe can be traced back to the Druids who celebrated a holiday called *Samhain* which was the night before the new year began marking the end of the harvest season and the beginning of winter. It was celebrated from October 31st to November 1st. The Western Christian Church shifted All Saints' Day from May to November 1st and All Souls' Day to November 2nd in the 9th century A.D. and All Saints' Day was called All Hallows Day and the *Samhain* festival on October 31st became All Hallows Eve and eventually Halloween.

Since November leads to the darkest and most barren half of the year, the All Hallows festival on October 31st took on a sinister significance with ghosts, witches, goblins, fairies and all kinds of demons roaming the land. The Celts believed the souls of the dead were supposed to revisit their homes on this day, but since not all the spirits roaming the streets were thought to be friendly, gifts and treats were left out to pacify the evil souls. Thus we have the practice of 'trick or treating' seen today by children (and some adults).



ARE YOU "LOW-MAN ON THE TOTEM POLE"?

By Frederick C. Skvara

If you are, Congratulations!

Totems are representations of a natural object or animate being and serve as the distinctive mark of a clan or group. A totem pole is a pole carved with totemic figures and erected by American Indians of the northwest coast of North America. They were first reported by Vitus Bering of Russia in 1741 as interior house posts, but around 1775 stand-alone totems came into existence and totem poles flourished between 1830 and 1895.

The carvings depict story characters and are a sign of prestige among American Indians. When a totem pole is carved, the master carver does all of the carving up to the first six feet. The lowest characters are thus considered the most important because they are at eye level and are the ones most easily seen by observers. The higher parts are carved by the master carver's assistants.

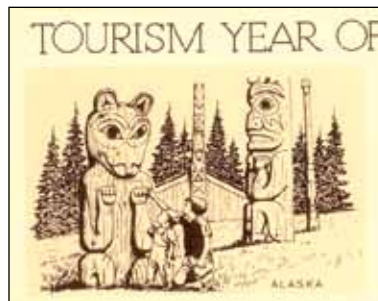
Thus, when you are referred to as "low man on the totem pole", you can smile for you know that this means that you are the most important.



Character that can change between a bear and a human. Totem pole is in Alaska State Museum, Juneau. U.S. 1967 [Alaska Purchase Centenary]



On the left is the indicia of the 1972 United States 9¢ airmail postal card while on the right is one of four images from the reverse of the card showing several totem poles. In the front is a stand-alone bear who is known to marry women while behind him is "low man on the totem pole" and two full poles and a longhouse.



Totem pole shows a Hok-Hok or cannibal bird; at the top is the outstretched wings of the Thunderbird. Canada 1967

THE ROMANTIC POETS OF ENGLAND

By Frederick C. Skvara

Recent issues from Great Britain's Royal Mail and Guernsey Post's Alderney highlight the English Romantic Movement and some of its leading writers. The Movement emerged in Germany and Britain in the 1790s and in France and elsewhere in the 1820s manifesting mainly as freedom of individual self-expression. Creative imagination occupied the center of romanticism and covered developments in art, music and philosophy besides poetry and literature.

William Wordsworth who was born on April 7, 1770, is regarded as launching the 'Romantic Era' of British poetry. On April 7, 2020, the 250th anniversary of his birth, Royal Mail issued a set of ten first class stamps noting the work of ten poets associated with the Romantic Movement in Britain. Each stamp depicts a black and white illustration and a quote, highlighting the recurring theme of nature, from each of the poet's work.

William Wordsworth (1770–1850)



The primary voice of the English Romantic Movement, he spent his early childhood exploring the woods, fields and streams of the Lake District in northwest England and much of his work is permeated with

a sense of man's deeply felt connection to nature. The founders of the National Trust, an organization promoting the preservation of buildings of historic interest and landscapes of natural beauty (including the Lake District) were all scholars of the works of Wordsworth. In 1843 he was made Poet Laureate of England by Queen Victoria.

The quote on the stamp is from "The Rainbow" (1807):

*My heart leaps up when I behold
A rainbow in the sky*

Mary Robinson (1758–1800)



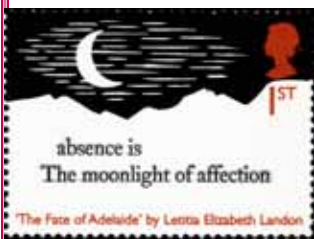
Forcibly married as a teenager her first volume of poems was published while living in prison with her daughter and husband after he had been imprisoned for debt. She left her husband to become an

actress and while acting in several plays in the Theatre Royal Drury Lane she met the Prince of Wales (later George IV) with whom she had an affair. She became crippled by rheumatic fever and although she became a bestselling novelist and a prolific lyric poet, she died in poverty.

The quote on the stamp is from "Ode to the Snowdrop":

*The snowdrop,
Winter's timid child,
Awakes to life,
bedew'd with tears*

Letitia Elizabeth Landon (1800–1838)



Known as the 'female Byron', which is unfair as Lord Byron was a serial seducer while Letitia was serially seduced, her life was filled with scandal and she died in her 30s of an overdose of prussic acid (hydrogen cyanide) under mysterious circumstances on the Cape Coast of Africa (Ghana).

The quote on the stamp is from "The Fate of Adelaide" (1821):

*absence is
The moonlight of affection*

Walter Scott (1771–1832)



Besides being a poet he wrote historical novels including *Waverley* (1814) and *Ivanhoe* (1819), and pursued a career in law and public service. Highly respected whose poem "The Lady of the Lake" inspired generations of

tourists to visit the Scottish Highlands.

The quote on the stamp is from "The Lady of the Lake" (1810):

*And mountains,
that like giants stand,
To sentinel enchanted land*

John Clare (1793–1864)



Achieved brief fame as ‘the Northamptonshire Peasant Poet, but suffered from poverty, neglect and mental illness, spending the last 25 years of his life in a lunatic asylum where he died of a stroke. His poetry was about the

natural world and rural life and

“through all of his suffering he never lost his love of the woods and meadows, of birds and flowers, which he expressed in an art of gentle, precise description. In a time when the natural world is threatened by so many forces, no voice is more moving and prescient than that of Clare...”

(from Presentation Pack issued by Royal Mail)

The quote on the stamp is from “The Progress of Rhyme” (c.1802):

*For every thing I felt a love
The weeds below the birds above*

William Blake (1757–1827)



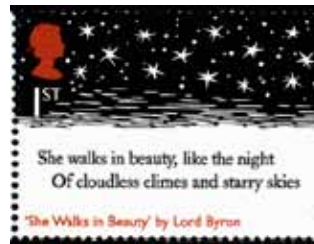
Lived and worked in London his entire life as a poet, painter and engraver., but was largely unrecognized during his lifetime and his watercolors, engravings and writings were only fully appreciated after his

death. He published his own works in tiny, illustrated, hand engraved editions.

The quote on the stamp is from “Auguries of Innocence” (1789):

*To see a world in a grain of sand
and a heaven in a wild flower*

Lord Byron (1788–1824)



George Gordon Byron became the 6th Lord Byron when he was ten years old. After an incestuous relationship with his half-sister led to the birth of a daughter, Medora, his wife, Anne

Isabella Milbanke, left him and debts associated with his ancestral home led him to leave England in 1816 never to return. Originally staying in Geneva, he eventually settled in Italy. In 1824 he joined the fight for Greek independence, but died of malaria at Missolonghi in western Greece.

He had a number of affairs and several illegitimate children, but he did have one legitimate child with his marriage to Anne Isabella Milbanke. That child, Ada Lovelace, was a mathematician who worked with Charles Babbage on the analytical engine, a predecessor to modern computers. The programming language ADA is named after her.

Byron was a master of every poetic form including in his epic satire, *Don Juan* (1819–1824), and his lyricism of love and the Mediterranean landscapes. His first literary success was *Childe Harold's Pilgrimage* (1812–1818).

The quote on the stamp is from “She Walks in Beauty” (1814):

*She walks in beauty, like the night
Of cloudless climes and starry skies*

Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1772–1834)



Coleridge collaborated with Wordsworth on *Lyrical Ballads* in 1798 which is often credited as the start of English romantic poetry. His most famous works were “The Rime of the Ancient Mariner”(1798) and “Kubla

Khan” (1816). He was also a literary critic whose work on Shakespeare was very influential. His works on philosophy had a major influence on Ralph Waldo Emerson and American transcendentalism. Physically unhealthy from rheumatic fever and other childhood illnesses, his adult life was characterized with bouts of anxiety and depression which led to a lifelong opium addiction.

The quote on the poem is from “Frost at Midnight”:

*The frost performs its
secret ministry
Unhelped by any wind*

Percy Bysshe Shelley (1792–1822)



Expelled from Eton for promoting atheism he eloped to Scotland with Harriet Westbrook, but soon fell in love with Mary Wolstonecraft Godwin, daughter of philosopher William Godwin and feminist pioneer Mary Wollstonecraft.

They fled to Europe in 1814 and spent the summer of 1816 near Lake Geneva, Switzerland renting a house near the Villa Diodati that Lord Byron had rented and were frequent guests of Lord Byron.

The summer of 1816 was often called the “year without a summer” because of the planetary cooling resulting from the 1815 eruption of Mount Tambora in Indonesia, the most powerful eruption in recorded history up to that time. One night while there, to pass the time, Byron suggested a game in which each of the party would write a ghost story. They had been reading aloud from the *Tales of the Dead*, an English anthology of horror fiction published in 1813, and such an endeavor seemed appropriate for such a stormy night.

Percy Bysshe Shelley wrote *A Fragment of a Ghost Story* that was published posthumously. Mary presented a tale that would later become *Frankenstein*, published anonymously in 1818 and under her own name in 1823. Byron recounted *Fragment of a Novel*, but never completed the tale. Based on that tale by Byron, John Polidori, M.D., personal physician to Lord Byron, created a short story that was subsequently published as *The Vampyre* in the April 1819 issue of *New Monthly Magazine* without his knowledge. It was the first vampire story published in English.

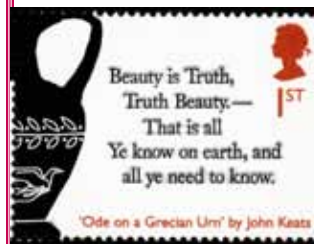
After the suicide of Harriet Westbrook, Shelley and Mary Godwin were married in 1817 and moved to Italy. Shelley was both a romantic idealist and a political radical and is best known for his glorious “Ode to a Skylark” (1820) and “Ode to the West Wind” (1819).

Shelley died by drowning in a boating accident.

The quote on the stamp is from “Ode to a Skylark” (1820):

*Higher still and higher
From the earth thou springest
Like a cloud of fire*

John Keats (1795-1821)



Although he qualified as a surgeon, he gave up medicine in 1816 in order to write poetry, becoming the epitome of the romantic poet: impoverished, but idealistic with his verse showing imagery and strong feeling. As

with Shelley his most lasting works were his six odes produced between 1818 and 1819. Tragically, he died young, as Byron, but this time due to tuberculosis. The quote on the stamp is from “*Ode on a Grecian Urn*” (1819):

*Beauty is Truth,
Truth Beauty. –
That is all
Ye know on earth, and
all ye need to know.*



250TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF WILLIAM WORDSWORTH

Guernsey Post – Alderney 2020



Many stamps are printed on paper containing watermarks that can be revealed with fluid and light and enabling one to identify particular issues and varieties. Watermarks first made their appearance in Europe in the late 13th century most likely to identify a particular workshop or papermaker since other trades at that time used marks to identify their products.

In the early papermaking process “true” watermarks occurred when water dripped from the papermaker’s hands or mold onto a pulpy sheet resulting in a thin spot in the dried paper known as papermaker’s tears. These spots were not welcome as it meant a loss of money for each marked sheet. But they were a visual clue to the papermaker and may have led to the idea of using an intentional identifying mark. Finished sheets of early paper also showed the chain and laid line wire marks from early European rigid wooden frames which had a wire screen stitched to it. The bottom side or “wire side” of a sheet of paper made on this mold would settle between the wires resulting in a thick and thin pattern across the entire surface and is commonly known as laid paper.

This may have suggested to the first watermark-makers of using additional wires on the mold surface to create a thin spot in a specific configuration. These papermarks (from the Dutch *papier-merken*) became a well-used art form in the paper craft that was native to Europe. There is no record of this being used in the Orient, where paper originated, until the mid-nineteenth century.

The first recorded mark is the “Cross of Bologna (1282), but as marking sheets caught on, there was a flood of designs (birds, fish, fleur-de-lis, crosses, etc.). During the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries these designs became more refined and eventually led to the watermarks being applied to the cylinder mold papermaking machine and the dandy roll of the Fourdrinier papermaking machine originally invented in France in 1799 and improved in England by Henry and Sealy Fourdrinier.

A number of the early marks can be found as philatelic paper watermarks. The rosettes of the stamps of Sarawak (wmk. 47 & 71) (fig.1) can be traced to 1490 in Rome. The sun watermarks of Argentina (wmk. 85 & 86) had origins in Lausanne, Switzerland, in 1402. The posthorn of Finland (fig.3) can be traced as a hunting horn to Genoa, Italy, around 1333. The crossed keys watermark from the Vatican (fig.4) was seen in Switzerland as early as 1419.

Watermarks have also been featured in a stamp’s design as in this 1964 Denmark stamp showing watermarks and perforations (fig. 5) and marking the 25th anniversary of Denmark’s Stamp Day and to publicize the Odense Stamp Exhibition

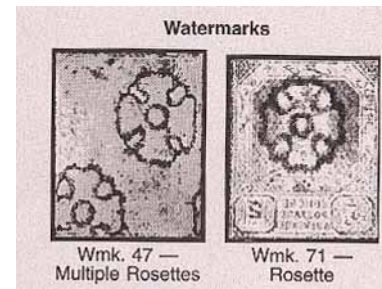


Fig. 1 Sarawak (wmk. 47 & 71)

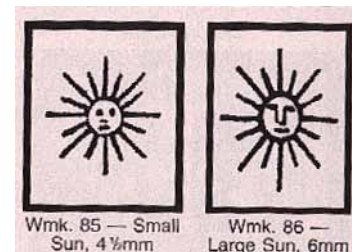


Fig. 2 Argentina (wmk. 85 & 86)



Fig. 3 Finland (wmk. 208)

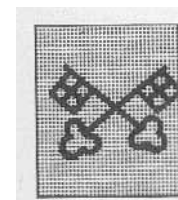


Fig. 4 Vatican (wmk. 235)



Fig. 5 Denmark 1964

Ref:

- 1) *Philateli-Graphics* April 1992; XIV(2): 19-22.
- 2) Watermark images are from *Scott Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue 2021*.



ANSWERS TO JULY/AUGUST PHILATELIC QUIZ



Q1. What was the first United States commemorative with the words “In God We Trust”?

Ans. **1928 Valley Forge (645)**

Valley Forge, named for an iron-making operation owned by two Quaker families, is on the west bank of the Schuylkill River in southeastern Pennsylvania. General George Washington and his troops arrived at Valley Forge on December 19, 1777. But the cache of military stores that he hoped to reuse had already been seized by the British who had also burned the village leaving little but trees and two shallow creeks for Washington’s men. Over the bitter winter of 1777-1778 rain, snow, disease (influenza, dysentery, typhoid and typhus) and a lack of food led to the death of 2,000 of Washington’s troops.



On December 1, 1777, Baron Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben (1730–1794), a Prussian army officer who had been aide-de-camp to Frederick the Great arrived in America and offered his services to General Washington. Through a systematic and rigorous training program von Steuban instituted, the Continental Army was converted into a confident military force. The USPOD issued this 2-cent stamp on the 200th anniversary of von Steuben’s birth (689). The image is based on a medalion by Karl Dautert, a German sculptor.

The image on the Valley Forge stamp which was issued by the USPOD for the 150th anniversary of the encampment at Valley Forge, shows General Washington kneeling beneath a large tree praying for divine assistance for his men. It is based on the engraving *Washington at Prayer* by John C. McRae (1816–1892) from a painting by Henry Brueckner. The words “In God We Trust” are below Washington and while those words are on all our coins, this was the first stamp on which they appeared.



Q2. What early United States president is known as the father of the modern navy and of the ships he had built, one is still in existence?

Ans. **John Adams (806)**



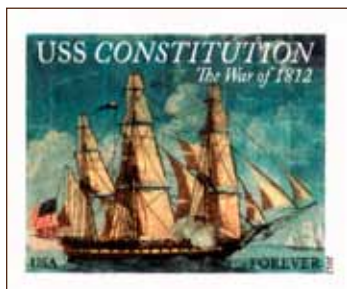
John Adams was born on October 30, 1735, in Braintree (Quincy), Massachusetts and died on July 4, 1826, in Quincy, the same day that Thomas Jefferson died. He served as the second President of the United States from 1797–1801. In 1774 he was selected as one of the delegates from Massachusetts to the first Continental Congress and when on October 5, 1775, Congress created a series of committees to study naval matters, Adams began advocating for the establishment and strengthening of an American Navy.

In response to French and Barbary privateers raiding American merchant ships, George Washington, on March 27, 1794, signed an “Act to Provide a Naval Armament” which authorized the construction of six frigates to create the United States Navy. Congress agreed to build six warships or frigates, one of which was the USS *Constitution*



USS *Constitution* 1947 (951). [150th anniversary of the launching. The design is an architect’s line drawing of the ship. The sixteen stars represent the number of states in the Union in 1797, the date of launching.

(“Old Ironsides”) whose plans were completed in 1794 and was launched on October 21, 1797, during John Adams presidency. The *Constitution* is the only one of the six ships built at that time that is still in existence. The others were the *United States*, *Constellation*, *Congress*, *Chesapeake* and *President*.



USS *Constitution*. 2012 (4703) [Issued for the Bicentennial of the War of 1812. Image based on a painting by Michele Felice Corné (1752–1845) who was born in Elba, Italy, but settled in the United States.]



ANSWERS TO JULY/AUGUST PHILATELIC QUIZ



Q2. cont.



USS Constitution
("Old Ironsides")
2012 (4703) [Cachet
by Fred Collins]

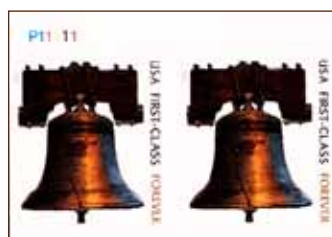
Q3. What is the first image used on a United States Forever© stamp?

Ans. **Liberty Bell**

On April 12, 2007, the USPS issued the first postage stamp forever valid for full payment of postage for a one-ounce first-class letter regardless of future postal rate increases. Three different printers were used: Avery Dennison, Ashton-Potter (USA) Ltd. and Banknote Corporation of America for Sennett Security Products. Printed in booklets of 20 or 18 stamps, all stamps were self-adhesive and have the words "USA First-Class Forever" vertically printed to the right of the Liberty Bell. Thirteen varieties were printed over a four-year period (2007 to 2010) and eleven of the thirteen have the word "Forever" in small, medium or large microprinting.

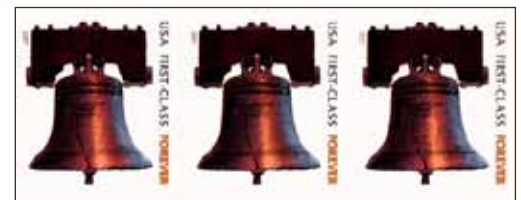
Three different booklet formats were issued: 1) double-sided panes of 20, 2) single-sided pane of 20 (vending machine booklet) that was foldable and 3) single-sided fold-it-yourself booklet of 18 (ATM pane).

From double-sided panes of 20

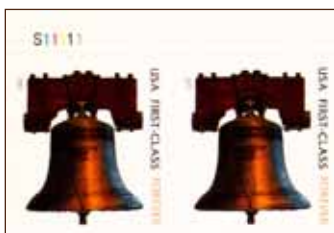


Liberty Bell 2007 (41¢).
(4126a) [Ashton-Potter
(USA) Ltd. P# P11111]

From single-sided pane of 18 (ATM)



Liberty Bell 2007 (41¢). (4128a) [Avery
Dennison. P# V11]



Liberty Bell 2007 (41¢).
(4127a) [Banknote Corp. of
America for Sennett Security
Products P# S11111]



Liberty Bell 2008 (42¢).
(4127e) [Banknote Corp. of
America for Sennett Security
Products P# S11111]



Liberty Bell 2009 (44¢).
(4125f) [Avery Dennison
P# V11111]



Q4. What was the role of a homing pigeon in saving the United States 77th Infantry Division during World War I?

Ans: [See below](#)

During World War I homing pigeons were often used to communicate with troops who were too far away to reach via other means such as Morse code or radio. The pigeons were trained to fly back to their coop from great distances. When they were brought into an encampment, they could be released with messages attached to their legs, and sent back to their home coop.

Cher Ami (“true friend”), a homing pigeon was part of the 77th Infantry Division of the United States Army. On October 3, 1913, the division was trapped in a small ravine surrounded by the German Army. Several pigeons had already been sent to try and get help and in response an American artillery unit began barraging what they thought was the German Army. Unfortunately the artillery had miscalculated its aim and was unknowingly barraging the 77th division killing thirty Americans. The commanding officer, Major Charles Whittlery, had sent all his pigeons to try and stop the barrage, but all of them had been shot down by the Germans. He had one pigeon left, *Cher Ami*, and attached this message to his leg: “We are along the road parallel to 276.4. Our own artillery is dropping a barrage directly on us. For heaven’s sake, stop it.”



Homing pigeon. France 1957

Blinded in one eye, shot through the chest and in the leg with the message, the pigeon plummeted to the ground but miraculously took off again and flew 25 miles in 25 minutes delivering the message that halted the barrage. Army medics saved his life and with only one leg, he was put on a boat to the United States. He died June 13, 1919, at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey, from his battle wounds. He was awarded the French Croix de Guerre Medal for heroic service. In 1931 he was inducted into the Racing Pigeon Hall of Fame. His stuffed body is on display at the Smithsonian Institution.



Q5. What was the Kosciuszko Squadron?

Ans: [See below](#)

Poland suffered three partitions in the eighteenth century (1772, 1793, 1795) with its territory claimed by Prussia, Russia and Austria, and essentially disappearing from a map of Europe until the end of World War I when it gained its independence. One of the early challenges to its independence was the Russo-Polish War of 1919-1921 in which Russia attacked Poland to recover land lost by the Russian Empire. After being demobilized in France, eight American military pilots volunteered to fight for Poland and in September 1919 formed the Kosciuszko Squadron (The Polish 7th Air Escadrille). The squadron took part in the Polish-Soviet War of 1919-1921 where they flew missions against the Soviets in the Kiev Offensive providing valuable reconnaissance as well as bombing and strafing attacks on the Russians in support of Polish ground troops. The American members of the squadron were officially demobilized on May 11, 1921, but the Polish officers of the squadron remained on active service against the German and Soviet invasion of Poland in 1939 and fought with the British in the Battle of Britain.

The insignia of the Kosciuszko Squadron shows a Polish cap and crossed scythes, symbolizing the 1794 Kosciuszko Uprising against Russia. superimposed on a field of red and white stripes and blue stars symbolizing the American flag.



Tadeusz Kosciuszko and Poland-Lithuanian Uprising (1794) Belarus 1995 [200th anniversary].



Insignia of Kosciuszko Squadron. Poland 1990 [50th anniversary of squadron’s participation in Battle of Britain]



Fay Wray & scene from 1933 film *King Kong* produced by Merian C. Cooper, a flyer in the Kosciuszko Squadron who went on to become a very successful movie producer. Canada 2006



ANSWERS TO JULY/AUGUST PHILATELIC QUIZ



Q5. cont.



Tadeusz Kosciuszko. Poland 1975 [200th anniversary of American Revolution]

General Tadeusz Kosciuszko (1746–1817), a Polish military officer and engineer by training, volunteered his services in the American War for Independence and laid out the fortifications of West Point on the Hudson River. He served throughout the war including at Saratoga and in the southern campaign. For his service he was granted United States citizenship in 1783.

American volunteer pilots had previously flown and fought for France in World War I as the La Fayette Escadrille before the United States entered the war. And in 1941-1942, before the United States entered World War II, American volunteer pilots formed the First American Volunteer Group known as the Flying Tigers and fought for China against the Japanese.

[Ref. "Stamps Preserve the Legacy of the Kosciuszko Squadron" By Rick Miller. *Linn's Stamp News* February 2, 2015]



Tadeusz Kosciuszko statue in La Fayette Park, Washington, D.C. United States 1933 [150th anniversary of United States citizenship]



EUROPA 2021 – ENDANGERED NATIONAL WILDLIFE

By Frederick C. Skvara

The Europa theme for 2021 is Endangered National Wildlife and all of the countries that are part of PostEuropa have issued stamps and other philatelic products showing a wide range of fauna that are presumably threatened or endangered. The Red Book of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is the bible for endangered species classification.



Common (Eurasian) Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*) is widely distributed throughout Eurasia and North Africa. IUCN Rating: *Least Concern*.

Mountain Apollo (*Parnassius apollo*) butterfly is named for the deity Apollo. IUCN Rating: *Vulnerable*.

Siberian Flying Squirrel (*Pteromys volans*) is an Old World flying squirrel, the only flying squirrel found in Europe. IUCN Rating: *Least Concern* overall, but vulnerable within the European Union.

Finland (from booklet) [Issued for Europa 2021 and World Wildlife Fund]



Herman's tortoise (*Testudo hermanni*). IUCN Rating: *Near Threatened*. Harvest Mouse (*Micromys minutus*). IUCN Rating: *Least Concern*. Bosnia & Herzegovina (Serb Post) 2021



Moor Frog (*Rana arvalis*). Semiaquatic amphibian native to Europe & Asia. Member of family *Ranidae*, or true frogs. IUCN Rating: *Least Concern*.

I IS FOR WASHINGTON IRVING

Washington Irving (1783–1859) was an American author of short stories and plays whose greatest literary success came with the publication of *The Sketch Book of Geoffrey Crayon, Gent.* (1819–1820). Crayon was one of his pseudonyms. That book included his most famous short stories: “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow”, “Rip van Winkle” and “The Spectre Bridegroom”. His book *Diedrich Knickerbocker’s History of New York* (1809), was a comic history of the Dutch regime in New York. It included the first literary description of the American new Saint Nicholas, based on the Dutch figure of Sinterklaas brought to New York by Dutch settlers in the seventeenth century.



Guernsey 2005

Narcissus “Rip van Winkle” (*Narcissus minor* var. *pumilus* ‘Plenus’) is a daffodil cultivar. This is one of six stamps issued by Guernsey in 2005 illustrating floral paintings by William J. Caparne (1855–1940), who besides painting flowers and landscapes, was also a noted horticulturist who created a number of cultivars, especially of bearded irises.



United States 1940

The Legend of Sleepy Hollow

The tale takes place in New York state in a glen called Sleepy Hollow that was known for ghosts and having a sinister atmosphere. The most famous apparition in the glen is the Headless Horseman, who it is said was a Hessian soldier whose head was shot off by a cannonball at some battle. He rides the countryside at night looking for the scene of that battle in search of his head.

The United States stamp shows Ichabod Crane, a schoolmaster from Connecticut, being pursued by the Headless Horseman as Crane was returning from a party at a local farm. The next morning Crane disappears and is not seen again.



Headless Horseman
& Ichabod Crane.
United States 1974

Walt Disney released *The Adventures of Ichabod and Mr. Toad* on October 5, 1949, and *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* was released on its own in September 1963.



The Headless Horseman on a spectral steed. St. Vincent Grenadines 1992.

J IS FOR JOAN OF ARC

Saint Joan of Arc (c. 1412–1431)
The Maid of Orleans

She was born c.1412 in Domrémy-la-Pucelle, a village in northeast France on the Meuse River. Joan believed that her actions in leading the French armies to victory over the British in the Hundred Years War were being directed by divine inspiration. Her “voices” propelled her to go to Chinon to the dauphin Charles, son and heir of Charles VI, and to rescue Reims from the control of the English and Burgundians. Then the dauphin could be crowned King of France in Reims, the traditional site for the crowning of French kings. From her village she went to Vaucouleurs, the closest stronghold still loyal to the dauphin and left Vaucouleurs February 13, 1429, dressed in men’s clothes. From there she went to Chinon and convinced the dauphin to let her lead an army against the English at Orleans. She relieved the siege of Orleans and ensured the crowning of Charles VII at Reims.

Eventually captured by the Burgundians, who were English allies, she was tried as a heretic. Seventy different charges were drawn up against her, including that she wore men’s clothing, even when attending mass – a reference to transvestism which was forbidden by the Old Testament. She was burned at the stake on May 30, 1431. Pope Benedict XV canonized Joan on May 16, 1920, and the feast of Saint Joan of Arc is celebrated on May 30. On June 24, 1920, the French parliament decreed that a national festival in her honor will be held on the second Sunday in May.



Saint Joan of Arc.
 France 1946



Joan leaving Vaucouleurs dressed in men’s attire.
 France 1968



Church of St. Joan D’Arc (left) erected in Place du Vieux Marché in Rouen where she was burned at the stake. Church of St. Vincent (right) was erected in the 16th century and destroyed by Allied bombing in 1944. France 1979 [Red Cross booklet cover. Stamps show stained glass windows from the Church of St. Joan D’Arc.]

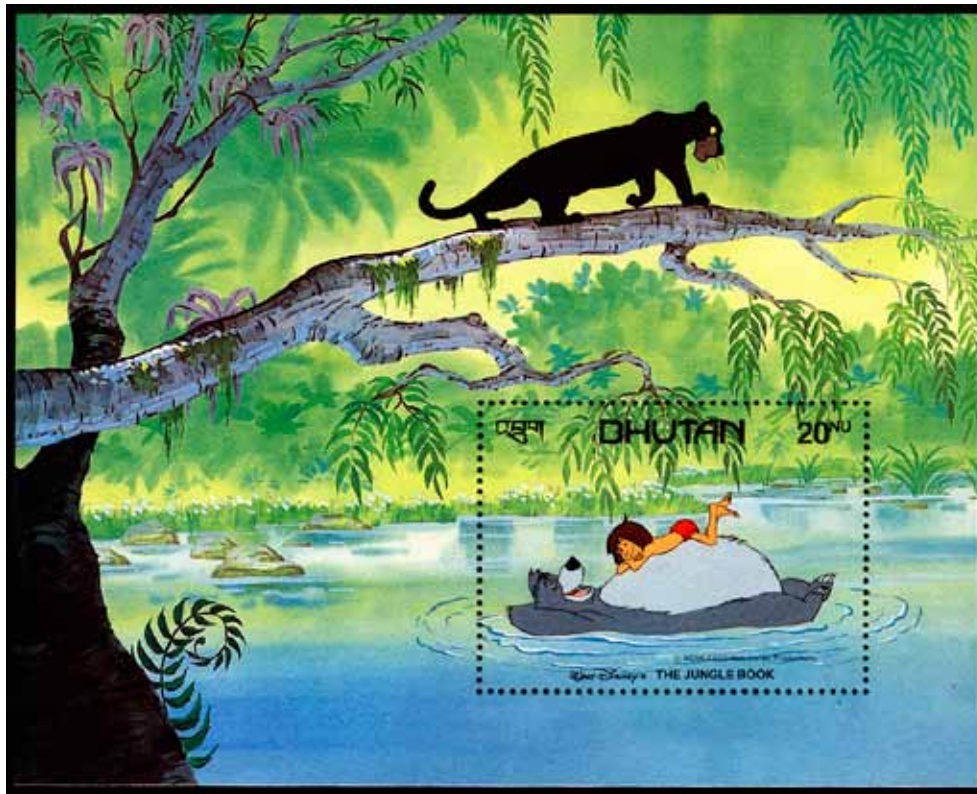
K IS FOR RUDYARD KIPLING

Rudyard Kipling (1865–1936) was a British novelist, short-story writer and poet. Born in India he worked as a journalist from 1882-1889 and set many of his writings in that country under the British Raj. “Gunga Din”, “If” and “The White Man’s Burden” are his best-known poems, but he is now primarily known for his children’s tales such as *The Jungle Book* (1894), *Kim* (1901), *Just So Stories* (1902) and *Puck of Pook’s Hill* (1906). He was awarded the 1907 Nobel Prize in Literature “in consideration of the power of observation, originality of imagination, virility of ideas and remarkable talent for narration which characterize the creations of this world-famous author.” He is buried in the Poets’ Corner of Westminster Abbey, London.



Portrait of Kipling and with titles of his poem “If” and *The Jungle Book*. Also depicted is the front of Kipling’s Nobel diploma showing an elephant with a carriage (houdah) carrying a man reading. Monaco 2006, but dated 2007 for the centenary of Kipling’s Nobel Prize.

50th Anniversary of Nobel Prize in Literature (Rudyard Kipling) and Physiology or Medicine (Alphonse Laveran who discovered the malarial parasite). Sweden 1967



Scene from 1967 Disney movie *The Jungle Book* showing the boy Mowgli (Bruce Reitherman) and Baloo, the bear, floating with Bagheera, a wise panther overhead who is watching over the boy. It is here that Phil Harris as Baloo and Mowgli sing the song “The Bare Necessities” written by Terry Gilkyson. The song was nominated for an Academy Award for the Best Original Song. Bhutan 1982

Romeo and Juliet

Based mainly on Arthur Brooke's *The Tragical History of Romeus and Juliet* (1562), Shakespeare's play first appeared in print in 1597. The story describes two lovers born of feuding families—Romeo, a Montague and Juliet, a Capulet—whose deaths ends the feuding between the families.



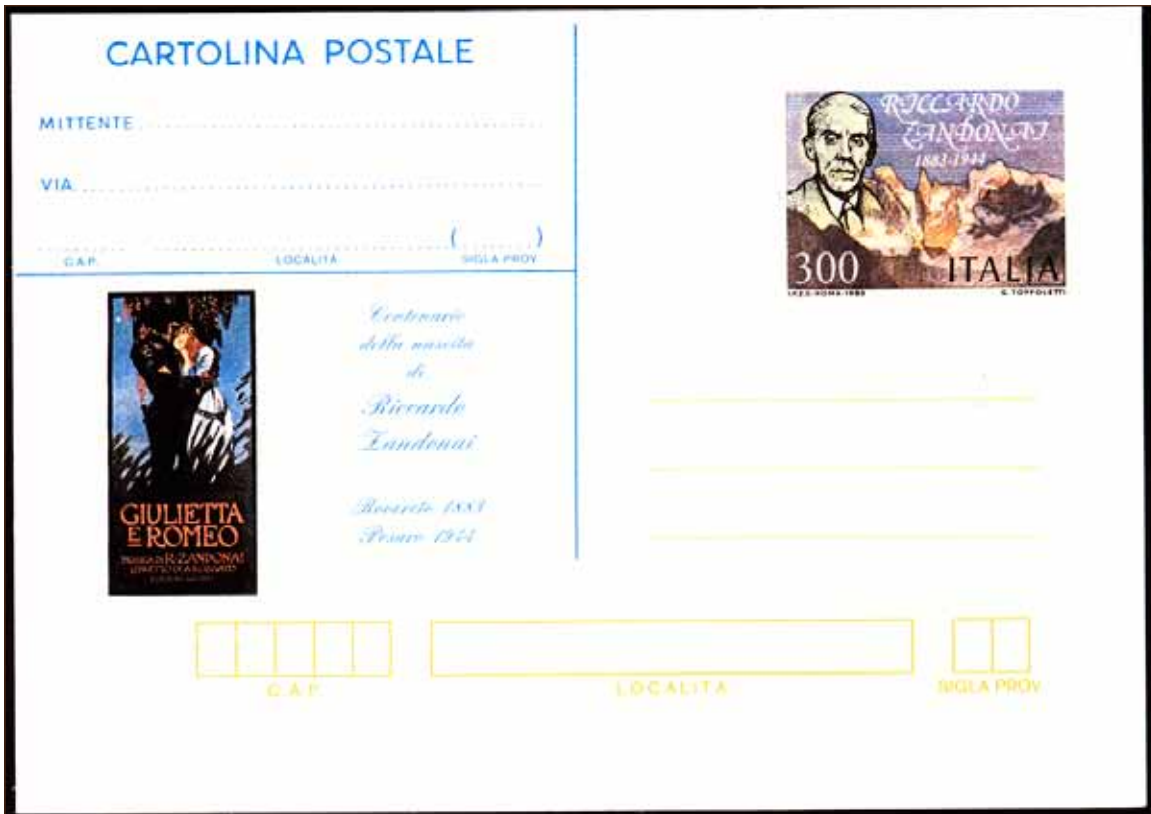
Romeo & Juliet Ballet by Serge Prokofiev with Juri Zhdanov as Romeo and Galena Ulanova as Juliet expressing their joy at meeting. Act I, Scene v. Russia 1961.



Romeo bidding Juliet goodnight. Act II, Scene i. Great Britain 1964.



Juliet awakens from her drugged sleep to find Romeo dead beside her. Act V, Scene iii. Liberia 1987.



Postal card indicium picturing Riccardo Zandonai. At the left is a picture of a poster for his opera *Giuletta e Romeo*. Italy 1983.

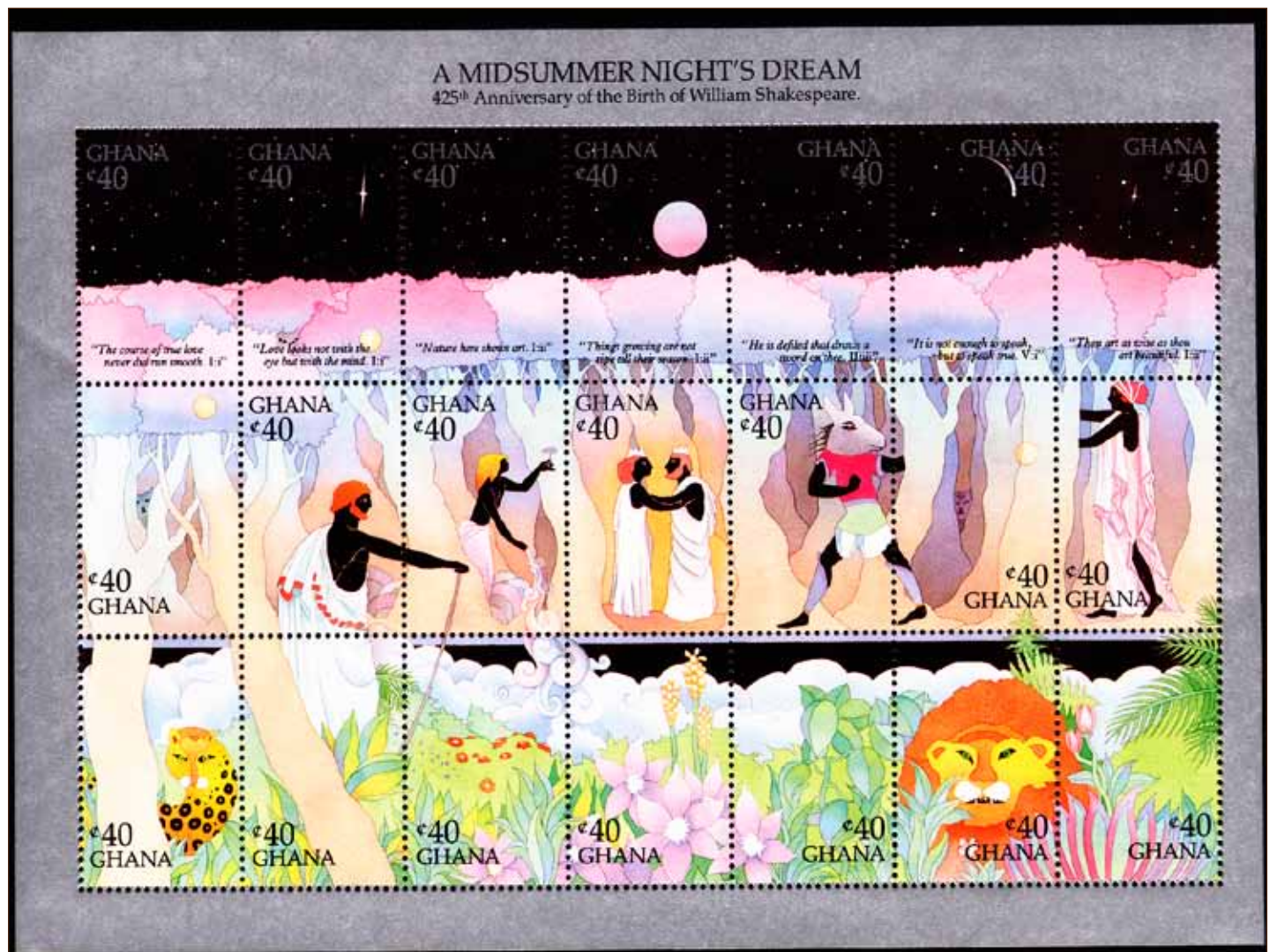
William Shakespeare

A Midsummer Night's Dream

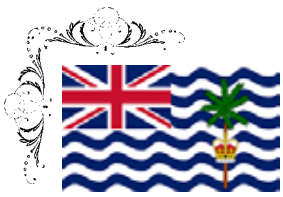
Written between 1595 and 1596 it is one of Shakespeare's most popular plays, a celebration of the powers of the human imagination while also providing, through comedy, its limitations. There are four main threads in the play. One is the preparations for the marriage of Theseus, Duke of Athens to Hippolyta, Queen of the Amazons; two, is the love story of Lysander and Hermia who elope; three, is the effort of a group of Athenian workmen to prepare a play and four, is the quarrel between Oberon and Titania, King and Queen of the Fairies. Robin Goodfellow, a puck or pixie mischievously interferes with the workmen's rehearsals and with the lives of the lovers.



Puck and Bottom.
Great Britain 1964.



Minisheet showing scenes and quotations from the play. Ghana 1989.



Discover the World: *British Indian Ocean Territory*

Area – 23 sq.mi. Population – 3,000 (military personnel)
Capital: Camp Justice



The British Indian Ocean Territory is a British crown colony created on November 8, 1965, from the Chagos Archipelago (Diego Garcia) that was previously administered by Mauritius, and the islands of Aldabra, Farquhar and Desroches from the Seychelles (the islands were subsequently returned to Seychelles in June 1976). In 1973 Diego Garcia was leased to the United States as a naval air base after the civilian population had been evacuated.

On January 17, 1968, a set of 15 Seychelles stamps were overprinted “B.I.O.T. and an eighteen stamp set was released between 1968 and 1973 with the the full name of the colony: British Indian Ocean Territory. Over the years B.I.O.T. has issued a number of very attractive stamps highlighting the flora and fauna of the colony.

The B.I.O.T. has no permanent population besides the military personnel at the joint United States–United Kingdom military base on Diego Garcia, the largest island in the archipelago. Both the United Kingdom and Mauritius claim sovereignty of the islands and a resolution adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on May 22, 2019, stated that “The United Kingdom is under an obligation to bring an end to its administration of the Chagos Archipelago as rapidly as possible” and that its specialized agencies such as the UPU are “to recognize that the Chagos Archipelago are an integral part of the territory of Mauritius”. In August of this year the UPU Congress “has formally acknowledged the Chagos Archipelago as an integral part of the territory of Mauritius” and “as a result ... the UPU will no longer register, distribute or forward postage stamps issued by the British Indian Ocean Territory...and all mail from the Chagos Islands must now bear stamps from Mauritius”.



The four main islands of the B.I.O.T. 1975



Angelfish. B.I.O.T. June 8, 2021 [This may be the last stamps issued by this colony.]