



# The Westfield Philatelist

Newsletter of the Westfield Stamp Club  
 American Philatelic Society Chapter #540  
 American Topical Association Chapter #113  
 Volume 15 Number 2 November/December 2021

## MEMBER JOHN KOZIMBO ATTENDS FIRST DAY CEREMONY

Hi Westfield Stamp Club,

I'm sending along three photos from the First-Day of Issue ceremony for the "Mid-Atlantic Lighthouses" stamps on August 6, 2021 in Highlands NJ. [see pg. 3]



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### NOVEMBER/DECEMBER PHILATELIC QUIZ

- Q1. What is the only United States National Park to have a stamp issued for its grand opening??
- Q2. What is the shortest United States commemorative stamp series?
- Q3. What was the first stamp issued for the World Wildlife Fund?
- Q4. What country issued stamps specifically to help clothe its army during World War I?
- Q5. What was the first United States stamp to depict an airplane?



## The Westfield Philatelist

### Editor

Frederick C. Skvara  
PO Box 6228  
Bridgewater, NJ 08807  
Tel: 908-442-2795  
email: fcskvara@optonline.net

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

or call

Nick Lombardi  
908-233-3045

## FROM THE EDITOR'S DEN

Unfortunately, I was unable to get out this issue in 2021 or before the January meeting. I hope to have the January/February 2022 issue out by the middle of February.

It is my understanding that our 2022 Westfield Stamp Show will be held on April 2 this year, but I do not have any more details.



## MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

**Roger Brody** - "Once in a Century". *The United States Specialist* December 2021; 92(12):538-549.

**Lou Caprario** - "United States Beer Stamps 1866-1919". USSS Statue of Freedom Award. Philatelic Show (MA)

**Jack Denys** - "You may be a Closet Topical Stamp Collector!" *The American Philatelist* November 2021; 135(11):1038-1039.

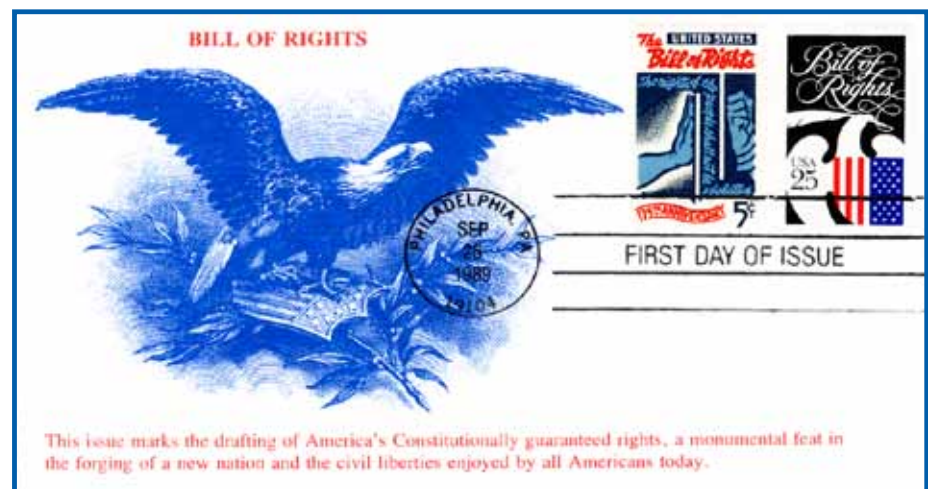
**Nicholas Lombardi** - "The Shift Hunters Letters" *The United States Specialist* October 2021; 92(10):445-446

**Frederick C. Skvara** - **1)** Various. *Scalpel & Tong: The American Journal of Medical Philately* July/September 2021; 65(3). **2)** Various. *Scalpel & Tong: The American Journal of Medical Philately*

October/ December 2021; 65(4). **3)** "Christmas Seals: Their Original Purpose". *Journal of the Cinderella Stamp Club of Australia* December 2021; 35(3):15-17.

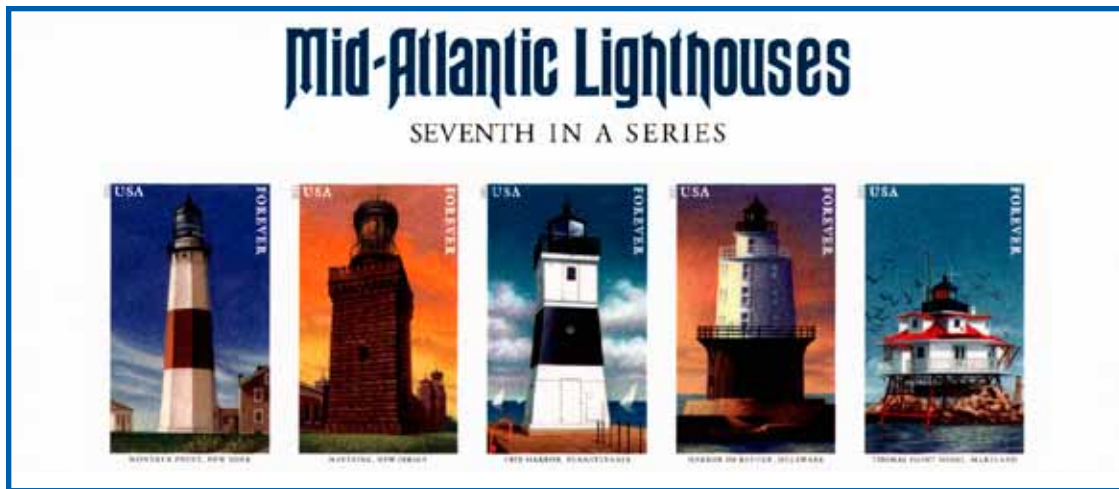


### Bill of Rights [see Q2: pg. 12]



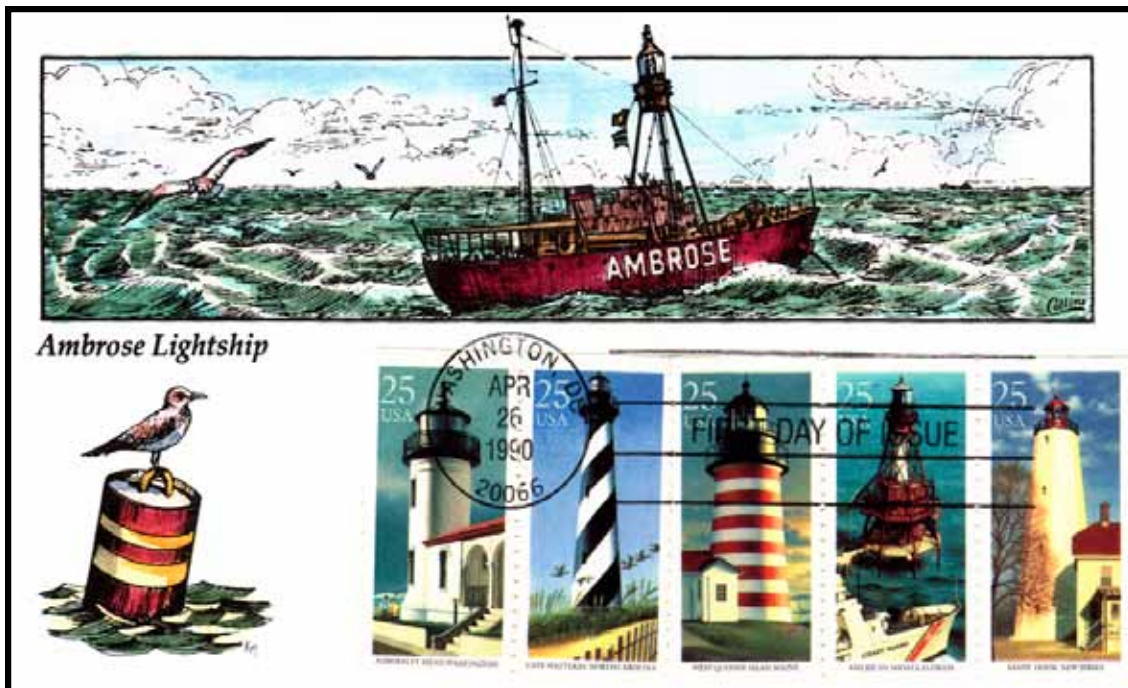
1966 5¢ (Scott 1312) and 1989 25¢ (Scott 2421) stamps for the Bill of Rights on a combination first day cover by KMC Venture.





The set of stamps issued on August 6, 2021, for the Mid-Atlantic Lighthouses is the seventh set in the Lighthouse Series that began in 1990. All were based on the paintings by stamp artist Howard Koslow who died in 2016 at the age of 91. Shown left to right:

- 1) **Montauk Point Lighthouse** off Long Island, New York, was completed in 1796.
- 2) **Navesink Lighthouse** in New Jersey, was built in 1862. One of the two Navesink Lighthouses is shown on the stamp.
- 3) **Erie Harbor Pierhead Lighthouse** is in Pennsylvania near the narrow inlet between Lake Erie and Presque Isle Bay.
- 4) **Harbor of Refuge Lighthouse** in Delaware Bay was completed in 1926.
- 5) The 1875 **Thomas Point Shoal Lighthouse** is located in Chesapeake Bay, Maryland.



This is the first set of Lighthouse stamps designed by Howard Koslow and issued on April 26, 1990 (Scott 2470–2474).

Left to right: 1) **Admiralty Head Lighthouse**, Washington; 2) **Cape Hatteras Lighthouse**, North Carolina; 3) **West Quoddy Head Lighthouse**, Maine; 4) **American Shoals Lighthouse**, Florida; 5) **Sandy Hook Lighthouse**, New Jersey

The first day cover (reduced) is by Fred Collins and depicts an Ambrose Lightship, a name given to a number of lightships. They served as sentinel beacons marking Ambrose Channel in New York Harbor. The first one was established off of Sandy Hook, New Jersey, in 1823.

Re: Mini-Topics,

It may be strange for someone known as ‘Mike Worldwide at Clifton’ to be writing about mini-topics, but the APS web chart was engaging, and it’s already on YouTube and where three women philatelists described their mini-topic collections.

**Susan Jones** collects Maria Sibylla Merian, an eighteenth-century artist and scientist. Though she was only portrayed on two stamps, her designs of butterflies and flowers appear on many stamps, especially from Surinam, but also from the United States. Her specialty was metamorphosis. Jones showed that one mini-topic often leads to another.



Left: Flowering Pineapple, Cockroaches Right: Citron, moth, larvae, pupa, beetle. U.S. 1997



Maria Sibylla Merian. Germany & Germany–Berlin 1986



St. Bernard dog, statue of St. Bernard & hospice on summit. Switzerland 1989



Guinea Pig. U.S. 2016

**Dr. Michele Bresso** collects guinea pigs and the American Topical Association offers extensive checklist on numerous topics including Pigs in which stamps showing guinea pigs can be found. She has a second topic: the St. Bernard dog that originated in Switzerland.

**Jennifer Miller**, Executive Director of the American Topical Association favors Winnie the Pooh. She gave the historical background of Alan Alexander Milne’s character. Pooh was the name his son, Christopher Robin Milne, gave to a swan and Winnie was a bear in the London Zoo.



Great Britain 1979

The possibilities are endless.

ODDS & ENDS

Patent Medicines



George Gill Green (1842–1925) was born in Clarksboro, New Jersey, spent two years at the University of Pennsylvania Medical School and served in the Illinois Volunteers during the Civil War. He established a patent medicine business, first in Baltimore, Maryland, and then in Woodbury, New Jersey (1872). He obtained the rights to produce *Boschee's German Syrup* for the treatment of all diseases of the lungs and throat, including consumption (tuberculosis), but also for Green's *August Flower* for dyspepsia, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, constipation, etc. His business was extremely successful, but declined after the passage of the Food & Drug Act of 1906.



3¢ black G.G. Green Private Die Proprietary Stamp issued between May 1878 and April 1883 (Scott RS92)

Advertising card issued by W.S. McKechnie, Canadaigua, New York, promoting *Boschee's German Syrup* and *Green's August Flower*.



## John Keats (1795–1821) – 200th Anniversary of The 1819 Odes

By Frederick C. Skvara



*Ode to a Grecian Urn*



*Ode on Indolence*



*Ode Melancholy*



*Ode to a Nightingale*



*Ode to Psyche*



*Ode to Autumn*

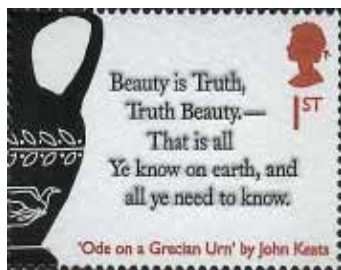
On July 24, 2019, Alderney, a dependent territory under the Bailiwick of Guernsey issued a set of six stamps for the 200th anniversary of the six odes written by Keats in 1819. The stamps were issued in sheets of ten stamps and in a booklet with each stamp in a pane of four in the booklet. The precise order in which Keats composed the odes is unknown.

Born in London on October 31, 1795, the son of a livery-stable keeper, Keats was orphaned in 1810. The following year he became an apprentice to learn pharmacology and surgery working at Guy's Hospital in London until he passed his licensing examination as an apothecary-surgeon in 1816. Beginning in 1817 he devoted the rest of his life to his poetry and is considered one of the greatest English poets and a key figure in the Romantic Movement. This movement began around the end of the 18th century and coincided with the political changes sparked by the French Revolution and the social changes brought about by urbanization and the Industrial Revolution.



John Keats and his signature. Great Britain 1971

After returning from Scotland in 1818 he found his brother suffering from tuberculosis and although Keats treated him, his brother died. But Keats' health was also deteriorating and on the recommendation of James Clark, a physician, he traveled to Italy in 1820 to avoid the London winter. In Italy his disease progressed and he died of tuberculosis at the age of 26 on February 23, 1821 in Rome. At the end he was being cared for by his friend, Joseph Severn (1793-1879), a painter whose portrait of Keats is in the National Portrait Gallery in London.



*Ode on a Grecian Urn* by John Keats. Great Britain 2020

In 1971 Great Britain issued a set of three stamps showing writers, one of which commemorated the 150th anniversary of the death of John Keats and in 2020 Great Britain released a set of 10 stamps for the Romantic Poets, one of those stamps was devoted to John Keats.



The 'Clue of the Day' in the History Category on a recent *Jeopardy* television show:

*In 1247 The Priory of St. Mary of Bethlehem, later an asylum known by this 6-letter name opened in London.*

And the question was: What is Bedlam?

*The New Oxford American Dictionary* gives the following definitions for Bedlam n: **1** a scene of uproar and confusion **2** historical (**BEDLAM**) a former insane asylum in London ■ archaic used allusively to refer to any insane asylum. – ORIGIN late Middle English: early form of **BETHLEHEM**, referring to the hospital of St. Mary of Bethlehem in London, used as an asylum for the insane.

I was intrigued. Were there any philatelic connections to this hospital or to the word Bedlam?

The Hospital of St. Mary of Bethlehem is one of the oldest hospitals in England. It was established as the Priory of St. Mary of Bethlehem in 1247 during the reign of King Henry III, a Plantagenet, to care for sick paupers. Simon Fitzmary, Sheriff of London, along with a monk, donated land in Bishopsgate, London, for the hospital. Originally, it was a small 20-bed hospital run by monks, but by the mid-14th century it was struggling to survive and was placed under the administration of the Mayor of the City of London.

By the early 15th century, the majority of patients admitted were those with mental illness and thus it became England's first mental asylum. In 1676 it was moved from its original location in Bishopsgate to Moorfields, London, and then in 1814 to St. George's Field, also in London. In 1930 it was moved to its present location at Monks Orchard in West Wickham and is now known as Bethlem Royal Hospital. The hospital was known by several names over its early history including Hospital of St. Mary of Bethlehem, Bethlehem Hospital, Bethlem, and most infamously "Bedlam".

As the hospital's population filled with "lunatic" patients, care deteriorated to one mainly of punishment. Patients were held behind bars, placed in stocks or chained. It was thought at the time that these measures could cure some of the mental conditions exhibited by the inmates. In addition, they were also exhibited to the public, often for a small fee.

But treatment of the patients was not the only problems connected with this institution. The history of "Bedlam" also includes a long history of scandal stretching back to the early 15th century when the hospital treasurer was found guilty of theft of hospital property.

While I am not aware of any stamps commemorating Bethlehem Hospital, the "infamous" history of this institution was fertile ground for several works of literature and art, films and television series. And we can find philatelic connections to some of these works.

Probably the earliest is the term "Tom O'Bedlam", an anonymous poem written in the early 17th century about a former inmate of Bedlam Hospital. The name in the poem's title was used beginning in the 16th century to refer to beggars or vagrants who claimed they were former residents of Bedlam Hospital.

About the same time as the poem was written it appears in one of Shakespeare's plays, *King Lear*, in which Shakespeare describes the borderline between madness and normalcy. It shows step by step the mental deterioration of the King and is a case history of senile dementia exhibiting both mental and physical decay. In the play Edmund, the illegitimate son of the Earl of Gloucester has his brother, Edgar, the Earl's legitimate son, accused of plotting to kill the Earl. Edgar is unfairly convicted, and stripped of his identity. To avoid imprisonment, Edgar disguises himself as "Tom O'Bedlam", wandering around begging for food and acting crazy.

EDMOND

Pat, he comes [Edgar], like the catastrophe of the old comedy. My cue is villainous melancholy, with a sigh like Tom O'Bedlam.

Act I, Scene ii

EDGAR

Of Bedlam beggars who with roaring voices...  
Sometime with lunatic bans, sometime with prayers  
Enforce their charity. 'Poor Tuelygod, Poor Tom.'  
That's something yet. Edgar I nothing am.

Act II Scene ii



*King Lear in the Storm* (1786–1787) by Benjamin West. Liberia 1987 (Scott 1060g) [ Depicted on the stamp from left to right: Earl of Gloucester with torch, the Fool, King Lear being supported by the Earl of Kent and Edgar crouching, half-naked and disguised as a madman, at the left foot of the king. The fury of the storm underlines the forms of madness depicted: intrinsic in the Fool, pretended by Edgar and encroaching on Lear. Act III, Scene iv

In 1946, RKO Radio Pictures released *Bedlam*, one of the last of the B-Horror films. The film is set in 1761 London, and focuses on events at St. Mary's Bethlehem Asylum, a fictionalized version of Bethlem Royal Hospital. Boris Karloff plays Master George Sims, a fictionalized version of the infamous head physician at Bethlem, John Monro (1716–1791), who was the principle physician at Bethlem from 1752 until his retirement in 1787.



Boris Karloff as *Frankenstein*. United States 1997 (Scott 3170)

Igor Stravinsky (1882–1971), the Russian-born composer, composed the music for *The Rake's Progress*, a three-act opera, first performed in 1951. The libretto was written by W.H. Auden (1907–1973), an English-American poet and Chester Kallman (1921–1975), an American poet and librettist. The opera is based on a series of paintings, *A Rake's Progress*, created between 1733 and 1735, by William Hogarth (1697–1764), an English painter and printmaker. The story tells the rise and fall of Tom Rakewell who eventually ends up in Bedlam.



Igor Stravinsky. United States 1982 (Scott 1945)

Laura Joh Rowland, a detective/mystery author living in New York City, wrote two books on the fictionalized adventures of Charlotte Brontë. Published in 2010 *Bedlam: the Further Secret Adventures of Charlotte Brontë* is a mystery set in Victorian England that takes Brontë into the mad world of Bedlam.



Charlotte Brontë and a scene from *Jane Eyre*. Great Britain. 1980 (Scott 915)

The name of 'Bedlam' has turned up as the title of a British television series, several books, a play and has been adopted by several music bands. Bedlam was also the name of a Marvel Comics character. And for all you sports fans, 'The Bedlam Series' is the NCAA College Sports rivalry between the University of Oklahoma and Oklahoma State University.



Mily Balakirev (1837-1910), Russian composer who composed a symphony to *King Lear* (1858-1861) and *King Lear Weeping Over the Dead Body of Cordelia* (1786–1788) by James Barry (1741–1806), an Irish painter. Mozambique 2012 (Scott 2654d) [Note: the stamps

credits the painting to Benjamin West, but it is by Barry. West did not paint this scene.]



## ODDS & ENDS

### Erwin Schrödinger (1887–1961)



In my last year at Rutgers University, I took the course in physical chemistry. Big mistake! The course was beyond hard, but I remember a two-lecture presentation on the Schrödinger Wave Equation at the end of the course that I thought was elegant. The final exam was open-book and consisted of the famous “little blue books” in which you were to write your answers, including equations. No multiple choice questions! I vividly remember seeing a number of blue books being handed in at the conclusion of our exam in as pristine condition as when they were handed out.

I recently came across this Austrian first day cover that brought back those memories. Issued in 1987 for the centenary of the birth of Erwin Schrödinger, the Austrian physicist, whose work influenced the biophysicists, Maurice H.F. Wilkins (1916–2004) and Francis H.C. Crick (1916–2004) of DNA fame. In 1933 Schrödinger was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics.



# French Semipostal Stamps Issued to Benefit the Red Cross, Part 1

By Frederick C. Skvara

## 1914

The first French Red Cross stamp was also the first French stamp issued with a surcharge for charity and was issued on August 18, 1914. France had declared war on Germany on August 3, 1914, and on August 11, 1914, Raymond Poincaré, (1860–1934), President of France from 1913 to 1920, signed a decree for the issue of the 10c Red Cameo Sower with a surcharge of 5 centimes for the benefit of the Red Cross Fund (Scott B1). The unsurcharged 10c Cameo Sower stamp (without ground and with thick figures) was first issued in 1907 and reissued every year until 1921 except for the years 1917–1919.

A modified design of the 10c Red Cameo Sower was issued on September 10, 1914, with the Red Cross and 5c surcharge in a white panel in the lower left of the stamp (Scott B2). The 10c value is now at the top left of the stamp instead of at the lower left as in the previous stamp issued in August. In addition, the name of the charity, Croix Rouge can be seen in the inscription on the lower right. This stamp was first issued with thin figures in sheets of 150 stamps (September 10, 1914), but in February 1915 the stamp with thick figures was issued in booklets of 20 stamps in two panes of ten.



1907 Cameo Sower with surcharge (thick figures) August 18, 1914 (Scott B1)



Cameo Sower with surcharge from booklet (thick figures) February 13, 1915 (Scott B2)

## 1918

The next French stamp to aid the Red Cross was issued in 1918, a 15c + 5c stamp showing a hospital ship and a field hospital (Scott B11)



## 1940

Two stamps for the Red Cross were issued in 1940; a 80c+1fr stamp showing a wounded soldier and his family with a doctor and nurse (Scott B101-see 2014) and a 1fr+2fr stamp showing a nurse tending to a wounded soldier (B102).



## 1939

In October 1863, a convention was held in Geneva, Switzerland at which a committee of five established the Red Cross Rule and its flag. An International Congress was held in that same city in August 1864 and the Red Cross Treaty was established and signed by the countries attending the congress, thus the International Red Cross Society was founded.

In 1939, the 75th anniversary of the International Red Cross, France issued a single 90c + 5c semi-postal stamp showing a Red Cross nurse (Scott B81).



## 1950

It wasn't until 1950 that the next French semipostals were issued with the surtax aiding the Red Cross. The 8fr + 2fr stamp (Scott B255) depicts a bust of a seven-year-old *Alexandre Brongniart* (1770–1847), a French chemist, mineralogist, geologist, paleontologist and zoologist. The bust was created by Jean-Antoine Houdon (1741–1828) in 1777.





## 1950(cont.)

The 15fr + 3fr stamp (Scott B256) depicts a sculpture by Étienne-Maurice Falconet (1716–1791), a French Rococo sculptor. It was commissioned in 1757 by Madame de Pompadour, a mistress of King Louis XV. The sculpture depicts a seated Cupid with his right hand suggesting secrecy while his left hand is reaching for a love arrow. It was given the title *L'Amour menacant* (Love threatens) at a later date which is thought to come from the inscription on the pedestal by Voltaire: *Whoever you are, this is your master – He is, he was or he will be. So beware of love.*



## 1951

The 12fr + 3fr stamp (Scott B264), *Child at Prayer* (c.1492) is a painting by the Master of Moulins who has been identified as Jean Hey (c.1475–c.1505), and who worked in France and the Duchy of Burgundy. It shows Suzanne, duchess of Bourbon as a young child praying.



On the 15fr + 5fr stamp (Scott B265) is a portrait of *Nicole Ricard* painted around 1748–1750 by Maurice Quentin de La Tour (1704–1788). La Tour was a French Rococo portrait painter known mainly for pastels who also painted Voltaire, Jean-Jacques Rousseau and King Louis XV.

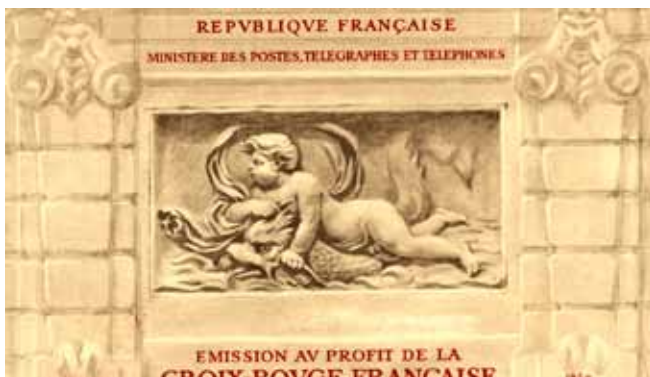


## 1952



The semipostal stamps chosen for 1952 show two bas-relief cupids from Diana's Fountain at Versailles which collects water from the Pyramid Fountain at Versailles. The bas-reliefs were created by Francois Girardon (1628–1715), a French sculptor. The cupid on the 12fr + 3fr stamp (Scott B273) faces right while the cupid on the 15fr + 5fr

stamp (Scott B274) faces left. The 15fr + 5fr stamp was issued in a booklet pane of 10 stamps with adjacent text in the selvedge denoting the goals of the Red Cross (pane and covers are shown reduced in size).



Cupid on Diana's Fountain at Versailles. (front cover of booklet)



Portion of Diana's Fountain at Versailles. (back cover of booklet)

## French Semipostal Stamps Issued to Benefit the Red Cross, Part 1 (cont.)

By Frederick C. Skvara

### 1953

In 1953 and for a number of later years, the Red Cross semipostals from France were issued in soft cover booklets containing two panes of four stamps, one pane for each of the two stamps issued in that year.

The 12fr + 3fr stamp (Scott B282) is a self-portrait of *Élisabeth Vigée Le Brun with her daughter Julie* (1786) Also known as Madame Le Brun she was born in 1755 in Paris and died there in 1842. She served as portrait painter of Marie Antoinette and painted over 30 portraits of the queen and her family. After the arrest of the royal family during the French Revolution, Le Brun fled to Italy in October 1789 and remained abroad in Italy, Austria, Russia and Germany returning to France in 1802.

Booklet cover

Louis Le Nain (c.1603–1648) painted *Happy Family* (1642), a portion of which showing a mother and child is the subject of the 15fr + 5fr stamp (Scott B283).



### 1954

These stamps were issued for the 90th anniversary of the Red Cross which was founded in 1864. The 12fr + 3fr stamp (Scott B291), *The Sick Child* (L'enfant malade) (1885) by Eugène Carrière (1849–1906) shows Mrs. Eugène Carrière and her son Léon. He employed the same subject of a sick child on other paintings and often painted in a near monochrome brown palette.

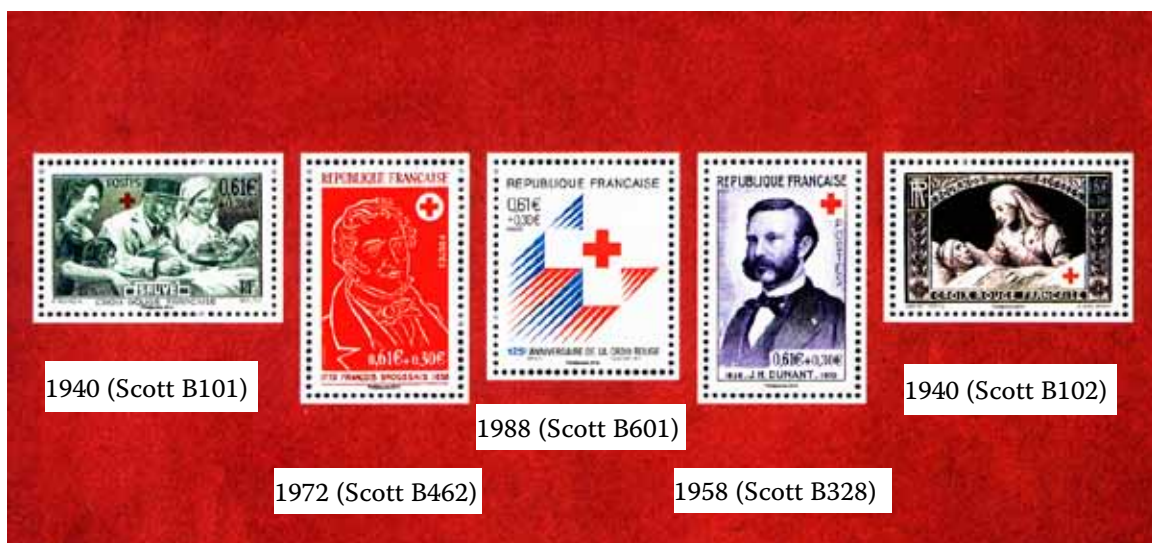
Jean-Baptiste Greuze (1725–1805) painted *Young Girl with Doves* (1799–1800) (Scott B292) which has been referred to as a study in innocence.





## 2014

On the 150th anniversary of the French Red Cross in 2014 France issued two minisheets (Scott B746a-e and B747a-e) of 5 stamps each showing redrawn Red Cross semipostal stamps that were originally issued between 1914 and 1988. The two minisheets sold as a set for €12 in a souvenir folder,



The 1972 stamp (Scott B462) depicts Francois Joseph Broussais, M.D. (1772–1838)  
Jean Henri Dunant (1828–1910) is shown on the 1958 stamp (Scott B328)

[I will continue to describe the French Red Cross semipostal stamps in a future issue.]



# ANSWERS TO SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER PHILATELIC QUIZ



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

Ans. **See Below**

The Canadian Postal Administration issued a set of seven stamps on September 16, 1946, featuring Canada’s primary industries and raw materials and is commonly known as the “Peace and Natural Resources Issue Pictorials”. The 10-cent denomination features a view of the Great Bear Lake in the Northwest Territories showing the point where pitchblende deposits were discovered by a Canadian prospector, Gilbert La Bine (1890–1970). As a source of radium and uranium, it was a contribution by Canada to science from the mining industry.

When Canada switched from using “OHMS” overprints on their official stamps to “G” overprints, a stamp with the same design performed different applications: ordinary commemorative, overprinted “OHMS” & overprinted “G”. [Ref: Similar Design but Different Function” by Frank Alusio. *PhilaJournal* Fall 2015]



1946 (Scott 269)



1949 (Scott O6)



1946 (Scott O21)



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

Ans. **December 15, 1941 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt**

When on December 15, 1791, Virginia adopted the Bill of Rights, a total of three-fourths of the states were in agreement and the Bill of Rights was made a part of the United States Constitution. It was 150 years later that President Franklin D. Roosevelt proclaimed December 15, 1941, as the first Bill of Rights Day. Roosevelt felt that the aspirations embodied in the Bill of Rights were in direct opposition to the dictatorial Axis governments and urged a day be celebrated to emphasize the concept of freedom and liberty that the Bill of Rights embodies.

After the American Revolutionary War, dissatisfaction with the Articles of Confederation led in 1787 to the drafting of the Constitution. But many colonists were wary of placing so much control in the hands of a strong central government and wanted guarantees of their freedom which they felt was not present in the Constitution. On September 25, 1789, twelve amendments were offered to the states by the First Congress. Ten were accepted and became effective on December 15, 1791 and are known popularly as the Bill of Rights.

A 5¢ commemorative was issued in 1966, the 175th anniversary of the Bill of Rights. It was designed by Herbert L. Block, a political cartoonists whose editorial cartoons were seen in the Washington Post and syndicated in more than 200 newspapers. The design shows a gauntleted fist on the right symbolizing “the knock on the door at night”, a common happening in tyranny. The bare upraised hand on the left symbolizes the guarantees of freedom and protection in the Bill of Rights.

The barrier between the two hands carries the words “The rights of the people shall not be violated.”

Two more related postal items were issued on September 25, 1989: a 25¢ Bill of Rights commemorative and a 15¢ postal card showing an aerial view of Independence Hall in Philadelphia where the Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution and the Bill of Rights came into existence.

The principles outlined in the Bill of Rights ensure the fundamental principles of liberty, justice and freedom for all and are an integral part of our American Heritage. [Ref: “Golden Anniversary of the Bill of Rights Day” By John S. Babbitt]







# ANSWERS TO SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER PHILATELIC QUIZ



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

Ans. **The Baltimore Cathedral.**

The sole Roman Catholic signer of the Declaration of Independence was Charles Carroll of Maryland. His second cousin was Bishop John Carroll, the first catholic bishop in the United States who was appointed in 1789 and whose diocese in 1805 included the entire United States. He had been urged by Pope Pius VI years before to build a cathedral church. Eventually he raised enough funds and adopted a plan by Benjamin Latrobe (1764–1820), an architect of the Capital, and the Cathedral of the Assumption as it is also known was built on a hill overlooking Baltimore Harbor and dedicated on May 31, 1821, six years after the death of Bishop Carroll. Called a masterpiece of Federal-style architecture, it was America’s first cathedral and a testament to the religious freedom proclaimed in the First Amendment.



1979 (Scott 1780)

During the nineteenth century the ten provincial and plenary councils of United States Catholic bishops that were held there set the course of catholic life in the United States and created America’s catholic school system. Today it is a center for an innovative urban mission in Baltimore and a place where more United States Catholic history was made than at any other. The cathedral is now known as the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. [Ref: “The First U.S. Cathedral Turns 200” by George Weigel. *The Wall Street Journal* May 27, 2021]



1985  
(Scott UX105)



1985  
(Scott UX106)

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

Ans: **They were all printed on colored paper**

**1956 Nassau Hall (Scott 1083):**

Issued for the 200th anniversary of Nassau Hall, it was the first building of what is now Princeton University. It was printed in black ink on orange-colored paper. The design was reproduced from a photographic print of a 1764 engraving by Henry Dawkins from a drawing by William Mackay Tennent (1744–1810) who graduated from Princeton in 1763. Princeton University was first chartered as the College of New Jersey in 1746 and located in Elizabethtown, but moved to Newark in 1748 and then to Princeton in 1752. Nassau Hall was completed in 1756 and named for King William III, Prince of Orange, of the House of Nassau. During the American Revolution it was occupied by troops of both sides and during the latter half of 1783 served as the Capital of the United States.



**1964 William Shakespeare (Scott 1250):**

Issued for the 400th anniversary of the birth of William Shakespeare, it is printed in brown ink on tan paper. The portrait of Shakespeare stands before the proscenium (i.e. part of the stage in front of the curtain) of an Elizabethan theatre. Besides his right hand rests the skull of Yurick, the dead court jester from Hamlet – “alas poor Yurick”. It is difficult to see the masks decorating the columns supporting the stage’s arch – Comedy, the sock wearer on the left and Tragedy, the buskin wearer on the right. The stamp was designed by Douglas Gorsline, based on Martin Droeshout’s engraving in Shakespeare’s *First Folio*.



Q4. *cont.*

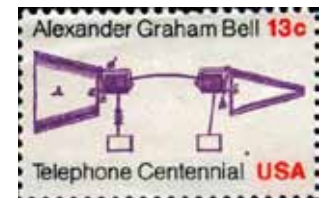
**1970 Wildlife Conservation (Scott 1392):**

The stamp was printed in black ink on tan paper. It depicts the American Bison which at one point numbered an estimated 200 million, but at the time of this stamp's issuance was down to approximately 30,000. Today there are an estimated 500,000 in the United States.



**1976 Telephoe Centennial (Scott 1683):**

The design shows a schematic drawing of the telephone filed with Alexander Graham Bell's patent application in 1876. On March 10, 1876, he transmitted the first intelligible words over the telephone to his assistant: "Mr. Watson, come here. I want you." The stamp was printed red, purple and black on gray paper.



Alexander Graham Bell (1847–1922) was a Scottish-born, United States scientist and inventor who moved to the United States in the early 1870s. He founded the Bell Telephone Company in 1877. Besides the telephone, he invented the gramophone (1897) and carried out research in aeronautics.



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

Ans: **5¢ 1898 Trans-Mississippi (Scott 288), 5¢ 1998 reissue & 29¢ 1994 (2869i)**

The 5¢ stamp in the 1898 Trans-Mississippi Series and the 1998 stamp issued for the centenary of that series shows John Charles Fremont (1813–1890) planting the Stars & Stripes atop a Wyoming peak.



1898 (Scott 288)



1994 (Scott 2869i)



1998 (Scott 3209d)



Kit Carson. 1994 (Scott 2869n)

The story begins with Andrew Jackson (1767–1845), the 7th President (1829–1837) who felt it was America's manifest destiny to extend its domain across the continent to the Pacific Ocean. Even after he left the presidency, Jackson's men, namely James Knox Polk (1795–1849), former Speaker of the House, who was elected President in 1844 (1845–1849) and Senator Thomas Benton of Missouri (1782–1858), Chairman of the Senate Military Affairs Committee, remained in Washington to promote Jackson's ideas. A frequent visitor to Benton's mansion in St. Louis was Colonel Stephen Watts Kearny, head of the Army's First Dragoons, and together they would talk of how the Dragoons would secure the West. After Fremont married Benton's daughter Jessie, Fremont was given the assignment of mapping the West to establish the exact locations of natural trails, mountain passes and rivers. With Kit Carson (1809–1869), they rewrote the geography of the west and Fremont's reports and books (written by his wife) made him famous as the "Pathfinder" and inspired many from the East to head west.

Most of the territory that he mapped belonged largely to Mexico as the United States still extended no further than the Louisiana Purchase. Fremont's third expedition in 1845 took him to Monterey, at the time capital of the Mexican province of California, where the Mexicans advised him that no more Americans were welcome and urged him to head north to the Oregon Territory where the Americans there enjoyed an uneasy detente with the British.

On October 30, 1845, President Polk had a confidential meeting with Lieutenant Archibald H. Gillespie of the United States Marines, but it has never been revealed what was discussed in that meeting. Following the meeting Gillespie set off to meet Fremont and after six months found him in Oregon where he relayed President Polk's message. Polk realized that war with Mexico was imminent and there is a theory that at the meeting with Gillespie, Polk drafted a memo to Fremont to



James Knox Polk 1938 (Scott 816)





# ANSWERS TO SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER PHILATELIC QUIZ



Q5. cont.

establish a militant American presence in California.

Shortly after Fremont received Polk's message, Americans north of San Francisco, reacting to a rumor that Mexico intended to run them out, overran the Mexican outpost at Sonoma and proclaimed themselves the independent California Republic, raising a flag with a crudely drawn bear that was to become the basis for the current state flag of California. During the celebration at Sonoma, Fremont rode in and was elected "president" it appears on July 4, 1846. As Fremont rode through northern California under the "Bear Flag", there was essentially no opposition. When the first American warship captained by Commodore Robert F. Stockton, commander of the Pacific Fleet sailed into San Francisco Bay, the Bear Flag was replaced by the Stars and Stripes. After Fremont and his men took southern California he was made occupation governor of the entire province.



1976 (Scott 1663)

At the same time General Stephen Watts Kearny, traveling along the Santa Fe Trail swept into Santa Fe in August 1846, claimed all of New Mexico for the United States and then moved westward into California. On October 6, Kit Carson, who was riding east with mail from Stockton and Fremont, told Kearny that Los Angeles and San Diego were in American hands, but by the time Kearny arrived in San Diego, it and Los Angeles had revolted. Kearny then joined forces with Stockton and the towns were retaken.



100th anniversary of General Kearny entering Santa Fe. 1946 (Scott 944)

In January 1847, the question of who was in command of California – the United States Army under Kearny or the United States Navy under Stockton led to a dilemma for Fremont who held the balance of power. Kearny was a personal friend of Fremont, but Fremont owed his rank and position to Stockton and the California Battalion that he led was recruited under Stockton's authority. If Fremont had verbal orders from the President, as delivered by Gillespie, to act with a free hand, those orders would supercede Kearny's or Stockton's. Fremont and Kearny's friendship ended when Fremont told Kearny that he was obliged to follow the orders of Commodore Stockton. For the next several months there were two governors in California, Kearny in Monterey and Fremont in Los Angeles, but Senator Benton successfully pleaded with President Polk to have Kearny take command of all the land and naval forces in the area.

Kearny then ordered Fremont to accompany him back to Fort Leavenworth where he arrested him and took back to Washington for court-martial. Fremont's defense counsel, Senator Benton, argued that military secrecy was suppressing the true facts of Fremont's heroism and General Kearny's villainy. Remember, Fremont was married to Benton's daughter, Jessie. The court-martial ended on January 31, 1848, and the verdict was guilty of mutiny, insubordination and conduct prejudicial to good order and military discipline. He was sentenced to be drummed out of the service.

President Polk remained silent during the trial for if he had directed Fremont's adventure against Mexico before the two countries were at war, it would have been an impeachable offence nor could he make any revelations about the secret meeting that might affect the peace negotiations with Mexico. The Mexican-American War officially ended with the signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo on February 2, 1848.

Eventually, Polk through out the mutiny charge, but left the other charges stand. Fremont resigned and went on to become senator from California, governor of the Arizona Territory and a major-general in the Civil War. He died in 1890 in New York City. [Ref: "The President Wouldn't Talk" by Walter Ryland. *Stamp World* November 1983: 73-77.]



# L IS FOR LOONS

Loons (or divers as they are commonly referred to outside of North America) are northern hemisphere, aquatic, diving birds all belonging to a single genus, *Gavia* in the family Gaviidae. There are four species: Common loon (*Gavia immer*); Arctic loon (*G. arctica*); Red-throated loon (*G. stellata*) and Yellow-billed loon (*G. adamsii*).

Although awkward on land, they are strong fliers and swimmers and can dive to depths approaching 200 feet. They never stray far from water. Lakes, ponds and slow-moving rivers constitute their summer habitat, but in winter they are essentially marine birds, frequenting inshore waters. They feed chiefly on fish and to a lesser extent on aquatic insects, frogs and marine invertebrates.

## Common loon (*Gavia immer*) (Great northern diver)



Canada 1998



Canada 1957

- Most abundant loon in North America
- Breeds across much of Alaska, Canada, New York, New England and northern tier of contiguous United States
- Winters along coast from Aleutian Islands south to California, from Newfoundland south to Gulf Coast in protected bays, estuaries and lakes.



Minnesota state bird (Common loon) and Flower (Showy Lady Slipper). United States 1982



Greetings from Minnesota. United States 2002



New Hampshire state flag & Common loon. United States 2010



# L IS FOR LOONS

## Red-throated loon (*Gavia stellata*)



Stamp-on-stamp (Canada 1957 common loon stamp). Mongolia 1978



Japan 2007

- Occurs commonly in many types of marine habitats, but is found most often along shorelines with shallow water and in esutaries.
- Breeds in tundra and along Arctic seacoasts around perimeter of North America south to British Columbia and Quebec.
- Winters along coast of Aleutian Islands south to Baja, California, and from Newfoundland south to Gulf Coast and on Great Lakes. Also in Eurasia.

## Arctic loon (*Gavia arctica*)



Russia 1976

- Occurs commonly in many types of marine habitats, but is found most often along shorelines with shallow water and in esutaries.
- Breeds across much of Alaska and northern part of Canada east to Hudson Bay.
- Winters along Pacific Coast from Alaska to Baja, California. Very rare on Atlantic Coast. Also in Eurasia.



Mongolia 1973



Arctic loon & *Trapa natans*, a floating aquatic plant. Lithuania 2005

# M IS FOR MATHEMATICS

## Archimedes (c.287–212 B.C.)



*Archimedes Thoughtful* (1620)  
by Domenico Fetti GDR 1973

Archimedes, who was born in Syracuse on the island of Sicily, was one of the greatest mathematicians who ever lived with contributions to geometry (calculated the surface area and volumes of various solids) and applied mathematics (mechanics). He observed that the weight of an object immersed in water is reduced by an amount equal to the weight of water displaced (Archimedes' principle). He invented the Archimedean screw for raising water from a river.



Archimedean screw. Italy 1983

## Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz (1646–1716)

Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz, a German mathematician and logician, was born in Leipzig, Germany. He developed, independently from Newton, a form of calculus based on sums and differences rather than velocity and motion.



Germany 1926

## Carl Friedrich Gauss (1777–1855)

Carl Friedrich Gauss, a German mathematician, astronomer and physicist was born in Braunschweig, Germany. Regarded as the 'Prince of Mathematics' he laid the foundations of number theory, discovered non-Euclidean geometry and contributed to many areas of mathematics.



Germany 1955

## Isaac Newton (1642–1727)

Isaac Newton, an English mathematician and physicist, was born in Lincolnshire, England. He made three significant contributions to science and mathematics: (1) the corpuscular theory of light (physics); (2) the theory of gravitation (astronomy); and (3) the calculus (mathematics). In 1687 he published *Principia mathematica*, one of the greatest scientific works of all time, in which he proposed his universal law of gravitation, the 'inverse-square law'. He used this law to explain Kepler's three laws of elliptical planetary motion, the variation of tides and the flattening of the earth at the north and south poles due to the earth's rotation.



Apple & title of *Principia mathematica*.  
Great Britain 1987



Isaac Newton. France 1957



Diagram of elliptical planetary motion.  
Great Britain 1987