



The Westfield Philatelist

Newsletter of the Westfield Stamp Club
 American Philatelic Society Chapter #540
 American Topical Association Chapter #113
 Volume 15 Number 5 May/June 2022

UPCOMING MEETINGS

May 26, 2022 – “Fakes (facsimiles) of Francois Fournier (1846–1917)” (Virtual)



June 16, 2022 – “Collecting Eclipses” (Third Thursday – Format TBA)



United States 2017

Please Note:

The June meeting is also the time for our club’s election of officers and board members. We need some additional members for the board. Please let Nick know if you are willing to serve.

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Moina Michael & The Memorial Poppy

The lyric poem “In Flanders Field” appeared in the December 8, 1915, issue of the British magazine *Punch*. It was written by John McCrae, a Canadian surgeon, while serving at a dressing station in Ypres, Belgium, during World War I.

*In Flanders fields the poppies blow
 Between the crosses, row on row...
 Take up our quarrel with the foe:
 To you from failing hands we throw
 The torch; be yours to hold it high
 If ye break faith with us who die
 We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
 In Flanders fields.*

Inspired by that poem Moina Belle Michael (1869–1944), a professor at the University of Georgia, pledged to always wear a red poppy of Flanders Fields as a sign of remembrance and the emblem of “keeping the faith with all who died.” On November 9, 1918, while at the 25th Conference of the Overseas Y.M.C.A. in New York City and wearing a red poppy, she was asked by several men if she could give them a red poppy to wear in memory of the dead of World War I. After scouring New York City, she obtained about two dozen, but so many men wanted one of her poppies that she soon ran out. When she returned to Georgia she began a campaign for the Memorial Poppy that was eventually adopted by numerous organizations, including the American Legion which designated the red poppy its official flower in 1920 with their auxiliary following a year later. Since then disabled veterans help assemble crepe-paper poppies for distribution in return for donations and by the time of her death in 1944, the sale of the red poppies had raised over \$200 million to help ex-servicemen and women in need of physical and mental support.

On November 9, 1948, the United States Post Office issued a 3¢ red stamp honoring her as the founder of the Flanders Field Poppy Day that is a memorial to those who have died in war.



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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

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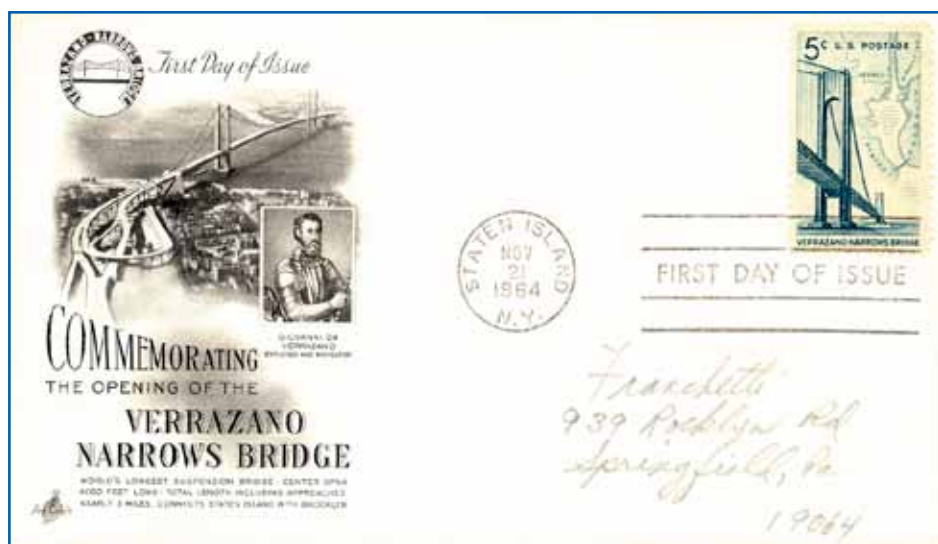
The Verrazzano-Narrows Bridge

By Michael Frank

In 1964, the U.S. issued a 5 cents commemorative for the opening of the Verrazzano-Narrows Bridge, then the world's longest suspension bridge. (There was a priority mail stamp much later.) It's still the only fixed crossing of the Narrows, between New York Bay and the Atlantic Ocean.

Giovanni da Verrazzano was an Italian navigator and explorer for France who was the first European to sight New York Bay. After some shorter voyages, he went to the New World in 1524 and explored the eastern coast of North America. He undertook two more voyages to the Americas. On the last, he was captured and eaten by cannibals in what is now Guadeloupe. He was only 43 years old.

Before an official name had been chosen for the bridge, one of the world's foremost Verrazzano scholars, the French senator Jacques Habert, author of several books on the explorer, petitioned the New York Italian-American Society to push for the bridge to be named after Verrazzano. On inauguration day, Habert was invited to the ribbon-cutting ceremony at the center of the span, and, the following day, in its feature article of the event, the *New York Daily News* headline read: "The Godfather of the Verrazano Bridge," with Habert figuring prominently in the photo. It was a fitting tribute to the man who had dedicated a large part of his life to demonstrating that it was not Henry Hudson, but rather Verrazzano who was the first to have ever set eyes on New York Bay.



Members in the News

Awards by Members *(contributed by Nick Lombardi)*

Aripex – February 2022

Nick Lombardi - "The 1903 Two Cent Washington Shield Issue." (Grand Award, Large Gold Medal, U.S. Stamp Society Statue of Freedom Medal)

K. David Steidley – "Mail Handling by American Express in Paris 1895 – 1939." (Large Vermeil Medal)

K. David Steidley – "Airmail Between the U.S. & Iraq 1940 - 1941." (Large Vermeil Medal)

Pipex – April 2022

Roger Brody – "Jamestown 1907." (Grand Award, Large Gold Medal, AAPE Medal of Excellence for Treatment, U.S. Stamp Society Statue of Freedom Medal)

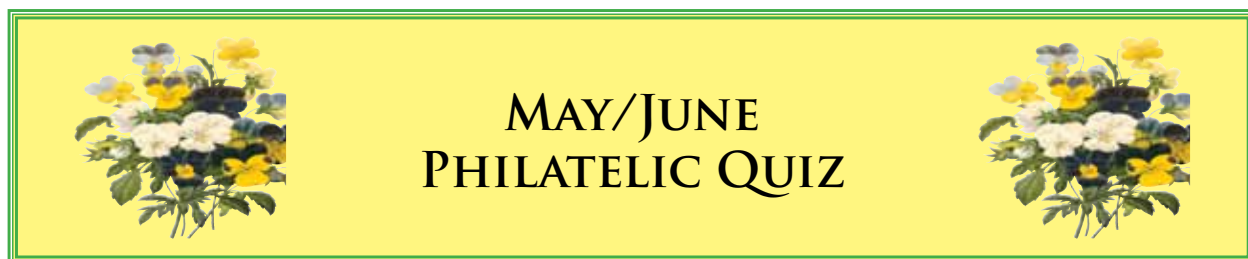
Roger Brody - "Great Americans Issue 1980-1999: Production Varieties." (Gold Medal, APS Award of Excellence – Post 1980)

Nick Lombardi - "Getting Collared: The Use of Stamp Collars in the United States." (Large Vermeil Medal)

Recent Publications by Members

Robert Loeffler - "Prominent Americans Series 1965–1971: Bureau Precanceled Printing History." *The United States Specialist*, April 2022;93(4):152-155.

Frederick C. Skvara - "The Periodic Table of Chemical Elements." *Scalpel & Tongs: American Journal of Medical Philately*, January/March 2022;66(1):3-6.



- Q1. What was the world's first airmail stamp?
- Q2. What country issued duty stamps (postal fiscal stamps) showing a duck-billed platypus?
- Q3. What was the world's first self-adhesive stamp?
- Q4. On the first day of sale of this United States commemorative postage stamp, 12 stamps were sent by homing pigeons to the governors of twelve states. What was that stamp?
- Q5. Between 2007 and 2015 the time period for the issuance of a postage stamp after a person's death was five years. Eighteen commemorative stamps were issued during that time for people who died less than ten years (the previous time period). Who had the two shortest intervals between their deaths and the issuance of a stamp in their honor?

100th Anniversary of the Death of Sir Ernest Shackleton (1874–1922)

By Frederick C. Skvara

On January 5, 2022 the British Antarctic Territory, Falkland Islands and South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands each issued a set of four stamps commemorating the centenary of Ernest Shackleton's death on January 5, 1922.

Ernest Henry Shackleton was born in Athy, Ireland, in 1874 and became a British Antarctic explorer who made four trips to the southern continent.

1) **Robert Falcon Scott's British National Antarctic Expedition (1901–1904)** where Shackleton was a junior officer on board *Discovery*.

2) **British Antarctic Expedition (1907–1909)** where Shackleton commanded the ship *Nimrod* with the aim of reaching the South Pole and got to 100 miles of the Pole, the farthest anyone had gone up to that time.

3) **The Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition (1914–1917)** which Shackleton commanded on board *Endurance*. Shackleton sailed from Plymouth in August 1914 to South Georgia to pick up provisions and then left on December 5 and entering the Weddell Sea in mid-December. But *Endurance* became trapped by dense pack ice by mid-January 1915, and was never freed. Carried by the currents past the Antarctic coastline into uncharted waters, they were cutoff from civilization with no means of communication. Seeing no hope for the release of the ship, Shackleton abandoned *Endurance* at the end of October 1915 and the ship sank a month later in 10,000 feet of the Weddell Sea. The crew camped on a slowly moving ice floe drifting around the large Weddell Sea living on penguins & seals.

By April 1916 they had drifted about 2,000 miles and finally reached open water where they put the three small boats they had rescued from *Endurance* to sea. After seven days they reached Elephant Island in the South Shetlands (now part of British Antarctic Territory). Shackleton left 22 men on Elephant Island and took five men with him in one of the open boats, the 22-foot *James Caird*. The 800-mile journey across the stormy Southern Ocean with minimal navigational aids and battling hurricanes and exhaustion took 17 days to reach South Georgia, the nearest inhabited island, on May 10, 1916. Since *James Caird* was no longer seaworthy, Shackleton took Frank Worsley, captain of *Endurance*, and Tom Crean, a Polar veteran, and traveled without a tent or sleeping bags across the unexplored mountains and glaciers of South Georgia and 36 hours later reached the Stromness Whaling Station on May 20. The three men he left on the other side of South Georgia were rescued the next day.

Falkland Islands – January 5, 2022



1886 Shackleton
age 11



1916 Stanley, Falkland Islands
Tom Crean, Shackleton, Capt.
Thom, Capt. Wormsley



1907–09 Nimrod Expedition,
Shackleton, *Nimrod* held in Ice



1922 Shackleton's Cairn
Grytviken, South Georgia

British Antarctic Territory – January 5, 2022



1891, Shackleton
age 16



1914–17 Expedition, Shackleton
at Patience Camp & map
of *Endurance's* journey from
South Georgia to Antarctica
and Shackleton's journey to
South Georgia in *James Caird*



1921–21 Shackleton-Rowett
Expedition & *Quest*,



1922, Shackleton's Burial,
Grytviken, South Georgia

South Georgia & The South Sandwich Islands – January 5, 2022



1901–04 Scott Expedition. Shackleton at helm of *Discovery*



1914–17 Expedition. Shackleton and map of South Georgia



1914–17 *Endurance* ice-bound in Weddell Sea



1922 Shackleton's Cairn, Grytviken, South Georgia

After three attempts by Shackleton to rescue the men left on Elephant Island were thwarted by heavy pack ice, a fourth attempt, aided by the Chilean Navy, the men were finally rescued on August 30, 1916.

The crossing to South Georgia in the open boat by Shackleton and his men has been called one of the greatest feats of seamanship of all time. All of the men from *Endurance* survived the expedition.

4) Shackleton-Rowett Expedition (1921–1922) also called the Quest Expedition after *Quest*, a converted Norwegian sealer, that was the ship used on the expedition. Shackleton died of a heart attack on January 5, 1922, at King Edward Cove in South Georgia, and was buried in South Georgia on March 5, 1922.

On February 5, 2022, a team of scientists, adventurers and technicians left Cape Town, South Africa, on the icebreaker *Agulhas II* bound for Antarctica. Dubbed *Endurance22*, their goal was to locate *Endurance*, Ernest Shackleton's ship that had sunk in the Weddell Sea. Their successful discovery of the ship's wreck, using an underwater drone, has been detailed in a number of newspaper accounts with the retelling of Shackleton's 1914 to 1917 expedition. Strange as it may seem, *Endurance* was located on March 5, 2022, exactly 100 years to the day that Shackleton was laid to rest on March 5, 1922 on South Georgia.

It has been over 100 years since Sir Ernest Shackleton's Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition set out to make the first coast-to-coast crossing of Antarctica, a journey of 1,800 miles, with two ships and 50 men. Shackleton was to take his ship *Endurance* through the Weddell Sea, land at Vahsel Bay and lead a party 900 miles across unmapped territory to the South Pole and retrace the known 900 mile journey to the other side of the continent at Cape Evans in the Ross Sea where the second ship, *Aurora* had landed. Although they never achieved that goal, their journey became an epic saga, an outstanding story of survival in the world's most hostile environment.

References:

- 1) "The Shackleton and *Endurance* Expedition". Presentation Pack, Royal Mail January 7, 2016.
- 2) "A Quest to Find the 'Most Unreachable Wreck'" by Henry Fountain. *The New York Times*, February 4, 2022.
- 3) "106 Years Later, Wreckage of Lost Ship Is Found in Antarctic Waters" by Henry Fountain. *The New York Times*, March 9, 2022.
- 4) "On the Trail of 'the Most Unreachable Wreck Ever'" by Henry Fountain. *The New York Times*, March 16, 2022.
- 5) "Thin Ice" by Jody Rosen. *The New York Times Magazine*. April 3, 2022
- 6) "2022 Stamp Set: Centenary of the Death of Sir Ernest Shackleton" by Jayne Pierce, South Georgia Museum. Falklands Post Service Limited
- 7) "Centenary of Sir Ernest Shackleton's Death" by Alison Boyd in "Panorama". *Gibbons Stamp Monthly*, March 2022; 52(10): 96.

Postscript:

As mentioned above, the wreck of *Endurance* was found by an undersea drone on March 5, 2022, at 10,000 feet on the bottom of the Weddell Sea. It is considered a historical monument under the terms of the 1959 Antarctic Treaty and it will not be disturbed. The images and scans from *Endurance22* will be used for educational materials and museum exhibits.

An interesting side note on the discovery of the ship is the wealth of life, documented by *Endurance22*, that have made the wreck their home: anemones, sponges, sea squirts, sea stars, squat lobsters, etc. Two recent articles describe this diverse collection of wildlife: 1) "Shackleton's *Endurance* Shipwreck is Teeming With Bizarre Ocean Life" by Corryn Wetzel. *Smithsonian Magazine* March 14, 2022, and 2) "Now Aboard Shipwreck, A Spineless Crew" by Sabrina Imbler. *The New York Times* March 22, 2022.



P IS BEATRIX POTTER

Beatrix Potter (1866–1943) was one of the world’s best-selling and best loved children’s authors who wrote and illustrated 28 books that have been translated into many languages as well as having her stories being adapted for film, ballet, song and animation. Born in London in 1866, to wealthy, middle-class parents she was educated at home and had a strict and solitary upbringing. Reliant almost entirely on herself for entertainment, she showed an early talent for drawing and painting and studied and sketched a variety of pets that she and her brother had acquired. During family holidays in Scotland and the Lake District she cultivated an appreciation for the natural world observing and sketching the flora and fauna. Her passion for scientific investigation led to her paper on the germination of fungal spores being read at the Linnaean Society and justifies including her with the natural scientists of the day as a respected biologist and botanical illustrator.

She would send illustrated letters from her summer holidays to children she knew back in London and these letters became the basis for many of her books. In 1901 she privately published *The Tale of Peter Rabbit* with black and white drawings. The following year she illustrated the book with color drawings and it was published by Frederick Warne and Company in an edition of 8,000 copies.



Beatrix Potter & Peter Rabbit. British Indian Ocean Territory, 2016

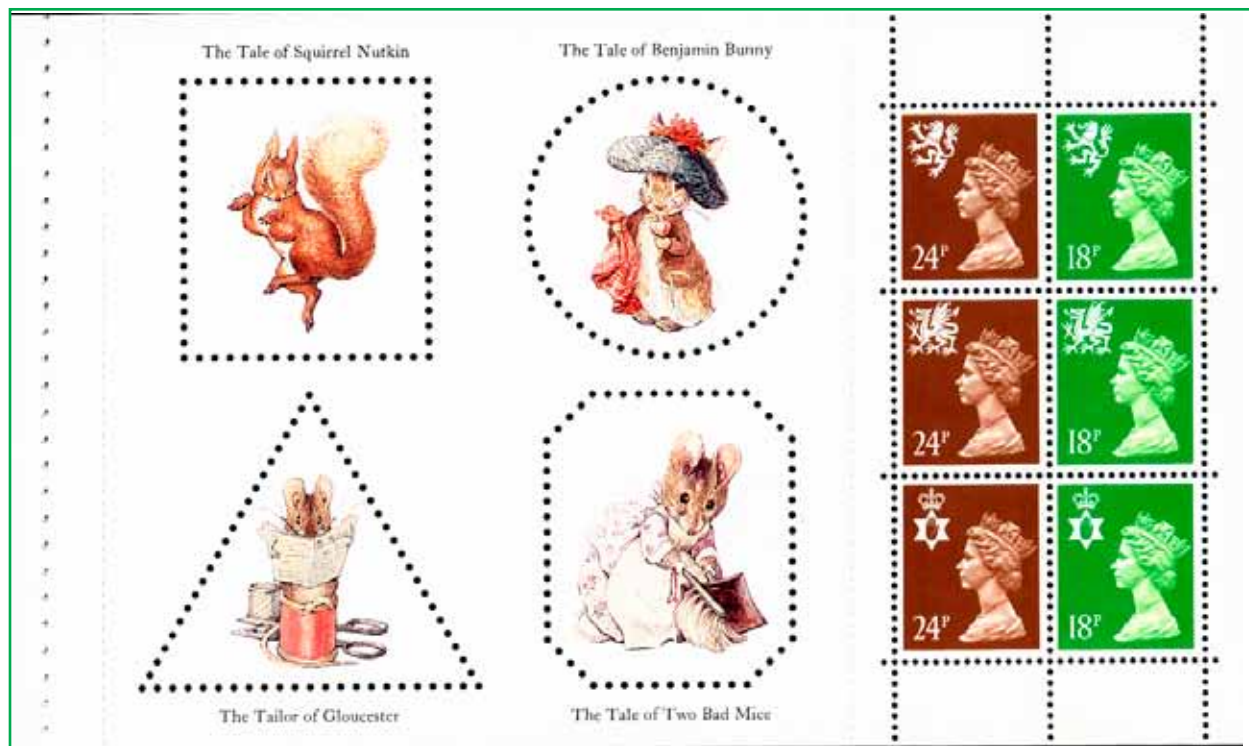


Peter Rabbit, Squirrel Nutkin and Jemima Puddle-duck in *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*. Great Britain 1979 [first Beatrix Potter stamp]



Peter Rabbit & Mrs. Rabbit in *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*. Pane from “The Story of Beatrix Potter”, a prestige booklet issued by Great Britain in 1993, marking the fiftieth anniversary of Beatrix Potter’s death and the centenary of a letter written by Beatrix Potter on September 4, 1893, to five-year-old Noel Moore telling the story that would become the most famous of her books, *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*.

P IS BEATRIX POTTER



Pane in *The Tale of Peter Rabbit* 1993 prestige booklet with Machin stamps for Northern Ireland, Scotland & Wales/Monmouthshire.



Beatrix Potter's little books appeared in translation as early as 1921.

Pane in *The Tale of Peter Rabbit* 1993 prestige booklet with Machin stamps for England. The perforated selvedge shows covers of some of her little books that have been translated into other languages.

P IS BEATRIX POTTER

In 1905 with royalties from her books she purchased Hill Top Farm, a working property in the English Lake District which she always loved. She purchased additional farms and when she died at the age of 77, her will left 4,000 acres of land, sixteen farms, cottages and herds of cattle and Herdwick sheep to the National Trust.



Pane in *The Tale of Peter Rabbit* 1993 prestige booklet with Machin stamps for England and central label showing Peter Rabbit. The perforated selvedge shows designs by Beatrix Potter that were used as endpapers for her little books.



The Life of Beatrix Potter. Alderney 2013. Hill Top Farm is in Near Sawrey (on signpost on the 40p stamp) in the Lake District. The other stamps show scenes of her life in the Lake District.

The American Historical Stamp Album, Part One

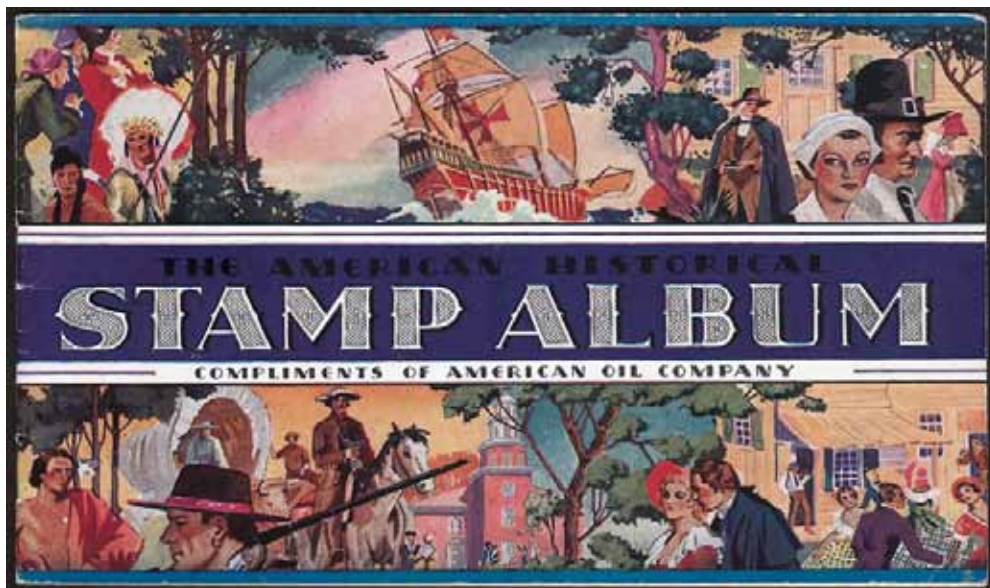
By Frederick C. Skvara

Several years ago at a local stamp show I purchased the above-named stamp album having the subtitle *A Stamp Travelogue from Maine to Florida*. It was published in 1937 by the American Oil Company and printed by Davis, Delaney & Harris, Inc., a printing company in New York. The American Oil Company was founded in 1910, and in 1922 was absorbed by Amoco which subsequently merged with British Petroleum in 1998 to become BP Amoco. The Amoco logo was dropped in 2002. In 1937 American Oil Company stations stretched from Maine to Florida, hence the subtitle of the album.

The soft cover album measures 7½ inches wide by 4¾ inches tall, contains fourteen pages and has spaces for thirty-two stamps (cinderellas). The stamps were available free at American Oil Company dealers or stations. The album came with four stamps and four stamps were to be issued each week for seven weeks.

Each page of the album contains several mono-colored cinderella stamps showing scenes & institutions from American history. A black-and-white line drawing adorns each page along with several paragraphs of text.

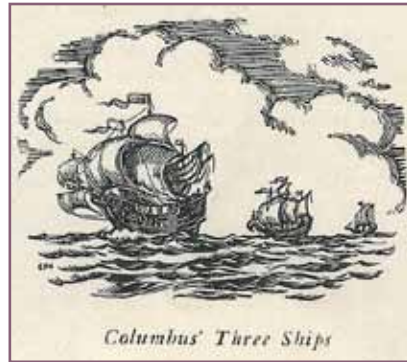
This is the first in a series of articles in which I will present, in the order in which they appear in the album, the individual cinderella stamps and line drawings with some explanatory text summarized from the actual writing in the album. The collection of subjects chosen for the stamps presents a wonderful story of American history and a great example of the use of cinderella stamps.



Cover and an example of one of the pages (Page 1).[reduced]



In 1513 Ponce de Leon landed in Florida and in 1565, the Spaniards established the first permanent settlement in the present United States at St. Augustine, Florida.



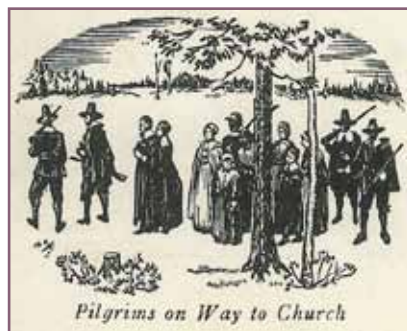
Pictured are Christopher Columbus' three ships: *Nina*, *Pinta* & *Santa Maria*. The first landfall in the New World by Columbus occurred in the West Indies, probably Watlings Island (now San Salvador) in the Bahamas on October 12, 1492. Later that year he left some men to establish a colony on the island of Hispaniola, his first European settlement in the Americas.



In 1607 the English established their first permanent settlement at Jamestown, Virginia.



The first permanent settlement in New England was made by the Pilgrims (also known as Pilgrim Fathers) who arrived on the *Mayflower* in 1620. They established their permanent settlement, Plymouth Colony, in what is now Plymouth, Massachusetts).



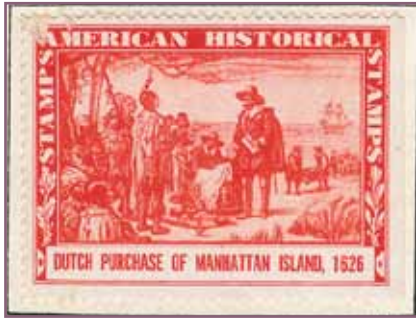
Most of the Pilgrims on the *Mayflower* were English Dissenters from the Church of England and were known as Brownists after Robert Browne, an Anglican priest.



John Alden (c.1599–1687) was a cooper on the *Mayflower* when it arrived in 1620. In 1622 he married Priscilla Mullins (c.1602–c.1685), a fellow passenger on the ship. He signed the Mayflower Compact and was Treasurer of the Plymouth Colony, among other offices that he held.



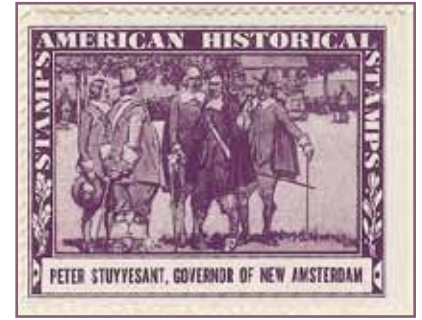
The Puritans founded the colony of Massachusetts Bay. Dissenting with the Puritan leaders, Rev. Thomas Hooker (1586–1647), a Puritan minister, led a group of Puritans in 1635–1636 on a land migration. They founded the Colony of Connecticut on the banks of the Connecticut River.



In 1626, Peter Minuit (1580–1638), director of the Dutch colony of New Netherland, negotiated a deal with a Native American tribe to purchase the island of Manhattan for goods worth around \$25. He developed a profitable fur trade in the region



Peter Stuyvesant expanded the colony of New Amsterdam, built a 12-foot-tall wall along the northern border (Wall Street) and dug a canal through the middle of the colony that eventually became Broad Street. Depicted in the engraving on the right is the “Great Dock” where Dutch ships moored.



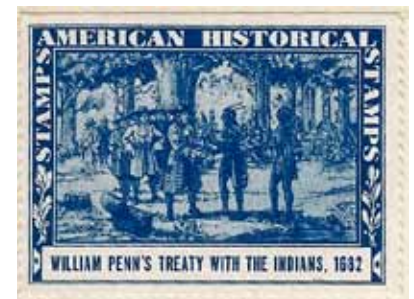
Peter Stuyvesant (1592–1672), was the last Dutch director-governor of the New Amsterdam colony from 1647 until 1664 when it was conquered by the English and renamed New York after the Duke of York.



On March 25, 1634, two ships, *The Ark* and *The Dove*, carrying George Calvert’s sons, Cecilius and Leonard, as well as Catholic settlers, landed in Maryland. The colony was founded in 1632 by their father, George Calvert (1st Lord Baltimore) (1579–1632), when Charles I of England granted a charter to George Calvert.



The first opponents that the European colonists encountered were the Indians as the colonists moved into the Indians’ lands. At first the Indians were willing to sell and share their lands, but their increasing resentment by the intrusion of the colonists resulted in massacres and wars.



In 1682, William Penn entered into a treaty with Tamanend, chief of the Lenape Turtle Clan of the Delaware Indians near Shackamaxon, Pennsylvania. The peace resulting from the treaty lasted until the Penn’s Creek Massacre in 1755.



The 1701 Great Peace, signed in Montreal by a number of Indian chiefs, the French and the English, finally ended the French and Iroquois Wars that took place between 1642–1698.



French explorers attempted to settle the Ohio Valley and in 1754 they built Fort Duquesne where the Monongahela and Allegheny Rivers meet to form the Ohio River

[to be continued]

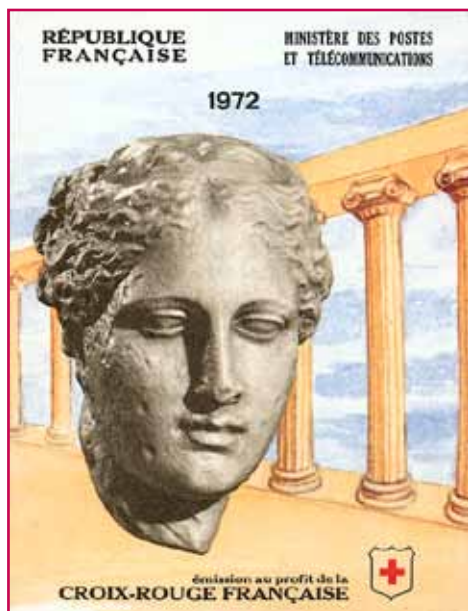
French Semipostal Stamps Issued to Benefit the Red Cross, Part 4

By Frederick C. Skvara

1972

30c + 10c Nicolas Desgenettes (1762–1837). French physician who served in the French Army and was physician to Napoleon Bonaparte and director of the Military Hospital.

50c + 10c Francois Joseph Victor Broussais (1772–1838), French physician who joined the French Army as an assistant surgeon and later appointed to the Paris Faculty of Medicine. His enthusiasm for leeching to cure every ill led to a boom in leech commerce and earned him the title of “the most sanguinary physician in history.”



Scott B461 & B462 were issued in a booklet with two panes of four stamps of each design

Booklet cover (reduced) shows the head of the goddess Hygieia from the National Museum of Archaeology, Athens. Hygieia is one of the children of Asklepios, God of Medicine, who cared for the sacred snakes. The cup of Hygieia from which she feeds the snakes is the symbol of pharmacology.

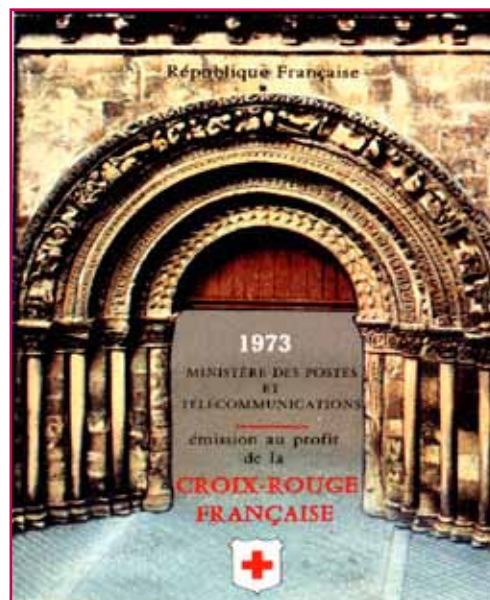
1973

30c + 10c Mary Magdalene

50c + 10c Mourning Woman

These two sculptures are from an entombment at the Hôtel Dieu in Tonnerre in Burgundy and were created by Georges and Michiel de la Sonnette in 1454. The entombment depicts Christ lying on his tomb with eight figures around him that include the two depicted on this year's Red Cross semipostal stamps.

Scott B471 & B472 were issued in a booklet with two panes of four stamps of each design



Booklet cover (reduced) shows the portal of the church of Saint-Léger du Cognac, a former priory of the Benedictines, built in 1130.

1974 & 1975

1974 – 60c + 15c L'Eté (Summer)
80c + 15c L'Hiver (Winter)

1975 – 60c + 15c Le Printemps (Spring)
80c + 20c L'Automne (Autumn)

All four designs are by Pierrette Lambert (1928–), a French artist and illustrator who designed a number of stamps.



The 1974 stamps were Summer and Winter and issued in a booklet with two panes of four stamps of each design.

The 1975 stamps were Spring and Fall, and issued in a booklet with two panes of four stamps of each design.

1976

80c + 20c St. Barbara.

1fr+ 25c Cimmerian Sibyl.

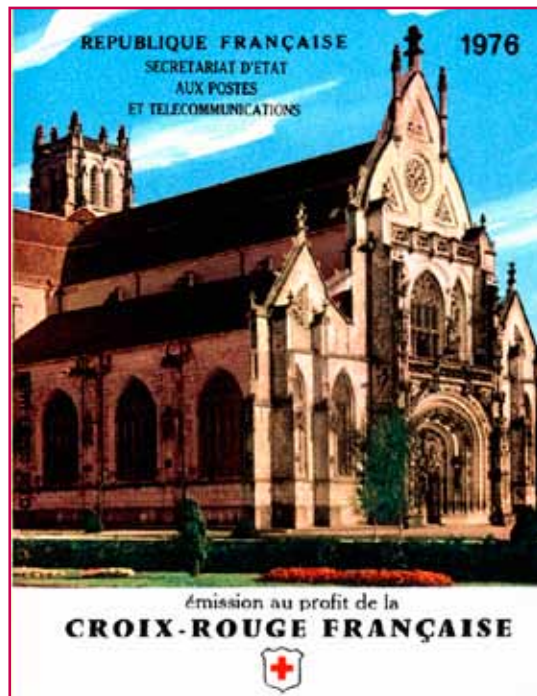
These two sculptures are from Brou Cathedral, part of the Royal Monastery of Brou in Bourg-en-Bresse, in central France. The church was built between 1506 and 1532 by Margaret of Austria, daughter of the Holy Roman Emperor Maximilian I and where she is buried in tombs built by Conrad Meit (1480–1551), a German sculptor.

St. Barbara was an early Christian Greek martyr born in the mid-3rd century in Heliopolis, Phoenicia, whose father, Dioscorus, a rich pagan, kept her locked in a tower in order to preserve her from the outside world. But while her father was away she became a Christian and had workmen install a third window in the tower to represent The Trinity. When she refused to renounce her faith, she was tortured and beheaded by her father, who was immediately struck down and burned by lightning. She is often portrayed with chains and holding a replica of a tower with three windows as seen on this stamp.

Cimmerian Sibyl was a prophetic priestess who presided over the Oracle of Apollo at Cimmerium, Italy



Scott B496 & B497 - issued in a booklet with two panes of four stamps of each design



Cover of booklet (reduced) showing the Brou Cathedral.

French Semipostal Stamps Issued to Benefit the Red Cross, Part 4 (cont.)

By Frederick C. Skvara

1977

80c + 20c Christmas figurine (man)

1fr + 25c Christmas figurine (woman)

The images on the stamps are clay figures from the depiction of the *Pastoral of Provence*, a nativity play spoken and sung at Christmas that was created in 1844 by Antoine Maurel (1815–1897).

Scott B503 & B504 were issued in a booklet with two panes of four stamps of each design.



1978

Both stamps feature depictions of two of the fables of Jean de La Fontaine (1621–1695), French fabulist and playwright whose over 200 fables are considered among the masterpieces of French literature. He was born in Château-Thierry in the department of Aisne in the Province of Champagne.

1fr + 25c *The Hare and the Tortoise*

1.20fr + 30c *The City Mouse and the Country Mouse*

The stamps are from drawings by Roland Irolla, a French painter, illustrator and stamp designer who was born in 1935 in Philippeville, Algéria.

(Scott B512 & B513 were issued in a booklet with two panes of four stamps of each design.)



The front cover of the booklet shows a portrait of La Fontaine and the town of Château-Thierry, his birthplace. The back cover depicts some of the animals described in his fables. The cover is from drawings by Roland Irolla.

[to be continued]



ANSWERS TO MARCH/APRIL PHILATELIC QUIZ



Q1. What United States President had a pet ram in the White House named “Old Ike”?

Ans. **Woodrow Wilson**

With the arrival of Willow, a two-year-old gray and white cat at the White House on January 27, 2022, there have been several articles in the nation’s newspapers on White House pets.

Old Ike was a Shropshire ram at the White House of Woodrow Wilson. According to a 1920 newspaper account, Old Ike was ‘forceful and strategic’, often charging White House staff and police and was eventually banished to Maryland. Old Ike liked to chew cigars and feasted on discarded cigar butts. But he had his uses. He led a herd of sheep that kept the White House grounds cropped, helped Wilson cut expenses and allowed the White House gardeners to be released from their White House duties to join the World War I effort.



Old Ike died in 1927 after his caretaker gave him one final chew and “he dropped off peacefully muncning it”



Faroe Islands 1979

As far as the herd of sheep, they were auctioned off in 1919 raising \$58,823 for the Red Cross, a huge sum at the time. When most people envision rams they think of those like that depicted on the Faroes Island Stamp shown here. But the Shropshire ram is essentially hornless. The breed originated in Shropshire, England, and were imported into the United States in 1855 in Virginia. Although Old Ike was hornless, he was still a force to be reckoned with. I am not aware of any postage stamps showing the Shropshire ram. [Ref: 1) “Champ, Major and a Surly badger Named Josiah” by Derrick Bryson Taylor. *The New York Times*, November 27, 2020: A17; 2) “Willow Biden Joins a Long and Varied Line of White House Pets. by Leanne Italie (AP); *The Star-Ledger*, February 21, 2022: A18]]



Q2. Who has been called the “female Paul Revere” and has a United States commemorative postage stamp commemorating her ride?

Ans. **Sybil Ludington**

In 1775 the United States Postal Service issued four stamps in the “Contributors to the Cause” series, one of which honors Sybil Ludington, a sixteen-year-old girl who rode her horse 40 miles through Hudson Valley on a stormy night in the spring of 1777 rallying her father’s troops to battle. Although some scholars suspect that the “female Paul Revere” may have stayed in her bed on that gloomy night, she became a symbol for colonial women’s often veiled role in early American life.

But what we do know is that on April 26, 1777, British forces torched Danbury, Connecticut. Night riders raised the alarm and armed colonials from New York and Connecticut led by General Israel Putnam and with General Benedict Arnold – then still a revolutionary – had a major clash with the British at Ridgefield. Colonel Henry Ludington of Kent, New York was at Ridgefield, yet the story about his daughter’s ride disappeared for 100 years until it cropped up in an 1880 history book. It should be noted that her story surfaced around the Revolutionary War’s centennial as did the story of Betsy Ross’ first flag and when Paul Revere became famous.

The earliest known account of her ride is an 1854 letter from her nephew asking that she be recognized at an upcoming ceremony for Revolutionary War heroes: *My Aunt Sybil... rode on horseback in the dead of night...through a Country infested with Cowboys and Skinners to inform Gen’l Putnam.* That letter and other Ludington documents appeared in a book by Vincent Dacquino *Patriot Hero of the Hudson Valley* (2019). Besides the United States postage stamp, there is an ultramarathon that follows her ride through Putnam County and a sculpture of her in Carmel, New York dedicated in 1961. [Ref: “Prologue: American Icon” in *Smithsonian* March 2022; 52(10):10-11].

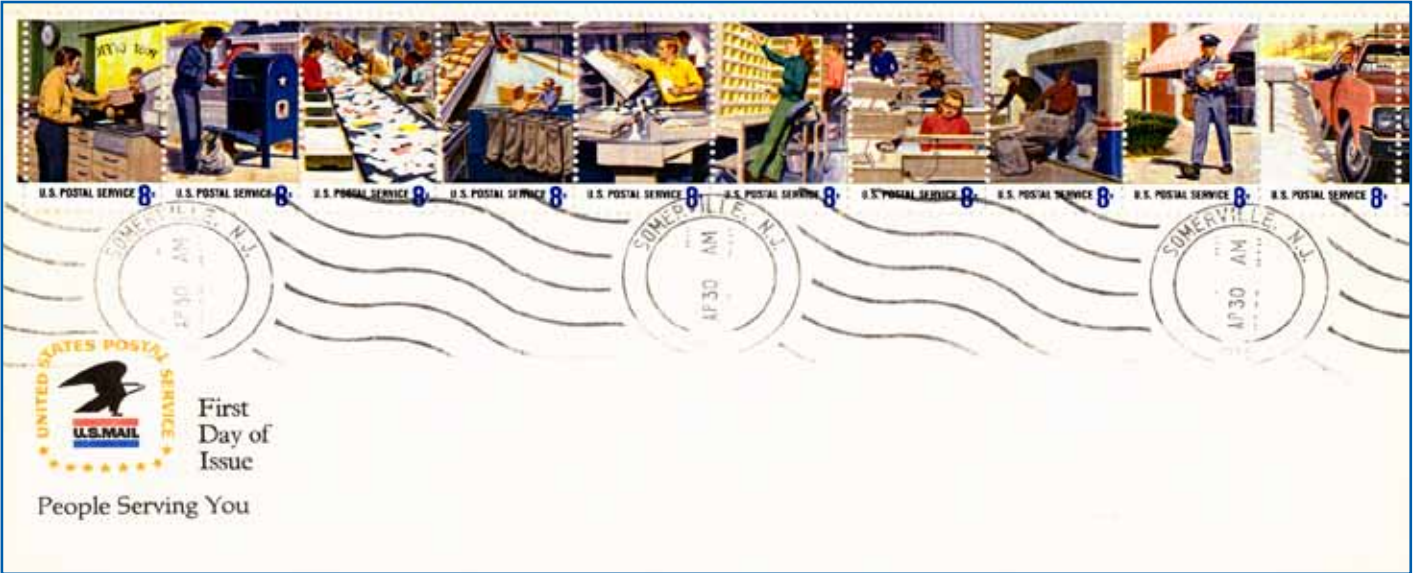


ANSWERS TO MARCH/APRIL
PHILATELIC QUIZ

Q3. What was the only United States commemorative postage stamp ever issued that was first announced by a letter sent to every USPS employees from the Postmaster General?

Ans. **United States 1973 Postal Service Employees Issue**

The 8¢ “Postal People” stamps were designed by Edward Vebell of Westport, Connecticut, and released on April 30, 1973, at all 40,000 United States Post Offices, stations and branches. But this issue has another claim to fame. It was the first time in history that the stamps will bear printed matter on the reverse side under the adhesive. In addition, one of the two handstamps used does not include a city/state notation in the postmark. The cancellation on the first day cover from my hometown of Somerville does show the city and state. [Ref: “Whistler’s Mom and Others” in US Stamps Inc. by Steven J. Rod. *The American Stamp Dealer & Collector*, May 2009; 12-13.]



[All above images reduced]



Q4. What American author mentioned the Natural Bridge of Virginia in his greatest novel and is celebrated by a postage stamp and a stamped envelope?

Ans: **Herman Melville** in *Moby Dick*



Indicia of stamped envelope 1970

In describing Moby Dick:

Moby Dick moved on, still withholding from sight the full terrors of his submerged trunk, entirely hiding the wrenched hideousness of his jaw. But soon the fore part of him slowly rose from the water; for an instant his whole marbled body formed a high arch, like Virginia's Natural Bridge, and warningly waving his bannered flukes in the air, the grand god revealed himself, sounded, and went out of sight.¹



1984

During the 18th and 19th centuries the Natural Bridge in Virginia, and Niagara Falls in New York, two of the wonders of the New World, were often visited. The Natural Bridge is a limestone arch 215 feet high and spans 90 feet. It is the remains of the roof of a cave or tunnel where Cedar Creek once flowed.

Thomas Jefferson first viewed the Bridge in 1767 and in 1774 he obtained 157 acres in a grant from King George III that included the Natural Bridge. In 1802 he surveyed the site himself and tried to sell the land in 1809. On the trail to the Bridge there is a cave that he leased out for saltpeter (potassium nitrate) mining. In 1814 he wrote: "I view it in some degree as a public trust and would on no consideration permit the Bridge to be injured, defaced or masked from public view."

On September 24, 2016, Natural Bridge became a Virginia State Park and was listed on the National Register of Historic Places as a National Historic Landmark in 1988. [Ref: "Philately and the Natural Bridge by Thomas Lera. *Kelleher's Stamp Collector's Quarterly*, Second Quarter 2021; VIII(2):68-77]



Q5. What former stamp-issuing state uses the "Orchid Crest" on its stamps ?

Ans: **Manchukuo**

After Japan's occupation of Manchuria in 1931, Japan set up a puppet government in 1932 in the three Manchurian provinces of northeastern China and named it Manchukuo. In 1933 they added Jehol province. The region is the historical home of the Manchus who founded the Qing Dynasty of China. Pu-yi was the last emperor of China and the final Qing dynasty monarch who became Qing emperor at the age of two in 1908, but was forced to abdicate in 1912. Japan installed him as chief executive of Manchukuo in 1932 and he was declared emperor of Manchukuo in 1934 with the name Kang-te reigning until 1945.



Orchid Crest
1935



Orchid Crest
1937

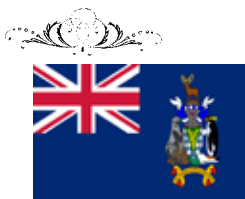


Sacred White Mountains
& Black Waters
1937 (Orchid Crest at top)

In 1945 following the end of World War II, Manchukuo was briefly occupied by the Soviet Union, but under the terms of Japan's surrender, Manchukuo was returned to China in 1946 and the puppet state was dissolved.

Manchukuo issued its first stamps in 1932, but it wasn't until January 1, 1935, when the "Orchid Crest" design appeared as one of two designs in a set of seven stamps, the other being the "Sacred White Mountains & Black Waters." Manchukuo's imperial throne with Kang-te as emperor is symbolized by the orchid crest as a stylized orchid. Remember this was a puppet state set up by Japan and Japan's imperial throne is represented by the chrysanthemum crest. The orchid crest appears on almost all of Manchukuo's stamps between 1935 and 1945.





Discover the World: South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands

Area –1,600 sq.mi. Population – Presently 20 (British Antarctic Survey research station) Capital: King Edward Point

South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands, formerly known as Falkland Island Dependencies, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands, assumed its current name in 1985. South Georgia, an island in the South Atlantic Ocean on the northern border of the Scotia Sea which lies at the northern edge of the Southern Ocean (Antarctic Ocean). The eleven, uninhabited South Sandwich Islands lie at the east end of the Scotia Sea. South Georgia lies over 900 miles northeast of Antarctica and 1,000 miles east of the tip of South America. The rugged terrain of South Georgia includes a 100 mile long mountain range (highest point is Mount Paget (9,625 feet) with glaciers dropping down from the peaks and vegetation on the lower slopes.



Glacier Headwall. 1989

South Georgia was first said to have been sighted in 1675 by Anthony de la Roche, a London merchant and was named Pepys Island. Captain James Cook landed on South Georgia in 1775 claiming it for Great Britain and remarked on the rich wildlife including millions of Antarctic fur seals on the beaches. His observations led to the arrival of sealers in 1786 to harvest their pelts and over the next century, the Antarctic fur seal was almost wiped out. Southern elephant seals didn't fare much better as hunters killed them for their blubber which was converted into oil.

In 1904, Carl Anton Larsen, a Norwegian captain and businessman established a settlement called Grytviken as a whaling station and over the next sixty years, over 175,000 whales were killed. Larsen brought reindeer for the whalers to hunt and as the reindeer population grew they trampled the fragile landscape. Rats and mice accompanied the sealers and whalers and found plenty of bird eggs and chicks to feed on nearly eradicated two endemic species, the South Georgia pintail duck and the South Georgia pipit.



Reindeer. Falkland Island Dependencies 1982



Antarctic fur seals. South Georgia & The South Sandwich Islands 2002



Elephant seal. South Georgia & The South Sandwich Islands 1991



Blue whale. South Georgia & The South Sandwich Islands 2021

Sealing and whaling ended mostly for commercial reasons and later was banned in the 1960s. Reindeer were eradicated by indigenous Sami reindeer herders and Norwegian marksmen by 2015 and mice and rats were gone by 2018. There has been a remarkable ecological recovery for many of the island's species. But climate change and ocean changes are impacting some species and these changes are much more difficult to solve.

In 1909 a post office was opened in Grytviken using ordinary Falkland Islands stamps, but in 1944 eight of the 1938–46 Falkland Islands definitives were overprinted "South Georgia - Dependency of" (the same stamps were overprinted for Graham Land, South Orkneys and South Shetlands, all dependencies of the Falkland Islands). In 1946, stamps inscribed "Falkland Island Dependencies" were introduced on South Georgia and were used until 1963 when stamps inscribed "South Georgia" were introduced. Stamps inscribed "Falkland Island Dependencies" were reintroduced in 1980, now for use only in South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands and remained in use until 1985 when the current name "South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands" was used on all subsequent issues.



Falkland Islands Dependencies 1944



Falkland Islands Dependencies 1946



South Georgia 1963