



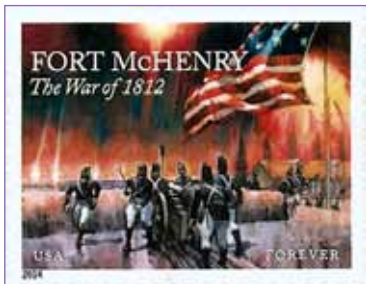
The Westfield Philatelist

Newsletter of the Westfield Stamp Club
 American Philatelic Society Chapter #540
 American Topical Association Chapter #113
 Volume 16 Number 1 September/October 2022

UPCOMING MEETINGS

September 22, 2022 – “War of 1812 Taxation” *By Roger Brody*

The reintroduction of documentay and alcohol distillation and retailing stamped taxation to finance the war.



October , 2022 – Date & Topic TBA (Virtual)

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FROM THE EDITOR’S DEN

I did not attend the GASS2022, but Dawn Hamman, President of the American Topical Association, kindly sent me the set of show covers show below at reduced size.



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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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Nick Lombardi

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Jack André Denys (1943–2022)



Westfield Stamp Club member Jack Denys died on June 26, 2022, at the age of 79, from complications after a fall in which he fractured his right leg. He was a retired Pastor of the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Somerville and remained active in the church and the community.

In philately, he liked to be known as a thematicist and collected a number of topics, including Albrecht Dürer, Andrew Wyeth, Colonial Williamsburg, Famous People Who Stuttered, but he is best known for his exhibit "The Bayeux Tapestry" for which he earned ten consecutive gold awards qualifying him for the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors Diamond Award. That exhibit won the Reserve Grand award at the National Topical Stamp Show in 2007 and the Grand Award at that show in 2008. His mentor in thematic exhibiting was Mary Ann Owens and he in turn, mentored other topical/thematic collectors.

He served as president of the American Topical Association from 2008 to 2016, wrote articles for *Topical Time* and *The Philatelic Exhibitor*, coauthored the ATA Handbook, *What's First* and contributed to the ATA checklist program.

In 2014, he received the ATA's Distinguished Topical Philatelist award, its highest honor and in 2020 he received the Nicholas G. Carter Volunteer Service Award recognizing him for national Service with "thanks for the wide-reaching impact of his work."

He cofounded the Albrecht Dürer Study Unit of the ATA serving as president and editor of its journal for 20 years.

I first met Jack at Washington 2006 when we were both elected to the Board of Directors of the ATA. When we realized that we lived less than five miles apart, him in Somerville and me in Bridgewater, it led to regular get togethers with our wives for lunch at local restaurants. We also found out that we were all avid *Jeopardy* fans and we often called each other (but not during the show) with our answers (questions) for the "Jeopardy Clue of the Day" as was written in *The New York Times* daily newspaper.

He was a good friend and I will miss him.

Frederick C. Skvara



MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Awards by Members *(contributed by Nick Lombardi)*

Great American Stamp Show – August 25-28 (Information supplied by Nick Lombardi)

Roger S. Brody - "Jamestown 1907". Entered in the "Champion of Champions competition.

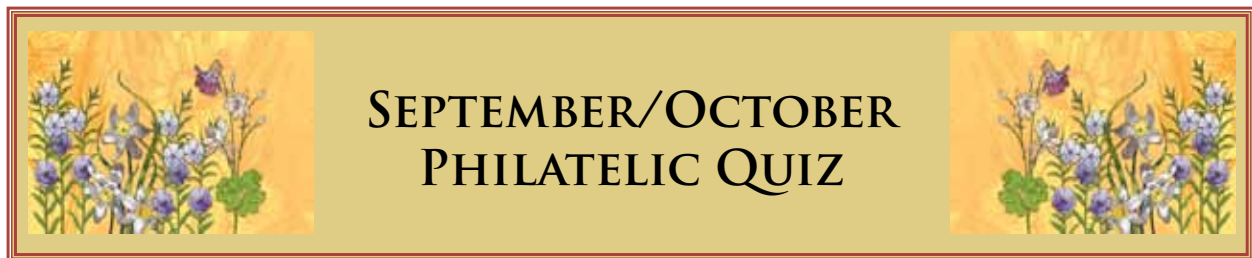
Nick Lombardi - "The 1903 Two Cent Washington Shield Issue." Entered in the Champion of Champions competition.

Bruce Marsden - "Switzerland Engineering and Landscapes Definitive Issue of 1949." (Gold)

Recent Publications by Members

Roger S. Brody - "Once in a Century – Redux." *The United States Specialist*, June 2022;93(6):260-261.

Frederick C. Skvara - 1) "Luc Montagnier, Ph.D. (1932–2022)." *Scalpel & Tongs: American Journal of Medical Philately*, April/June 2022;66(2):39. 2) "Samuel Gridley Howe, M.D. (1801–1876)." *Scalpel & Tongs: American Journal of Medical Philately*, April/June 2022;66(2):41-43.



- Q1. Who was the first living person to be depicted on a United States commemorative postage stamp?
- Q2. What were the first United States commemorative postage stamps issued without values?
- Q3. Who led the only substantial force of foreign allies to serve on United States soil for an extended period of time?
- Q4. Before Alaska was sold to the United States, the Russian Czar offered it to what other country?
- Q5. What are the first and last postal cards printed on the five-color Roland Man 800 offset press?

ODDS & ENDS

This issue is being printed on September 15th which happens to be the day that Mary Clarissa Agatha Miller, later known as Agatha Christie, was born in 1890. My wife and I are big fans of the Belgian detective with the 'little gray cells', Hercule Poirot and the very curious Miss Jane Marple, two of Agatha Christie's most famous sleuths.

For the 150th anniversary of the National Portrait Gallery, the Isle of Man issued a set of eight stamps, one of which shows a portrait of Dame Agatha Christie by John Gay.

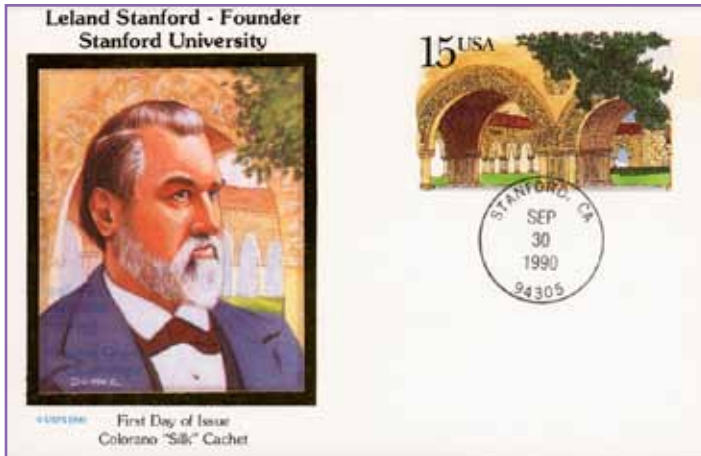


Isle of Man 2006 (Scott 1164)

CAN HORSES FLY?

By Frederick C. Skvara

Among horse fanciers in the nineteenth century there was a debate as to whether all four hooves leave the ground at once when a horse gallops. Leland Stanford (1824–1893), a railroad tycoon (1) and former governor of California (US 1990 Scott UX150) felt they did and hired a famous photographer to determine the answer.



The photographer he hired was Eadweard Muybridge (1830–1904) who had an international reputation as a photographer, was a technical wizard and a pioneer of the motion-picture technology that would make Hollywood possible. But these talents only emerged after Muybridge suffered a major brain injury when he was a young man.

But, in addition, most people also knew Muybridge for being a cold-blooded murderer.

Muybridge was born in England in 1830 and emigrated to the United States in 1852 where he opened a bookshop in San Francisco. In 1860 he decided to return to England to hunt for some rare books. On the stagecoach ride to St. Louis, the driver lost control, the coach crashed, Muybridge was thrown from the coach and landed headfirst on a boulder splitting his skull open resulting in a nine day coma in an Arkansas hospital. After coming out of the coma the sequelae from the brain injury were dramatic: seizures, severe headaches, white hair, double-vision and a marked personality shift from patient and friendly to rash, impulsive and having a raging temper.

He then spent the next five years recovering from the accident during which he became fascinated with photography with it becoming an obsession which some scientists linked to his accident. Neurologists have a term “sudden avant syndrome” that occurs when people suffer brain damage and suddenly gain artistic skills. The best guess is that damage to the frontal lobes, the executive part of the brain, releases impulses that had previously been suppressed and an artist can emerge.

When he returned to California, he established himself as a photographer known for his photographs of Yosemite Valley and people’s houses and that is how he met Leland Stanford in 1872. Stanford convinced him to help settle a bet and prove that all four hooves of a horse will leave the ground at once during a gallop.

Now, a little side story. Around this time Muybridge married Flora, a technician in his studio, who was 21 years younger. While he was off traveling, Flora had an affair with a local drama critic who Muybridge himself had arranged to take his wife to the theater while he was away so she wouldn’t be bored.

But in 1874 Muybridge came across a love letter from Flora to the critic. Muybridge grabbed his pistol, tracked the critic to his home and when the critic opened the door Muybridge shot him in the heart. The jury found him guilty of cold-blooded murder, but all twelve men agree that they would have done the same thing and they let him go free.

Back to the flying horses. After solving some technical problems – a more light-sensitive film chemical and a much faster shutter system, everything was ready to go in June 1878. Muybridge set up twelve cameras in a white shed near a racetrack in Palo Alto, California, on land that eventually would become Stanford University. The open side of the shed faced the track and a large white sheet had been set up on the other side of the track to make the brown-colored horse stand out. In the shed he set up twelve cameras each several inches apart. The name of the horse was Abe Edgington who was harnessed to a two-wheeled cart. There were twelve electrical wires buried in the racetrack dirt along Abe’s path. When the cart’s wheels crossed each wire, a circuit was completed and one of the cameras would fire. This setup allowed him to snap twelve pictures in less than one second and clearly showed that during mid-stride, all four hooves left the ground. Horses do fly, albeit briefly.

When word spread about the photographs, Muybridge became world famous. Muybridge went on to dive deeper in his studies of animal motion taking tens of thousands of photographs including many of humans in motion. He soon realized that he could string the photographs together and if flashed in quick sequence they looked continuous – an early motion picture. He developed the zoopraxiscope, a forerunner of modern motion picture projectors, to project sequences of his pictures. In 1897 he published *Animal Locomotion*, an eleven-volume work that contained 100,000 of his photographic plates. He returned to England and died in 1904. but he holds a special place in history as one of those rare people, like Albrecht Dürer and Leonardo da Vinci, who pioneered

both art and science.

On February 22, 1996, the USPS issued four 32¢ stamps for Pioneers of Communications, one of which shows Eadward Muybridge (Scott 3061).



[Ref: “The Murderer Who Made Movies Possible.” hosted by Sam Kean, May 2022. *The Disappearing Spoon*, a podcast of the Science History Institute.

Notes:

1) Congress passed and President Abraham Lincoln signed the Pacific Railroad Act of July 1, 1862, providing for construction of railroads from the Missouri River to the Pacific Ocean. The Union Pacific railroad line was built westward from Council Bluffs, Iowa, while the Central Pacific Railroad line was built eastward from San Francisco Bay. Leland Stanford was president of the Central Pacific Railroad. The first transcontinental railroad in

North America was created when the east and west lines were joined at Promontory Summit in the Utah Territory, on May 10, 1869. Also known as The Last Spike, the Golden Spike Ceremony took place on that date when Leland Stanford, President of the Central Pacific Railroad and co-founder of Stanford University in California, drove the last spike connecting the Central Pacific and Union Pacific railroads. The spike is kept at the Cantor Arts Center at Stanford University.



The design is based on a mural, *Golden Spike Ceremony*, painted by John McQuarrie (1871–1944) that is on the wall of the Union Pacific Railroad Station in Salt Lake City, Utah. [75th anniversary of the first transcontinental railroad] United States 1944 (Scott 922)



The train pictured on the stamp on the left is the Central Pacific steam engine #60, *Jupiter*. The locomotive shown on the stamp on the right is the Union Pacific steam engine No. 119 that was built by the Rogers Locomotive and Steam Works of Paterson, New Jersey. The central stamp depicts the Golden Spike. United States 2019 (Scott 5378–5380)



HUGH WILLIAMSON, M.D. (1735–1819)

By Frederick C. Skvara

Hugh Williamson was born in West Nottingham, Pennsylvania, and graduated from the College of Philadelphia in 1757 where he studied theology and was licensed as a teacher, but he was never ordained. From 1760–1763 he was a professor of mathematics at that college and then studied medicine at the University of Edinburgh and the University of



Utrecht in the Netherlands where he received his degree in medicine in 1764.

On his return to America, he practiced medicine in Philadelphia and in 1769 he received a commission from the American Philosophical Society to observe

the transits of Venus and Mercury. In 1777 he moved to South Carolina for business and subsequently practiced medicine at Edenton, North Carolina, and served as surgeon in the militia of North Carolina. He gave aid to the wounded at the Battle of Camden in South Carolina on August 16, 1780, where the Americans under General Horatio Gates were defeated by the British led by General Sir Charles Cornwallis.

In the fall of 1780 Williamson was attached to Brigadier General Isaac Gregory who established his base of operations in the Dismal Swamp in southeast Virginia and northeast North Carolina. Williamson stressed the importance of sanitation and diet on the inexperienced troops of General Gregory and he kept the troops virtually free of disease during the months that it inhabited the swamp – a major feat in 18th century warfare.

1782 Williamson became a member of the house of commons of North Carolina and was elected to the Congress of the Confederation in 1784, 1785 and 1786. He was a delegate to the convention that framed the United States Constitution in 1787 and was the only physician to sign the United States Constitution. He was elected to the first United States Congress as a Federalist and served two terms from 1790–1793.

He moved to New York City in 1783 where he

married and devoted himself to literary pursuits. With DeWitt Clinton (1769–1828) he helped organize the Literary and Philosophical Society of New York in 1814. He was an advocate of the New York canal system and a frequent contributor to the publications of learned societies in Europe and the United States.

He died in New York City on May 22, 1819.

On September 17, 1937, the United States Post Office issued a 3¢ commemorative on the 150th anniversary of the signing of the United States Constitution on September 17, 1787. The design was based on a photograph of a painting entitled *Adoption of the Constitution* created in 1856 by Junius Brutus Stearns (1810–1885), an American painter.

The arrows point to Hugh Williamson.



Utrecht University Charter. Netherlands 1986 (Scott 683)



150th Anniversary of the Signing of the Constitution. United States 1937 (Enlarged)



Adoption of the Constitution by J.B. Stearns (1856)





The American colonists disliked the strict supervision of the mother country and rebelled against taxes which they thought unfair. As a protest against the taxes on tea, a party of Boston citizens, disguised as Indians, boarded a British ship loaded with tea on December 16, 1773 and dumped the tea into Boston Harbor.



On May 30, 1765, Patrick Henry, statesman and orator, in a speech before the Virginia House of Burgesses led the attack against the Stamp Act, a direct tax on the colonies. Enacted by the British Parliament in 1765 it required printed matter to be produced on stamped paper produced in London carrying an embossed revenue stamp. Henry closed his speech with the words: "If this be treason, make the most of it".



Faneuil Hall in Boston was the site of several speeches by Samuel Adams and others encouraging independence from Great Britain that earned it the name "The Cradle of Liberty". The hall was built by Peter Faneuil, a wealthy American colonial merchant, as a gift to the city of Boston. It opened in 1742.



The first blood shed in the American Revolution occurred on March 5, 1770, when a group of colonists confronted the British redcoats guarding the customhouse on King Street in Boston. As the colonists began throwing snowballs and verbally abusing the soldiers, the British eventually opened fire and five colonists were killed in the conflict.



Founded in 1722, Christ Church (Old North Church), played a major role in the American revolution. It was in the tower of the church that two lanterns were hung on the night of April 18, 1775, indicating that the British were marching to Concord by crossing the Charles River. Knowing their route Paul Revere left Charlestown to warn the leaders of the rebellion, John Hancock and Samuel Adam, and everyone else along the way that the British were coming.



The 'Minutemen', a force of local militia formed to fight on a minute's notice, met the British troops on April 19, 1775, at Lexington. It is not known who fired the first shot, the British or a one of the Minutemen, but the ensuing battle left 8 Minutemen dead and 10 wounded. The British moved on to Concord and destroyed the few arms and ammunition that the militia had left behind, but on the return march to Boston, the British were fired on from every house, barn and tree losing a third of their men. The Minuteman statue is located on the Concord Bridge.



The Green Mountain Boys were a militia organization established in the territory which would later become the state of Vermont. On May 10, 1775 under the command of Ethan Allen and Connecticut colonel Benedict Arnold they captured the British military post at Fort Ticonderoga on Lake Champlain, one of the first victories in the American Revolutionary War.



On June 17, 1775 about 2,500 British troops crossed the Charles River and moved on to the hills of Charlestown. Navy ships at the mouth of the river had supposedly weakened the resistance of the militia, but the battle on Bunker's Hill and Breed's Hill was a disaster for the British who lost about 1,000 men, although they eventually took the hills.

John Adams proposed George Washington, one of the most experienced military officers in the colonies, as general and commander-in-chief of the colonial army. Washington accepted his commission on June 17, 1775.



On Christmas night, 1776, Washington crossed the Delaware River to take the British garrison at Trenton and the thousand-odd Hessian mercenaries who had manned it. The surprise attack gave the Continental Army a much needed success and the spot where the crossing was made is now known as Washington's Crossing



Only the courage and determination of the soldiers and the inspirational leadership of General Washington enabled the Continental Army to survive the terrible hardships of the 1777-1778 winter at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, despite inadequate supplies and limited ammunition.



Reinforced by the French, Washington trapped the British led by General Cornwallis at Yorktown, Virginia. Outnumbered two to one, the British surrendered on October 19, 1781. The war was essentially over and the peace treaty of 1783 recognized the independence of the colonies.



[to be continued]

FRENCH SEMIPOSTAL STAMPS ISSUED TO BENEFIT THE RED CROSS, (conclusion.)

By Frederick C. Skvara

This is my last installment of the French semipostal stamps that were issued to benefit the Red Cross. France has continued to issue semipostal stamps for the Red Cross, but from 1984 to the present they have been in open booklets of ten stamps and, in later years, also with an additional set in a miniature sheet of five stamps. I do collect these later booklets, but have always favored the small, folded booklets that I have been illustrating in this series of articles.

So this part will cover the booklets from 1979 to 1983.

1979

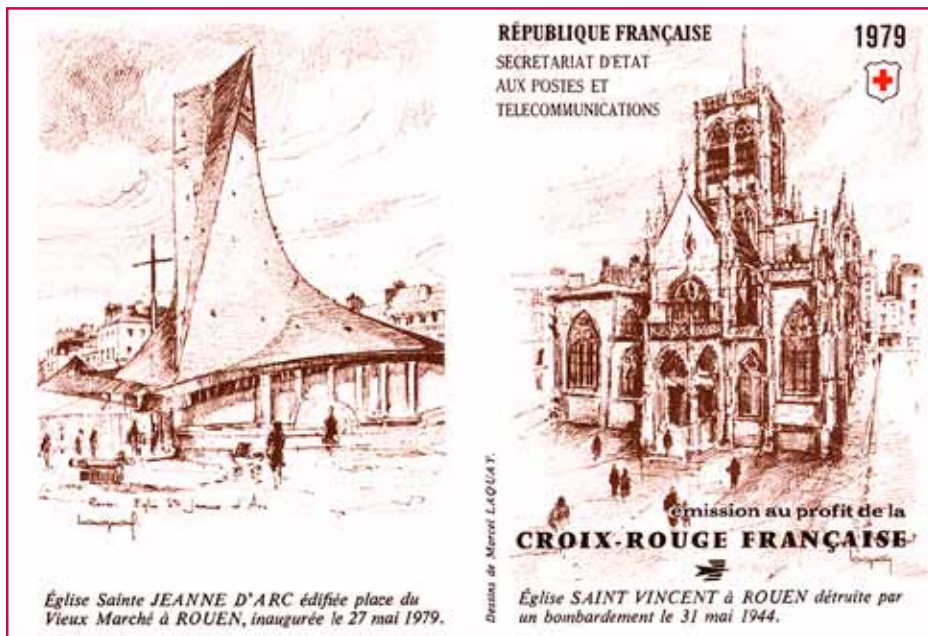
Both stamps feature portions of stained glass windows from the Church of St. Joan of Arc in Rouen

1.10fr + 30c Herodiade

1.20fr + 30c Simon the Magician

Herodiade is the wife of Herod II and mother of Salome. The image on the stamp is from a feast with Herod during a dance of Salome and is part of the stained glass window "The Life of Saint John the Baptist."

Simon the Magician is depicted during an argument with Saint Peter and is part of the stained glass window "The Life of Saint Peter."



Scott B521 & B522 were issued in a booklet with two panes of four stamps of each design

Booklet cover (reduced) shows the Church of St. Joan D'Arc (left) erected in Place du Vieux Marché in Rouen where she was burned at the stake. On the right is the Church of St. Vincent erected in the 16th century, famous for its stained glass windows and destroyed by Allied bombing in 1944. A number of the stained glass windows were saved and integrated into the Church of St. Joan D'Arc, including those from which the images on these two stamps were taken.

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

1980

Both stamps show carved figures from the early sixteenth century choir stalls of the Amiens Cathedral.

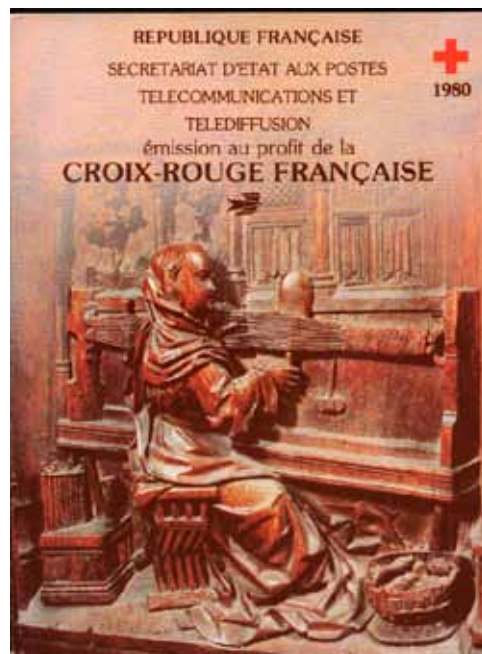
1.20fr + 30c *Filling the Granaries*

1.40fr + 30c *Grapes from the Promised Land*



Scott B530 & B531 were issued in a booklet with two panes of four stamps of each design

Booklet cover showing one of the sculptures in one of the wooden choir stalls.



1982

For 1982, La Poste used illustrations from two of the novels of Jules Verne as a tribute to the author

1.60fr + 30c *Cinq Semaine en Balloon* (Five Weeks in a Balloon)

1.80fr + 40c *Vingt Mille Lieues Sous les Mers* (Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea)



Although I could not find any information about the image of the globe for the front cover, I think it probably represents another one of Verne's books, *Around the World in Eighty Days*.



Scott B548 & B549 were issued in a booklet with two panes of four stamps of each design

1981

Both stamps show stained glass windows from the Church of the Sacred Heart, Audincourt in the Department of Doubs, France

1.40fr + 30c Stained Glass Window of the Flagellation

1.60fr + 30c Stained Glass Window of Peace

Fernand Léger (1881-1955) was a French painter and sculptor who created a series of 17 stain-glass windows running along the upper side of the three walls in the Church of the Sacred Heart in Autincourt. They resemble a crown and depict various aspects of the meaning and life of Christ.



Scott B539 & B540 were issued in a booklet with two panes of four stamps of each design

1983

1.40fr + 40c Vierge de Baillon, Second Quarter of the 14th Century, Polychrome Stone 103 cm. (Virgin with Child, Church of Baillon)

2.00fr + 40c Vierge de Genainville, Early 16th Century, restored polychrome wood 100 cm. (Virgin with Child, Church of Genainville)



Scott B557 & B558 were issued in a booklet with two panes of four stamps of each design



The cover of the booklet shows a frequent representation of the Virgin Mother with the Infant Jesus who is with a bird, often a dove. There is a narrative of a miracle in an Arabic childhood gospel in which the child Jesus models clay birds and gives them life.



Q IS FOR QUEEN ELIZABETH II

Princess Elizabeth was born on April 21, 1926, the first child of the Duke and Duchess of Windsor (later King George VI and Queen Elizabeth). She acceded to the throne as Queen Elizabeth II on February 6, 1952, on the death of her father. She became the longest-reigning British monarch on September 9, 2015, surpassing the reign of her great, great grandmother, Queen Victoria who occupied the throne from 1837 to 1901.

Queen Elizabeth II besides being United Kingdom's Head of State and Head of the Nation, she is also the Head of the Commonwealth which now has 53 member nations.



Princess Elizabeth, age 6
Newfoundland 1932
[1st stamp for Elizabeth]

40th Anniversary of Accession Great Britain 1992



Queen Elizabeth in Coronation
Robes & Parliamentary Emblem



Queen Elizabeth in Garter
Robes & Archbishop's Arms



Queen Elizabeth with Baby
Prince Andrew and Royal Arms



Queen Elizabeth at Trooping
the Colour & Service Emblems



Queen Elizabeth &
Commonwealth Emblem

The Wilding Definitives (1952 – 1967)

A three-quarter profile photograph by Dorothy Wilding showing the Queen wearing a brocade gown with the sash and star of the Order of the Garter, & the diamond diadem worn by Queen Victoria on the Penny Black.



The first two Wilding stamps were issued on December 5, 1952 on unsurfaced paper, with gum arabic & without phosphor. They were printed in photogravure by Harrison & Sons.

The Machin Definitives (1967 –)

In 1967 the Wilding definitives were replaced with a series of stamps based on a bas-relief plaster cast by Arnold Machin, a sculptor and painter. It shows a left-facing profile of the Queen wearing the diamond diadem worn by Queen Victoria on the Penny Black.



On June 5, 1967, the first three stamps in the new Machin series went on sale. They were printed in photogravure by Harrison & Sons on coated watermarked paper with gum arabic and two phosphor bands.

R IS FOR RABBITS & HARES

The names hare and rabbit are often used interchangeably, but they are different animals. Hares are larger and their young are born fully furred with their eyes wide open. Rabbits are smaller and their young are born naked and blind. They both belong to their own order Lagomorpha and the same family, Leporidae, but hares all belong to a single genus *Lepus* while there are several different genera of rabbits.

Hares



Varying hare (also called snowshoe rabbit (*Lepus americanus*)) seen here with its white winter coat. Its coat is brown in summer. The color of its fur changes in response to the length of daylight. Liechtenstein 1946 [1st rabbit/hare stamp]



European hare (*Lepus europaeus*) native to Europe and parts of Asia. Estonia 2011



Black-tailed Jackrabbit (*Lepus californicus*) is actually a hare and is found in the western United States. United States 1987



Hares (not otherwise identified). Switzerland 1966

Rabbits



Eastern cottontail rabbit (*Sylvilagus floridanus*). United States 1987



Rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) Germany 2007



Hungarian giant rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) Hungary 2008

Jean de La Fontaine (1621–1695) and animals from his stories, including a rabbit. [French poet whose *Fables* ranks among the greatest masterpieces of French literature.] Monaco 1972



St. Francis of Assisi (1182–1226), Patron saint of animals. As a lover of nature he called all creatures his “brothers” and “sisters”. Note the rabbits at the lower left. Austria 1982

R IS FOR RABBITS & HARES

Year of the Rabbit

Stylized rabbit, based on Chinese embroidery, boldly hopping into the new year. Canada 2011



Paper-cut and calligraphy design of rabbit by Clarence Lee. United States 1999



Two stylized rabbits, inspired by Chinese embroidery, chasing each other in a never-ending circle symbolizing the eternal cycle of life. Canada 2011

The Easter Bunny

The Easter Bunny originated with an old Teutonic legend in which the first rabbit was created by Eostre, a Germanic goddess, the namesake of the festival of Easter in some languages and the goddess of spring and dawn. She transformed a bird into a rabbit (an egg-laying hare). In gratitude, the rabbit pledged to lay brightly colored eggs each year for a spring festival named in her honor. Hungary 2010



Bugs Bunny



The animated cartoon character made his film debut as Bugs Bunny, a rabbit with Hare characteristics, in the 1940 cartoon *A Wild Hare*. He became an American cultural icon and the official mascot of Warner Bros. Entertainment and has appeared in more films than any other cartoon character. United States 1997

Thumper



In 1942 Walt Disney Productions released the animated movie *Bambi*, a coming of age story about a young fawn. It is based on a 1923 book, *Bambi, A Life in the Woods*, by Austrian author Felix Salten (1869–1945). One of the characters in the movie is a rabbit named Thumper whose personality and appearance was based on Beatrix Potter's Benjamin Bunny. Thumper teaches Bambi the names and ways of the birds, butterflies and flowers and also how to speak. Grenada Grenadines 1980



ANSWERS TO MAY/JUNE PHILATELIC QUIZ



Q1. What was the world's first airmail stamp?

Ans. **Italy 1917 (Scott C1)**

During World War I Italy wanted to establish a reliable means of communication with her islands of Sardinia and Sicily in case German submarine activity disrupted contact with the islands. So they set up an inland test with a flight between Rome and Turin, a distance of 500 km (about 310 miles) round-trip carrying several sacks of civilian mail.

Although semi-official airpost stamps had been produced before –Germany (1912) and Switzerland (1913), Italy decided to issue an official government stamp. On May 16, 1917 the new stamp was placed on sale in the post offices of Turin and Rome. It was an overprint of Italy's then-current rose-red 25-cent special delivery (ESPRESSO) stamp from 1903. The overprint reads: ESPERIMENTO POSTA AEREA/ MAGGIO 1917/ TORINO-ROMA –ROMA-TORINO. The stamp was provisional and for temporary use used on the single round-trip flight between Turin and Rome.



On May 22, 1917 Lt Mario deBernardi took off from Turin in his two-seat Pomillo PB-1 biplane. Weather delayed the return trip until May 27. Only a portion of the 200,000 stamps printed at the State Printing Works, Turin were used on de Bernardi's flights of 1917. Remaining copies were available for sale through the Italian Postal Administration until shortly before World War II. I obtained the copy seen here from the American Philatelic Society's online StampStore. [Ref: "The World's First Airmail Stamp" by Winfred Partin. *Stamps* December 5, 1987:20-21]



Q2. What country issued duty stamps (postal fiscal stamps) showing a duck-billed platypus?

Ans. **Tasmania**

Collecting taxes on the executing of legal documents, issuing licences, concluding real estate transfers, etc. are known as "duty" taxes and in some countries proof of the payment of the tax was demonstrated by a stamp applied to the relevant document. That document was not legal until the stamp was attached and canceled.



1880 (Scott AR24-AR27)

Now we come to Tasmania, an island in the Tasman Sea of the South Pacific Ocean, and a state of the Commonwealth of Australia. It began collecting duty on newspapers in 1826 for two years, but not with a stamp. It wasn't until 1863 that a duty on newspapers was reimplemented, but this time using regular postage stamps identified as duty stamps by manuscript cancels. In 1880 Tasmania issued duty stamps depicting a duck-billed platypus that remained in use until 1904 when they were replaced by numeral designs. But this strange mammal returned to Tasmania's duty stamps in October 1930 using the same design as the 1880 stamps. The duty stamps were redesigned in 1955 using the platypus in a series of colors and stayed in use until 1966 when the country changed to decimal currency and new designs were introduced.

The duck-billed platypus (*Ornithorhynchus anatinus*) is a semiaquatic mammal with a bill and web-feet like a duck and a tail and fur similar to a beaver. It is one of Australia's two egg-laying mammals the other being the spiny anteater. It inhabits fresh-water streams, lakes and lagoons of eastern Australia in Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania. It is about two feet long with a sensitive, elongated snout, from which it gets its name, duckbill. The snout is soft, and not hard like a bird's bill, and extremely sensitive which it uses to find its food (crayfish, shrimp, worms, small fish, snails, tadpoles, etc.) for it is blind and deaf when under water as its eyes and ears are closed. Once hunted for its fur, it is now rigidly protected. This set was also obtained from the American Philatelic Society's online StampStore. [Ref: "Perky Platypuses Helped to Collect Tasmanian Taxes for Decades". By Janet Klug. *Linn's Stamp News*, April 13, 2015]





ANSWERS TO MAY/JUNE PHILATELIC QUIZ



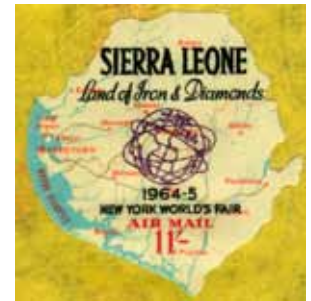
Q3. What was the world's first self-adhesive stamp?

Ans. **Sierra Leone 1964 (Scott (Scott 257–263,C14–C20)**

Finbar Kenny was the manager of Macy's department store in New York City in 1940. While visiting the Walsall Lithographic Company in the United Kingdom to organize the "Gold Coins" stamps issues of Tonga, he observed the printing of self-adhesive bottle labels. This gave him the inspiration for self-adhesive postage stamps and he took that idea to another country whose stamp issues he managed, namely Sierra Leone.

On February 10, 1964, Sierra Leone issued a set of fourteen stamps for the 1964–1965 New York World's Fair that was held in Flushing Meadows–Corona Park in Queens. The outline of the stamps was die-cut in the shape of the country of Sierra Leone

with the seven regular postage stamps having the Lion of Sierra Leone in the center. For the seven airmail stamps, the central image is the Unisphere, a stainless steel representation of the earth that was built for the 1964–1965 New York World's Fair. [Ref: "New Collector" by Richard West. *Gibbons Stamp Monthly*, May 2022;52(12):20-24]



1964 (Scott 259 & C20)

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?

Ans: **United States 1938 (Scott 835)**

On September 17, 1787, the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia approved and signed the Constitution of the United States but it would not become effective until at least nine of the original Colonies had ratified it. On June 21, 1788, New Hampshire ratified the Constitution and as it was the ninth state to do so, the Constitution was approved.

The design is based on a photograph of the old Colonial Court House in Williamsburg, Virginia, that was in the *National Geographic Magazine*. The stamp was placed on sale on June 21, 1938, in Philadelphia and on that day thirteen stamps were taken from the first sheet that was printed. One was given to the Governor of Pennsylvania and the rest were sent by homing pigeons to the Governors of each of the other twelve original states of the Union. [Ref: *America's Stamps: The Story of one Hundred Years of United States Postage Stamps* by Maud and Miska Petersham, 1947. The MacMillan Company, New York.]



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?

Ans: **Maya Angelou (Scott 4979) and Shirley Temple (Scott 5060)**

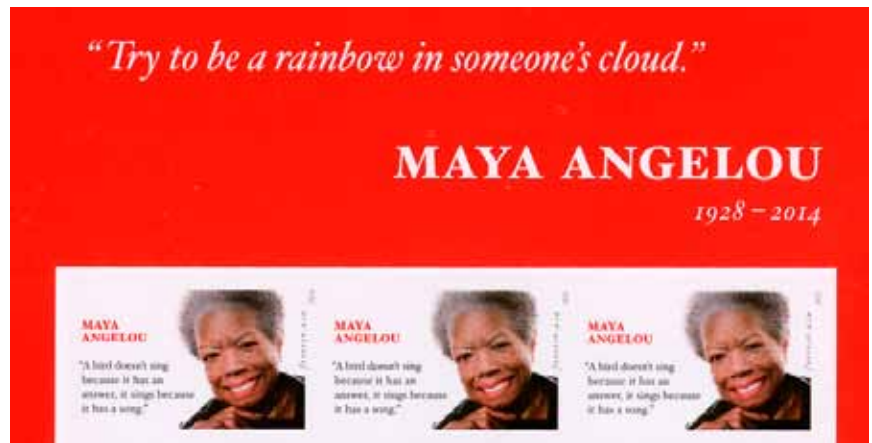
When Walt Disney died on December 15, 1966, there was pressure by the public for a commemorative stamp to honor him and just two years later on September 11, 1968, the United States Post Office Department issued a 6¢ stamp (Scott 1355) for Walt Disney. For those who collect the Disney topical, this is the first Walt Disney topical stamp.

The USPOD subsequently instituted a ten-year wait period between a person's death and the issuance of a United States postage stamp, except for recently deceased presidents.



Q5. (cont.)

Between 2007 and 2015 the wait was five years and during that time, a number of stamps were issued for people who died less than ten years before the stamp was put on sale. In 2015 the USPS issued a Forever stamp at the first class rate (49¢) in a pane of twelve self-adhesive commemorative stamps for Maya Angelou (1928–2014), one year after her death. A stamp for Shirley Temple (1928–2014) (Scott 5060) was issued in 2016, two years after her death. That stamp is not illustrated here. [Ref: An email from Jack Denys]



WHO WROTE THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – BELLAMY OR BELLAMY?

By Frederick C. Skvara

For over a century Francis Bellamy, a Baptist minister (1855–1931) and Christian socialist from upstate New York stated, in sworn affidavits, that he wrote the oath in August, 1892. and it was published in the September 8, 1892, issue of *Youth's Companion* magazine published by the Perry Mason Company in Boston (1) and where at the time was a staff writer. His authorship was reaffirmed in the twentieth century by the American Flag Foundation, the Smithsonian Institution, the Legislature Research Service (now the Congressional Research Service) and the Library of Congress. And in 2021 a resolution by the United States Senate credited him again.

But doubt resurfaced this year in February when Barry Popik, a New York historian discovered a newspaper account in the *Ellis County News Republican* of Hays, Kansas, dated May 21, 1892 in which the oath was published. The article describes a school ceremony on April 30, 1892 – more than three months before Francis Bellamy swore he wrote the pledge – in which high school students in Victoria, Kansas, a city in Ellis County, swore allegiance to the flag using virtually the same words. The oath they used originated in 1890 when a 13-year-old Kansas schoolboy said he submitted it to a contest that was organized by Francis Bellamy's own magazine to promote American values such as patriotism. Remarkably, the student's name was Frank E. Bellamy.

So far, no written record has directly demonstrated that the 13-year-old Frank Bellamy originated that oath. But historians are asking how can you account for the newspaper report that Kansas students had already been reciting the pledge as early as April 1892. Fred R. Shapiro, editor of the *New Yale Book of Quotations* will credit the schoolboy, Frank E. Bellamy.

Frank E. Bellamy enlisted in the 20th Kansas Infantry and served in the Philippines during the Spanish-

American War of 1898 where he contracted tuberculosis. He was mustered out of the Army, relocated to Denver and died in 1915. [Ref. "A Mystery Over Who Wrote the Pledge of Allegiance" by Sam Roberts. *The New York Times*, National Section Sunday, April 3, 2022.]



1992 (Scott 2593a) Printed by Bureau of Engraving & Printing



1993 (Scott 2594) Printed by Stamp Venturers for KCS Industries

Notes:

1) Perry Mason was created by Earl Stanley Gardner (1889-1970), an American lawyer and mystery writer. As a child Gardner read *Youth's Companion*, a magazine published by the Perry Mason Company in Boston. Gardner borrowed the name of his fictional lawyer from that company.





DISCOVER THE WORLD: SAARLAND

Area – 991 sq.mi. Population – 1,027,700 Capital: Saarbrücken



Map of Saar. 1948 (Scott 202)

Saarland (or Saargebiet) the smallest of the Bundesländer (German states) was created on January 10, 1920 from portions of the Prussian Rhine Province and the Bavarian Rhenish Palatinate. After the surrender of Germany in 1918, Saargebiet was under the administration of the League of Nations following the Treaty of Versailles until 1935, but France administered the area and it was occupied by the French Army.

For postal service they overprinted stamps of the two entities, Prussia and Bayern (Bavaria), that formed the Saarland. On January 10, 1920 Prussian Germania stamps of 1906–1919 were overprinted with Saare, the French name for the Saar River and the area. In March 1920 Bavarian stamps with the portrait of Ludwig III also had a similar Sarre overprint. On March 26, 1920, Germania stamps had a new overprint – SAARGEBIET. The first non-overprinted stamps were issued in February 1921 with the name SAARGEBIET.



Saar 1920 (Scott 2 & 48)

The Saargebiet administrative region was created under French occupation because of its rich deposits of coal and the first original series of 1921 contained a number of coal-related stamps as did a number of subsequent issues. In 1934 a number of stamps were overprinted Volksabstimmung 1935 to alert the population about the January 13, 1935 plebiscite about the future of Saargebiet.

On March 1, 1935, Saargebiet was returned to Germany and four identical stamps were issued by Germany on January 16, 1935 showing Mother Germany welcoming its child, Saargebiet back into her arms “Heim in’s Reich” – coming back home into the Reich. German stamps were used until following World War II when France again occupied the area, but Saargebiet was not part of the French occupation zone of Germany and it became a quasi-independent French protectorate on November 20, 1946. The first Saar stamps were issued on January 20, 1947. denominated in pfennigs.



Mother Germany welcoming its child Saargebiet. Germany 1935 (Scott 451)

[Under French Administration]



Miner, Steelworkers & Saar River near Mettlach. January 10, 1947 (Scott 157, 160, 171). (in pfennigs)

Steelworkers. Saar Nov 27, 1947 (Scott 180) [Ovpt. in francs]

Saar Reunited with Germany January 1957



Saar (Scott 262)

Germany (Scott 754)

On January 1, 1957, after another plebiscite, Saargebiet was again reunited with Germany and identical stamps were issued by the German Administration of Saar and by Germany save for the color and denominations to celebrate the second reincorporation of the region. From 1957 to 1959 Saarland continued issuing its own stamps, which were, in many cases, identical to the ones issued in Germany, but with the word “Saarland” and French francs instead of German marks.

Saarland lost its own stamps after 1959, but German stamps have continued to portray the natural sights and cultures of the area.



Alexander von Humboldt. May 6, 1959 (Scott 322) [Last Saar stamp]