



The Westfield Philatelist

Newsletter of the Westfield Stamp Club
 American Philatelic Society Chapter #540
 American Topical Association Chapter #113
 Volume 16 Number 3 January/February 2023

UPCOMING MEETINGS

January 26, 2023 – Show & Tell



February 23, 2023 – “Fun For a Centime - A Variety of French Area One Centime Rates” By Ed Grabowski



March 23, 2023 – “Indian Military Mail” by Robert Gray



April 2023 (date tba) – “Crosby Opera House” by Roger Brody

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Upcoming Meetings	1	Adoption of National Chairmen for	
From the Editor’s Den -George Washington	2	Christmas Seal Campaigns, Part 2	8
Great Boxing Movies.	3	Russian Invasion of Ukraine Prompts New Stamps.12	
January/February Philatelic Quiz	3	The Topical Alphabet: T is for Tapestries	13
Snoopy and the Sopwith Camel	4	Answers to November/December Philatelic Quiz .15	
USPS Charles M. Schulz Centennial Stamps	5	Discover the World: Sudan	18
Centenary of United States Air Mail Service	6		

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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

or call

Nick Lombardi

908-233-3045

FROM THE EDITOR'S DEN

Monday, February 20 is Presidents' Day so I thought I would make up a small page about our first President, George Washington. The page size is 5½ x 8½ inches to fit a binder of that size.



Presidents of the United States of America



George Washington – President 1789-1797



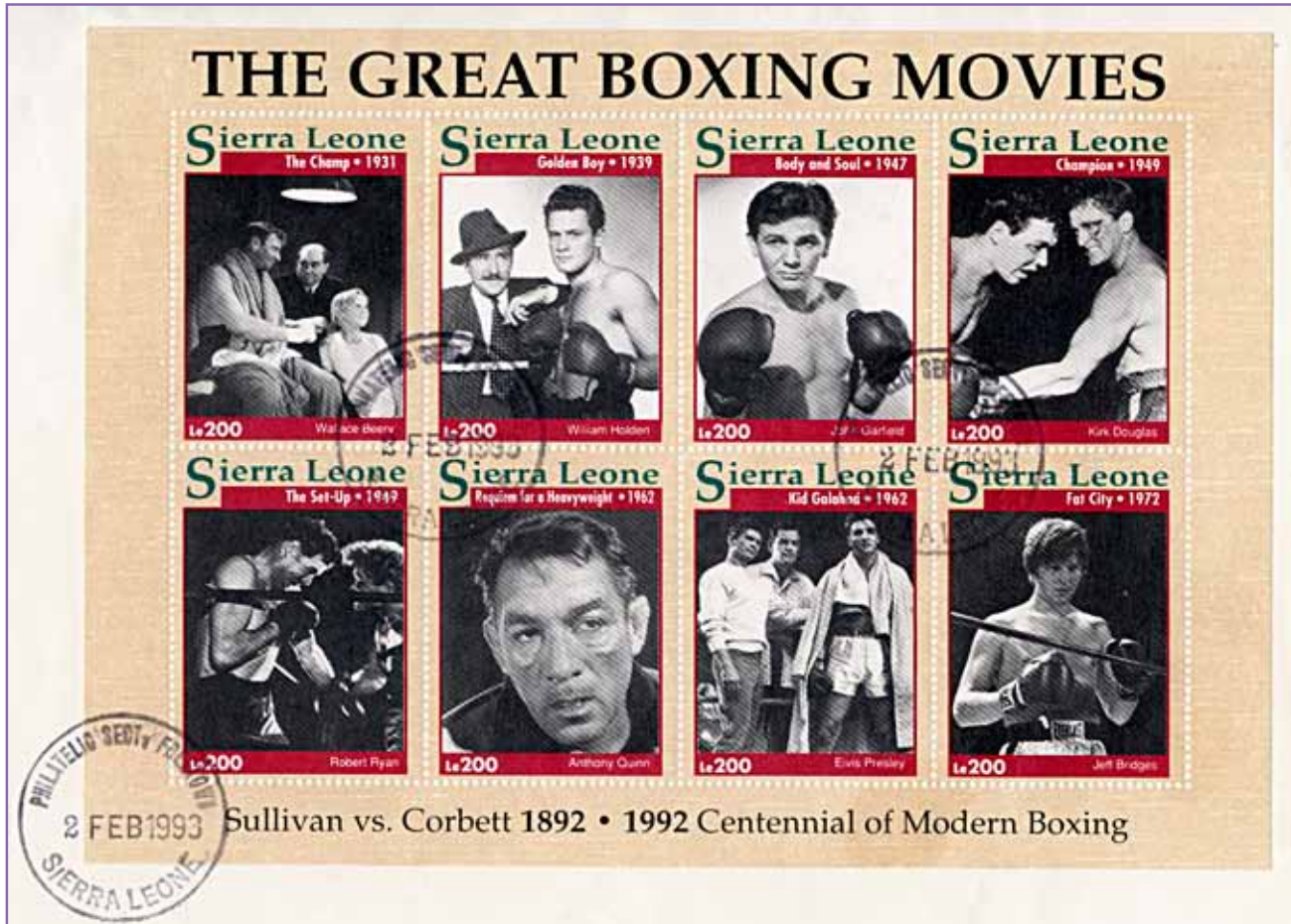
1¢ light green issued April 25, 1938 (Washington, D.C.)

- Designer:** Elaine Rawlinson (New York City) - design based on a bust by Jean Antoine Houdon at Mount Vernon
- Engraver:** John Eissler (U.S. Bureau of Engraving & Printing (BEP))
- Printing:** Stickney rotary press (BEP)
- Perforation:** 11 x 10½ (electric eye plate #24004 - August 16, 1949)

George Washington Timeline

- | | |
|---------|--|
| 1732 | February 22 – born Pope's Creek, Virginia |
| 1746 | Washington begins work as a surveyor |
| 1752 | Inherits brother's estate at Mount Vernon, Virginia |
| 1755-58 | Commissioned a colonel commanding Virginia forces in Ohio Territory during French & Indian War |
| 1759 | January 6 – Marries widow Martha Custis |
| 1759-74 | Serves in Virginia House of Burgesses |
| 1775 | Selected to serve as Commander in Chief of Continental Army |
| 1787 | Presiding officer at Continental Congress in Philadelphia |
| 1789 | April 30 – Inaugurated as 1st president of United States |
| 1792 | Reelected to a second term as president; Inaugurated March 4, 1793 |
| 1796 | Declines to seek a 3rd term and retires to Mount Vernon |
| 1799 | December 14 – dies at Mount Vernon, Virginia |


This stamp was first placed on sale on June 3, 1938 and was in use until 1954 and over that time 127 different plates were used. The plate block shown here was printed with electric eye plate #24004 which went to press on August 16, 1949.




Ordinarily, I don't look at items on covers or as recent as 1993, but there's more to philately than just filling albums that stop at 1964.

Boxing was once a major sport in the US, second only to baseball. This is a set of eight on the "Great Boxing Movies", pretty much American, and not expensive. Now what connection is there between the issuer, the small African country of Sierra Leone, and United States boxing? Looking at the catalog, Sierra Leone has, for some time, been issuing stamps for other than postal use there.

The films are: *The Champ*, *Golden Boy*, *Body and Soul*, *Champion*, *The Set Up*, *Requiem for a Heavyweight*, *Kid Galahad* (Elvis Presley, yet), and *Fat City*. The first two have been remade. *Gentleman Jim*, *Rocky*, and *Muhammad Ali* are on separate souvenir sheets. Missing is *Somebody Up There Likes Me*, among others.



JANUARY/FEBRUARY PHILATELIC QUIZ

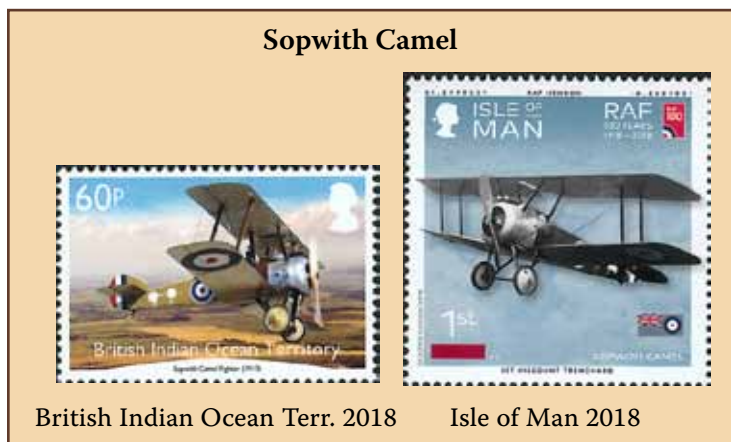


- Q1. What United States commemorative stamps, in addition, to the "Eagle" letter stamps do not contain the words that indicate their country of origin?
- Q2. Was the Pony Express ever reauthorized to carry the mail in the 20th century?
- Q3. What is the origin of the Smithsonian Station at the Smithsonian Museum where visitors can purchase stamps and have them postmarked with a special picture cancellation?
- Q4. What country used cats for a mail service?
- Q5. What European government was governed by three different administrations during World War II?

SNOOPY & THE SOPWITH CAMEL

By Frederick C. Skvara

On April 1, 1918, Great Britain's Royal Flying Corps merged with the Royal Naval Air force creating the Royal Air Force (RAF), the world's oldest independent air force. Several countries of the commonwealth have released sets of stamps commemorating the centenary and several include stamps for the Sopwith Camel.



British Indian Ocean Terr. 2018 Isle of Man 2018

strip *Peanuts* about the lives of a group of children. When Snoopy, the pet beagle of the lead character Charlie Brown, was introduced in 1958 as standing on his hind legs, he became a star and his imaginative adventures became the stuff of comic strip legends. Snoopy had many alter egos and could be anything – college student Joe Cool hanging around the student union; a world-class hockey player; a foreign legionnaire and many others.



Snoopy as World War I flying ace in his Sopwith Camel. United States 2001 (Scott 3507)

Baron Manfred von Richtofen (The Red Baron) Marshall Isl 1997

The Sopwith Camel was released by Great Britain in 1917 as a single-seat, biplane and during World War I it was the best-known and most successful fighter aircraft for the Allies having defeated over 1,000 enemy aircraft. The name is derived from Sir Thomas Sopwith (1888–1989), an English aviation pioneer and businessman, who designed the plane. It picked up the name “Camel” because the covering over the plane’s twin synchronized machine guns are shaped like two humps.

Charles Monroe Schulz (1922–2000) was an American cartoonist who over nearly 50 years created the comic

But his most famous exploits were those of the World War I flying ace either sitting atop his doghouse in his imaginary Sopwith Camel engaged in aerial dogfights with his mortal enemy, the Red Baron, or moving through the trenches of wartime France in search of a quiet cafe and a root beer. There is no doubt that for many Americans the plane named the Sopwith Camel will always be associated with Snoopy, the plane’s most famous World War I fighter ace.

Snoopy became NASA’s official mascot and in 1969 the lunar module in Apollo 10 was named *Snoopy* while



the command/service module was named *Charlie Brown*.

The last original *Peanuts* comic strip was published on Sunday, February 13, 2000, the day after Charles Schulz died in his sleep at home. By 2000, the strip had reached twenty-six thousand newspapers in seventy-five countries and in twenty-one languages.

This comic strip appeared in *The Star-Ledger*, Sunday, January 7, 2018



This pane of 20 First-Class Mail Forever self-adhesive stamps with ten different designs was issued on September 30, 2022 in Santa Rosa, California. Greg Breeding from Charlottesville, Virginia, was the Art Director and Designer using artwork by Schulz. The 1987 photograph of Charles M. Schulz was by Douglas Kirkland and the sheet was printed by the Banknote Corporation of America.

On the pane are ten characters from the *Peanuts* comic strip created by Schulz: Charlie Brown, Lucy, Franklin, Sally, Pigen, Linus, Snoopy (with Woodstock), Schroeder, Peppermint Patty and Marcie.

Charles M. Schulz was born on November 26, 1922 in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and died on February 12, 2000, in Santa Rosa, California. He sold the comic strip, titled *Li'l Folks* in 1950, to United Feature Syndicate but the title was changed to *Peanuts* because of the similarly-named *Little Folks* by Tack Knight. The first *Peanuts* comic strip appeared on October 2, 1950, in seven newspapers nationwide – *The Washington Post*, *The Chicago Tribune*, *The Minneapolis Star-Tribune*, *The Allentown Call-Chronicle*, *The Bethlehem Globe-Times*, *The Denver Post*, and *The Seattle Times*.

CENTENARY OF UNITED STATES AIR MAIL SERVICE

By Frederick C. Skvara

For the Centenary of United States Air Mail Service, the United States Postal Service in 2018 issued two self adhesive Forever® stamps at the then first class rate for the first ounce of 50¢ – May 1 (blue) and August 11 (carmine lake). Both stamps show the Curtiss JN-4H “Jenny” biplane.



Centenary of United States Air Mail Service.
United States 2018 (Scott 5281-5282)

The first scheduled United States Air Mail Service began on May 15, 1918, between Washington, D.C., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and New York City. Six modified Curtiss JN-4H “Jenny” biplanes were piloted by United States Army pilots: Lts. Howard Culver, Torrey Webb, Walter Miller and Stephen Bonsal, chosen by United States Army Major Reuben H. Fleet (1), who was put in charge of the Aerial Mail Service. Since the Aerial Mail Service was a joint operation between the Department of War and the United States Post Office Department, two pilots were chosen by the post office: Lts. James Edgerton (2) and George Boyle (3) both of whom had only recently graduated from the flight school at Ellington Field, Texas.

The first northbound flight to depart was a new Curtiss JN-4H biplane (no. 38262) (4) piloted by Lt. Boyle, but he became disoriented and crash landed in Maryland. However, the other flights that day completed their schedules.

Notes:

1) **Reuben H. Fleet (1887–1975)** – born in Montesano, Washington, was an United States Army officer, aviation pioneer and industrialist.

2) **James Edgerton (1896–1973)**, United States Army aviator and Air mail pilot.

3) **George Leroy Boyle (1891–?)** – born in Fort Scott, Kansas, studied law and after his Army service practiced law in Kansas City. Boyle was engaged to the daughter of Interstate Commerce Commissioner Charles McChord which might have helped him in being selected to fly the first plane out of Washington, D.C.

4) **Curtiss JN-4H “Jenny” biplane** – On May 13, 1918, the USPOD issued a 24¢ airmail stamp (Scott C3) showing a biplane with the serial number 38262, the



plane Boyle flew. As we all know, one sheet of stamps were mistakenly printed with the blue airplane upside down (Scott C3a) and created the most famous United States postage stamp error.

“America’s Most Famous Stamp to be Reprinted:
Historic Misprinted Inverted Jenny to Fly Again”.



Printed in a souvenir sheet of six \$2 stamps (Scott 4806) it was unveiled January 2013, in Louisville, Kentucky, during the American Philatelic Society’s Ameristamp Expo. It was released on September 22, 2013, to coincide with the opening of the William H. Gross Stamp Gallery at the Smithsonian’s National Postal Museum.

The stamp and sheet were designed by Antonio Alcalá from Alexandria, Virginia, and engraved by Steven Noble from Petaluma, California. Sennett Security Products printed 13,200,600 stamps using offset-intaglio.

The selvedge on the right side of the sheet shows a map of the northeastern United States and depicts the route of the first regularly, scheduled Air Mail in May 1918 between New York, Philadelphia and Washington, D.C. A compass rose can be seen in the lower right corner. The National Postal Museum building is shown in the upper left corner. The lower left corner shows a portrait of Army Major Reuben H. Fleet, an aviation pioneer, who was in charge of the first group of Air Mail pilots. His portrait on the sheet is based on a 1918 photograph now in the Library of Congress.

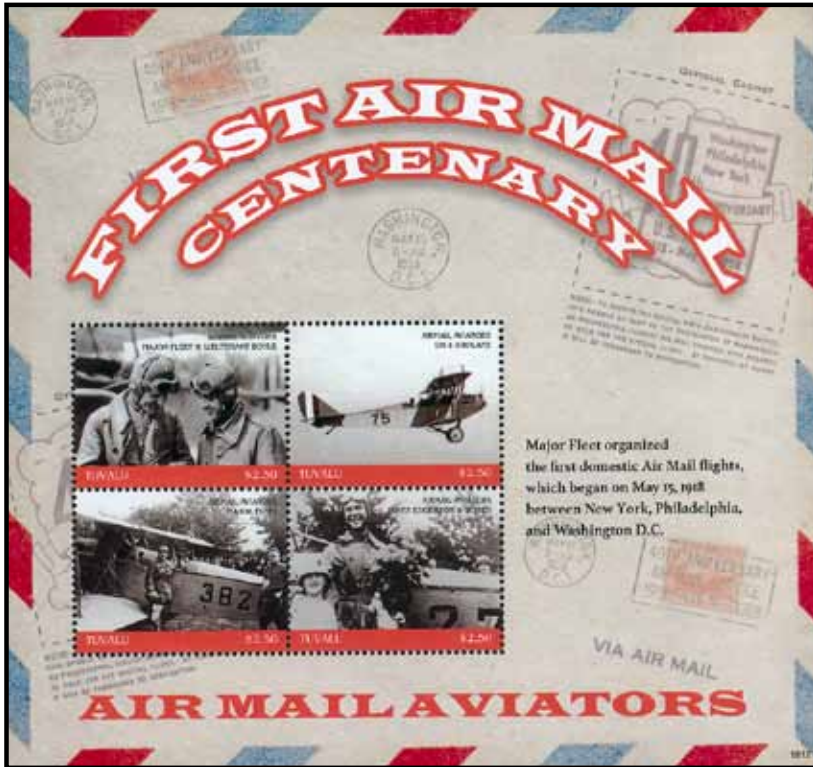
For the stamp:

“We wanted to make it as true to the original as possible”.

Antonio Alcalá

Also commemorating the service was a miniature sheet of four stamps and a souvenir sheet of one stamp from Tuvalu, an island group in the Western Pacific Ocean.

Tuvalu 2018 (Scott 1411a-d)



Upper left – Major Reuben Fleet & Lt. George Boyle at Potomac Park Polo Field, morning of May 15, 1918. (Photo from National Postal Museum, Smithsonian Institution)

Lower left – Major Reuben Fleet & Curtiss Jenny No. 38262 biplane.

Upper right – Image on the stamp is labeled “DH-4 Airplane”. The DH-4 was a British biplane designed by Geoffrey deHavilland, a British aviation pioneer and aerospace engineer. DH-4s were built in Britain and the United States, but were not used in the May 15, 1918 first air mail flights.

Lower right – James Edgerton & sister after finishing the first Air Mail flight from Philadelphia to Washington on May 15, 1918.



United States C1 issued December 10, 1918. Tuvalu 2018 (Scott 1412) [Centenary of First United States Air Mail Service]

ADOPTION OF NATIONAL CHAIRMEN FOR CHRISTMAS SEAL CAMPAIGNS, PART 2

By Frederick C. Skvara

In 1959 the National Tuberculosis Association decided on having a national chairman for the Christmas Seal Campaign, a practice they continued for a number of years. Many of these chairs were from the worlds of entertainment and sports and often had some connection to tuberculosis or other lung diseases.

1968 Christmas Seal

From 1968 until 1972 Christmas Seals were issued by the National Tuberculosis and Respiratory Disease Association.

Designer: William Eisele (1923–2006), of Columbus, Ohio, created the design of a partridge in a pear tree to represent the theme of “Peace and Friendship”. A golden pear and leaves accompany the brown and white partridge. A block of four seals make up the unit repeated in the pane.

National Chairman: Frank Blair (1915–1995) NBC newscaster for the “Today” show



1969 Christmas Seal

Designer: Bernice Kochan: The Cleveland artist created a block of four Seals showing children of different races holding hands and dancing around a tree. She also designed two 1969 United States commemorative stamps: W.C. Handy and Alabama statehood, 150th Anniversary.

National Chairman: Michael Douglas (1944–) An American actor who was outspoken about lung diseases.



1970 Christmas Seal

Designer: L. Gerald Snyder Created an entire sheet of 100 different Seals depicting an old-fashioned town with just about every imaginable holiday symbol: Christmas trees, decorated windows, toys, wreaths, etc. Only a block of four is shown here.

National Chairman: Gail Patrick Velde: A television producer who produced the “Perry Mason” series and saw two of its stars die of lung diseases. William Talman (1915–1968) who played Prosecutor Hamilton Burger died of lung cancer and Ray Collins (1889–1965) who played Lt. Tragg died of emphysema.



1971 Christmas Seal

Designer: James J. Clarke designed four different Seals in two different layouts showing a bugler, tree ornaments and a candle.

National Chairman: Jack Lemmon (1925–2001): An American actor who was concerned about air pollution.



1972 Christmas Seal



Designer: Linda J. Layman created ten different holiday scenes with a strip of ten as the unit on the pane. The Seals show a combination of an old-fashioned Christmas and a modern one. The designer said “people still sled, ice skate, build snowmen, send greetings, sing carols and decorate trees, just as they did in grandmother’s day...only the way we go to grandmother’s house –once it was by train or horse and sleigh – today it’s by auto or plane”

National Chairman: Eddie Albert (1951–2006): The American actor and activist said: “It is a matter of life and breath. Yours, mine, ours.” Eddie Albert died of lung cancer.

1973 Christmas Seal

From 1973 on Christmas Seals were issued by the American Lung Association



Designer: Cheri Johnson: The seals illustrate “The Twelve Days of Christmas”–

National Chairman: Johnny Bench (1947): Catcher for the Cincinnati Reds major league baseball team who in 1972 suffered from coccidioidomycosis (Valley Fever), a fungal infection that causes fever, shortness of breath, cough and fatigue.

1974 Christmas Seal

Designer: Rubidoux E. Johnson: Her rendition of the “Joys of Christmas with the old-fashioned sled and snowman representing winter play outdoors while the mailman delivers the message of Christmas in cards and gifts. The miniature Schnauzer (our late, beloved pet, Pojke) represents other living creatures...”

National Chairman: Vicki Carr (1941–) The American vocalist had a toxic allergy to cigarette smoke and was an activist for non-smokers’ rights.



1975 Christmas Seal

Designer: 54 different designs for each seal are from the paintings of elementary school children from every state and territory of the United States. This is the first year of the “Children of America” series

National Chairman: Vicki Carr (1941–): First chairman to serve two consecutive years.



1976 Christmas Seal

Designer: Allan Mardon and Bob Hungerford: They created a continuous village picture that covers the entire sheet of 54 Seals with Christmas activities and Santa with his sleigh and reindeer crossing over the village sky.

National Chairman: Dick Cavett (1936–): Television talk show host who was concerned with emphysema.



[to be continued]

RUSSIAN INVASION OF UKRAINE PROMPTS NEW STAMPS

By Frederick C. Skvara

Several countries have issued postage stamps, in addition to those from Ukraine, to express solidarity with the Ukrainian people and their nation in the fight with Russia.

On May 23, 2022, Ukraine issued the two miniature sheets seen here commemorating the sinking of *Moskva*, a Russian warship, on April 14 in the Black Sea. Ukraine originally issued two stamps on April 12, with the defiant Ukrainian message from the defenders of Snake Island: “Russian warship go f... yourself”.

Each of the sheets shown here contains three stamps showing the original design of the April stamps with a soldier on Snake Island with the defiant sign, but now the Russian ship has been removed. Three labels in each sheet contain the design of the April stamps with the words “Done” and the ship’s name and date of sinking.

The stamps are nondenominated with the “F” stamp to be used for domestic mail and the “W” stamps for international letters.



France



Portugal

The national colors of Ukraine are blue and yellow.



Spain

T IS FOR TAPESTRIES

Tapestry (hangings, curtains or upholstery) consists of patterned or figured handwoven textiles, in which the design is formed by lengthwise threads inserted over and under the crosswise threads according to the requirements of color. The design is thus an integral part of the material rather than something superimposed on it as in embroidery. Tapestries have been woven in every continent and date from the fifteenth century B.C.



Tapestry and Gobelin Workshop. France 1954. [The Gobelin Manufactory is located in Paris, France and was established in the mid-15th century by Gobelins, a family of dyers. It is best known as a royal factory supplying the court of French monarchs since Louis XIV with tapestries and later furniture.]

Hero and Leander is a "Greco-Roman myth that tells the tragic story of Leander, a young man who swam across the Hellespont (Dardanelles) every night to visit his beloved Hero, a priestess of Aphrodite, in a tower in Sestus. Each night Hero kept a light in the tower so that her lover could find his way, but one night a storm caused the light to be extinguished and poor Leander lost his way and drowned. When Hero found Leander's body on the shore, she killed herself. The images on the stamps are from 17th century English tapestries in Bratislava. Czechoslovakia 1974-1976 [The tapestries were created in the Gobelin manufactory in Paris.]

Tapestries owned by the Charles Plisnier and Lodewijk de Raet Foundation for education of adults



Emperor Maximilian killing a boar, 16th century



Caesar crossing the Rubicon, 15th century



Bird from a Silk Tapestry, Lyon, 18th Century. France 1989.



Hero & Leander



Hero watching Leander swim the Hellespont

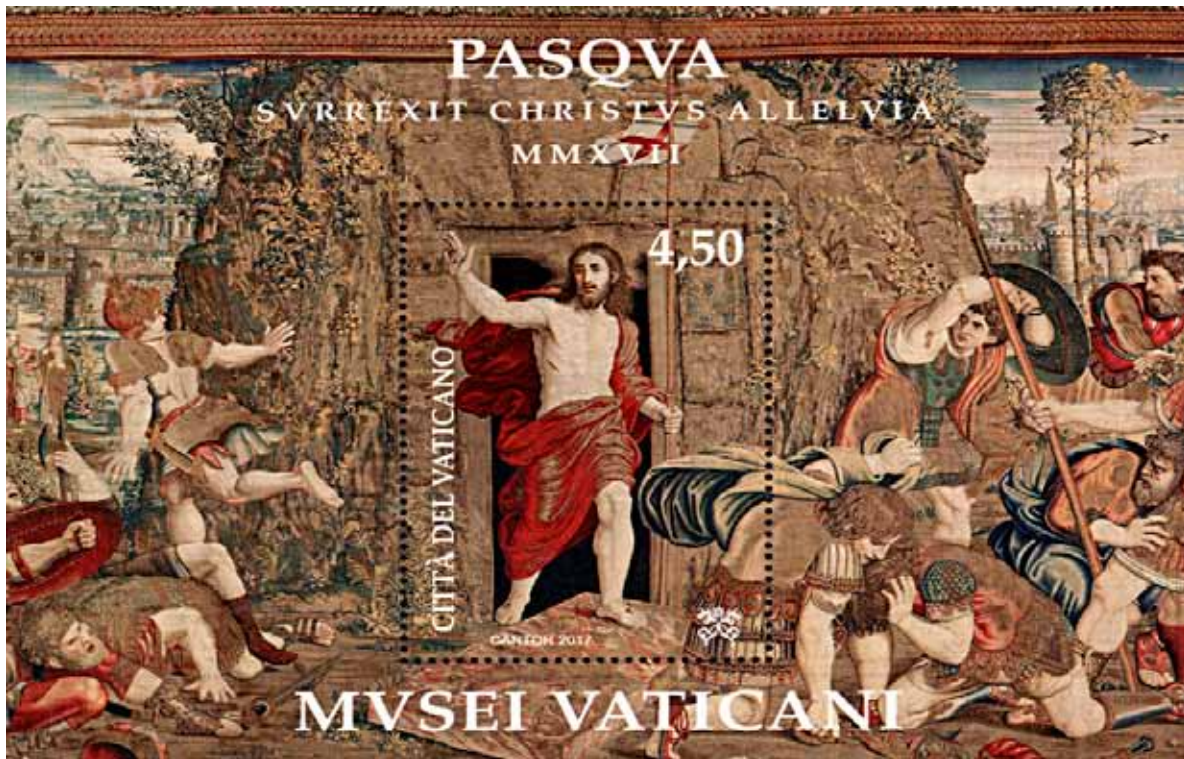


Hero mourning over Leander's body



Cupid mourning

T IS FOR TAPESTRIES



Risen Christ from a Flemish tapestry created by Pieter van Aelst (1502–1550), a Flemish painter, sculptor and designer of woodcuts, stained glass and tapestries. The tapestry was created in Brussels between 1524 and 1531 and is based on a drawing from the school of Raphael and is in the Vatican Museums. Vatican City 2017



Le Vue, one of six tapestries in the *Lady and the Unicorn* series created around 1500. Five of the tapestries depict one of the five senses with *Le Vue* celebrating sight – note the unicorn viewing himself in the mirror being held by the woman. The Lady is thought to be Lady Le Viste, wife of Antoine II Le Viste (1470–1534), sponsor of the tapestry and an important figure in the French courts of Charles VIII, Louis XII and Francis I. France 1964



The Apocalypse tapestry was commissioned by Louis I, Duke of Anjou in the late 1370s. It tells the story of the *Apocalypse* from the *Book of Revelation* by Saint John the Divine. There are 90 scenes in the tapestry, a portion of one is the scene on this stamp that shows an angel, the devil and the overflowing Winepress of the Wrath of God. France 1965



The Moon and the Bull tapestry by Jean Lurçat (1892–1966), a French artist and weaver who created his first tapestries in 1914 often depicting animals, nature and the cosmos. He is credited with bringing tapestries back into contemporary popularity. France 1966



ANSWERS TO NOVEMBER/DECEMBER PHILATELIC QUIZ



Q1. Who is the most frequently commemorated Black American on United States postage stamps?

Ans. John James Audubon (1785–1851)

Audubon or one of his works can be seen on six United States postage stamps beginning in 1940 and ending in 2002. He was born in Les Cayes, Santo Domingo (now Haiti), the son of Lieut. Jean Audubon, a French naval officer and sugarcane planter and his mistress, a Creole woman from Santo Domingo. His interest in drawing birds began early and after being sent to the United States he began illustrating the birds of North America in 1820. In 1826 he took his drawings to Europe and *The Birds of America* was published in four volumes of folio plates between 1827 and 1838. He returned to the United States in 1839, settling in New York and began work on *Viviparous Quadrupeds of North America*, the plates of which were published in two volumes in 1845-1846. [Ref: "Philatelic Product Parade by Ken Lawrence. The United States Specialist, April 1992: 197–200]



1940



1963



1967

Columbia Jays



1985



1998

Long-billed Curlews



2002

Scarlet & Louisiana
Tanagers



Q2. Do you know the connection between what is depicted on the 5¢ 1965 Traffic Safety Issue (Scott No. 1272) and what is shown on the 29¢ 1991 stamp from the World War II sheetlet (Scott No. 2559g)?

Ans. Both were invented by Garrett Morgan (1877–1963)

Born in Paris, Kentucky, to former slaves, Garrett Augustus Morgan, moved to Cincinnati, Ohio, as a teenager, but in 1895 he moved to Cleveland taking a job as a sewing machine repairman. By the early 20th century he accumulated enough money to begin his own sewing machine repair business and over the next several years expanded his interests into tailoring and a newspaper and by 1920 had become a wealthy man.

Always interested in inventions, he designed the tailoring machine used in his business. After witnessing an accident between car and a buggy he invented the first traffic signal in the United States receiving his patent on November 23, 1923. He eventually patented the signal in Canada and Great Britain and eventually sold it to the General Electric Corporation.

In 1916 he invented his version of the gas mask and after demonstrating it when a group of miners were trapped in a shaft under Lake Erie, he immediately received orders from mine owners and fire departments. A slightly redesigned Morgan gas mask was used by the United States Army during World War I. [Ref: "Philatelic Product Parade by Ken Lawrence. The United States Specialist, April 1992: 197–200]





ANSWERS TO NOVEMBER/DECEMBER PHILATELIC QUIZ



Q3. When did public service messages first appear on United States booklet panes?

Ans. **November 23, 1962**

On November 23, 1962, the Post Office Department released a 5¢ George Washington stamp in panes of 100, coils and booklets. The design is from a bust sculpted by Jean Antoine Houdon in 1785. The booklets consisted of four panes of five stamps and a label in the upper left corner carrying a public service message, that was called by the Post Office Department a “filler stamp”.

Three different slogans were used: slogan 1 issued on November 23, 1962; slogan 2 in 1963; slogan 3 went to press between November 14 and November 22 1963. There was no first day ceremonies for slogans 2 and 3 so the date they were first placed on sale is unclear. The text for slogan 1 was to make the public aware of a serious problem. The new high-speed sorting machines could not handle letters with irregular contents (bottle caps, jar lids, etc.) that were part of advertising promotions. Machines were being damaged and postal employees were being hurt.

The Zone Improvement Program (ZIP) code was implemented on July 1, 1963 and for slogan 2 the Bureau files states: “No first day of sale – put into circulation throughout the country on July 1, 1963. [The First Public Service Messages on Booklet Panes by Don B. Littlefield. The United States Specialist, August 1992: 412–416]

Scott 1213a



Slogan 1

Slogan 2

Slogan 3

Scott C64b



Airmail booklets were released on December 5, 1962 and the panes displayed the same three slogans.



Q4. What state's flower, seen on the 1982 State Birds & Flowers Issue, is both a medicine and also highly poisonous?

Ans: **South Carolina's Carolina jessamine (Scott 1992)**

The 1982 State Birds and Flowers sheet of fifty stamps includes the state flower of South Carolina, the Carolina Jessamine (*Gelsemium sempervirens*) that was adopted by the General Assembly of the state on February 1, 1924. It is indigenous in all parts of the state and its early appearance is a harbinger of the coming spring. It is a climbing vine that grows on trees and fences with abundant yellow flowers that have a fragrance similar to jasmine.

The flowers and leaves are highly poisonous, but the roots and rhizomes (underground stems) have been used in the treatment for malaria and for migraine headaches, neuralgias, rheumatism and asthma even though they are also toxic to some degree. The principal chemical product of the plant is the alkaloid gelsemine which has been reported to act as a central stimulant and to have analgesic effects. But there is no good scientific evidence to support its uses in medicine.



Q5. Are there any United States postage stamps issued after 1874 (date of organization of the UPU) that are denominated in Roman numerals rather than in arabic numerals?

Ans: **Centenary International Philatelic Exhibition Issue 1947 (Scott 948)**

When the Universal Postal Union (UPU) organized in 1874, one of the requirements was that postage stamps used for international mail had to state the value of the stamp on its face. Stamps that didn't could only be used for domestic mail. In 1947 the United States Post Office Department issued a souvenir sheet for the 4th International Philatelic Exhibition in the United States that was held in New York May 17–25, 1947, containing reproductions of the first two United States stamps – the 5¢ Benjamin Franklin and the 10¢ George Washington with Roman numeral “X” for the value instead of the arabic “10”.



First Day Cover May 18, 1947 [House of Farnam cachet]





DISCOVER THE WORLD: SUDAN



Area – 967,500 sq.mi. Population – 46,442,532 Capital: Khartoum

Sudan, the largest country in Africa, lies in northeast Africa bounded on the north by Egypt, on the northeast by the Red Sea, on the east by Ethiopia, on the south by Kenya, Uganda and Zaire, and on the west by Libya. The Nubian Desert is in the north and equatorial forest lies in the south with the Sudd swamps in the mid-south and an area of savannah between those areas. The Nile River traverses the entire country south to north, a distance of 2300 miles. Agriculture is the principal economic activity. The chief export products are cotton, gum arabic and sesame, but sugar cane, sorghum and livestock are other main products.



Gordon Memorial College. 1950 (Scott C39)

The Nubian culture that was established in northern Sudan came under the control of Egypt about 2,000 BC. Egypt offered the post of governor of Egyptian Sudan in 1873 to Charles Gordon (1833–1885), a British general and administrator. In 1881, Muhammad Ahmad (1843–1885), a Nubian, proclaimed himself the Mahdi, the Islamic spiritual and temporal savior, and by 1884 had captured Khartoum and made himself master of Sudan. Gordon was killed at Khartoum and The Mahdi died five months later, probably of typhus. It wasn't until 1898 that Horatio Kitchener, a British general who commanded the Anglo-Egyptian army, conquered the Sudan and established a condominium government that lasted until the 1950s. Sudan achieved independence on January 1, 1956, but the following years have been marked by instability including several coups.

In 1897 Egyptian stamps were overprinted "Soudan", but one year later the well-known "Camel Post" stamps were first issued. This design was in use with different colors, denominations and watermarks up until 1956. The camel post system was originally set up in the 1870s and extended by Gordon to the farthest points of his province.



Cotton picking. 1962
Cattle 1962

Issued under Anglo-Egyptian Administration



Camel Post Rider. 1903 (Scott 19) [Wmk.179 Multiple Crescent and Star]



Camel Post Rider. 1927 (Scott 43) [Wmk.214 Multiple S G]



Camel Post Rider. 1948 (Scott 92) [Wmk.214 Multiple S G]



[From 1951 Pictorial Definitives]
1m Nubian ibex
2m White-headed stork
3m Nubian giraffe
6p Gum tapping (Acacia trees) [Sudan is the largest producer of gum arabic used in chocolate, gumdrops, as a thickening agent, etc.]

Issued Post Independence

Map of Sudan and Crests of Provinces 1967



Upper Nile
Blue Nile
Kassala



Bahr El Gazal
Darfur
Northern Provinces



Equatoria
Kordofan
Khartoum



Zande hornbill. 1990