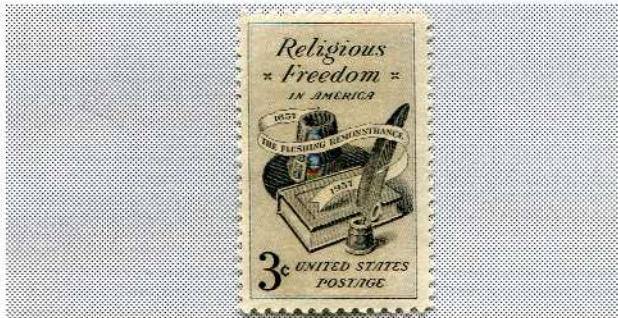


SECTION FOUR

DATING DILEMMAS

ADVANCE STANCE



The ribbon that encompasses the objects on this stamp shows the term, *The Flushing Remonstrance*. Flushing was a village in New York State that was settled by a considerable number of Quakers in

1638. In 1657 the governor, Peter Stuyvesant, issued a proclamation against Quakers, prohibiting their entertainment of any inhabitants of the province. The Flushing townspeople responded with a written protest, *The Flushing Remonstrance*, which was the first declaration of religious freedom by a group of free citizens in America. While the remonstrance was certainly a noble and daring initiative, Stuyvesant was not impressed, so there were no immediate changes to his policies. In fact, five years later a Quaker, John Bowne, was fined, imprisoned and exiled for holding a Quaker meeting in Flushing. The restrictions, however, were eventually fully lifted in about 1672, some 15 years after the commemorated Flushing Remonstrance. (USA #1099, ISSUED 1957)

BELATED BIRTHDAY



This stamp shows Kazimierz (Casimir) Pulaski's birth date as 1748. This date is incorrect, it should show 1747. Also, the stamp commemorated the 150th anniversary of Pulaski's death in 1779. It was, therefore, two years late in being issued in the year 1931. (USA #690, ISSUED 1931)

BIRTH DATE DEBATE



Issued on November 20, 1953, this stamp shows, "300th Anniversary of New York City." Technically, 300 years is incorrect. In 1653 (prime year), New Amsterdam, a settlement in the Dutch New Nether-

lands colony, was granted municipal rights. While New Amsterdam indeed became New York City, the name "New York" only dates back to 1664. In that year, the British seized the Dutch colony of New Netherlands and renamed it New York in honor of James Stuart, Duke of York and Albany. To confuse matters a little more, the Dutch recaptured their colony (New York) in 1673, but returned it to the British by the Treaty of Westminster on February 19, 1674. Nevertheless, the design of the stamp is very clever. A close examination will reveal that the stamp background has a ghost-like skyline of New York City in 1953. (USA #1027, ISSUED 1953)

CHARTER CHEATERS



The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) organization as it is presently known was created in 1914 through the merger of *three* separate organizations of overseas veterans. Two of these organizations had formed in the year 1899. It is apparent this year has been used as the basis for the 75th anniversary celebrated on the illustrated stamp. The organization, however, was not officially chartered by Congress until May 28, 1936. (USA #1525, ISSUED 1974)

COUNTING YOUR CHICKENS BEFORE THEY'RE HATCHED



Michigan's statehood centennial is celebrated on this stamp. The dates shown on the stamp are 1835-1935. Michigan, however, was not admitted to the union until January 26, 1837. The U.S. Postal Service made an error in showing the wrong time frame. The Scott catalogue people picked up on the discrepancy and state in their stamp information section, "Advance celebration of Michigan Statehood Centenary." Nevertheless, while you can certainly advance a centenary celebration, you cannot backdate the

centenary. How did the error occur? A possible explanation is found by examining the *current* seal of the state of Michigan (seal shown on the stamp is the original seal). The current seal (illustrated below) shows the Roman numerals MDCCCXXXV, the date the *seal* was adopted (1835). As it happened, Michigan was all set for statehood in 1835, with both a ratified constitution and a complete set of state officers. The Southern states and Ohio, however, each for separate reasons, opposed Michigan's statehood bid which de-

layed this state's entry until 1837. We might reason that the stamp designer, Alvin R. Meissner, had both the original Michigan seal and the current seal when he was designing the stamp. Naturally, he would assume the Roman numerals on the current seal indicated the statehood year. Nevertheless, one would think that the final stamp design proof would have been shown to Michigan State authorities. We can only assume that such was not the case as the Michigan people would, of course, have immediately noticed the error. (USA #775, ISSUED 1935)



DATING GAMES



This stamp commemorated the building of Fort Ticonderoga in 1755 (the stamp shows this date). However, this fort, which was built by the French, was originally named Fort Carillon. The name of the fort was changed to Ticonderoga in (or after) 1758. The name is a corruption of an Indian word that means, "place between two lakes." More unusual, the stamp shows Ethan Allen taking the fort. This action took place in 1775. There appears to be a conflict of commemorations with this stamp. (USA #1071, ISSUED 1955)

DIVIDED AFFECTIONS



Technically, the centennial date of 1836 shown on this stamp is incorrect. Arkansas seceded from the Union in 1861 and then was readmitted in 1868. While Arkansas has certainly been a state for the one hundred years celebrated, it was not a state in the same nation for all of those years. Arkansas itself is very particular on this point. To make certain there is no mistake, it added a star to its flag signifying the Confederacy as a ruling nation over its territory. (USA #782, ISSUED 1936)

ERA ERROR



A streetcar shown on this stamp is identified as a St. Charles streetcar of 1923 vintage. Extensive research performed by C. Arthur Trust Sr., a stamp collector, proves that the vehicle shown is not a 1923 version. It is a rebuilt, modernized St. Charles streetcar vehicle of the 1960's era. The difference is in the doors and windows which were modified in the 1960's. (USA #2062, ISSUED 1983)

FAIR PLAY



This stamp was issued in 1978 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Canadian National Exhibition (CNE). Technically, this commemoration is not correct. The CNE came into existence in 1912. Prior to that year, it was called the Toronto Industrial Exhibition which dates back to 1879. Even if we overlook the name change, the commemoration date is still one year out. As to the stamp design itself, it is at best a feeble attempt to portray *The Princes' Gates* that grace the entrance to the CNE fair grounds. The gates were designed by Alfred Chaplain and Morrow Oxley. The structure is noted as, *an outstanding example of monumental architecture in the Beaux-Arts mode*. The gates were officially opened on August 30, 1927, by the Prince of Wales accompanied by Prince George and were named in their honor. The foregoing photograph provides a better insight as to the actual appearance of the structure. (CDN #767, ISSUED 1978)



FOUL BALL



On this stamp, we see the date of 1839 for the origination or invention of the game of baseball.

If one considers the game with rules and proper organization, then the year 1845 would be more appropriate. It is also evident that the game was not called "baseball" prior to 1845. Duncan F. Curry, who was present the day Alexander Cartwright laid down the first rules for the game, has gone on record stating that before that day, *We would take our bats and balls with us and play any sort of game. We had no name in particular for it. Sometimes we batted the ball to one another or sometimes played one o'cat.* (USA #855, ISSUED 1939)

MARSHALL MESSES



George Catlett Marshall is honored on this stamp which was issued to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Marshall Plan (i.e., 1947 to 1967). However, Marshall only advanced the idea of the plan in 1947. The plan did not go into effect until 1948. The official duration of the plan is therefore shown in major reference works as 1948-1952. Another stamp (USA

DATING DILEMMAS

#3141), as follows, issued in 1997 commemorated the 50th anniversary of the Marshall Plan.



While neither stamps specifically mention anniversaries, such were intended and the date 1997 is shown on the second stamp. We might also note that on the first stamp, Marshall is shown as a five-star general, a rank he achieved in 1944. The likeness on the stamp, however, appears to have been taken from a photograph (as follows) of Marshall when he was Chief of Staff in 1943 (four stars). (USA #1289, ISSUED 1967)



MISDEAL



Dates shown on this stamp for Nevada's Centennial are 1851-1951. However, the first settlement in Nevada was established in 1849. The settlement, which was made by Mormons, was definitely in Carson Valley so the scene is appropriate. Originally, the settlement was called Mormon Station. The name was changed to Genoa after 1855. The only significance for the date 1851 is that in this year the first building was erected in Nevada. This building, which has been reconstructed, was located in Carson Valley at Mormon Station. (USA #999, ISSUED 1951)

OPENING CONFLICT



Along the lower edge of this stamp we can clearly see the following, **1853 CENTENNIAL OF OPENING OF JAPAN 1953**. The treaty opening Japan, however, was not signed until **March 31, 1854**. To cover up this error, we are told that the stamp commemorates the 100th anniversary of the negotiations in 1853 between Commodore Matthew C. Perry and representatives of the Emperor of Japan. It is highly unusual for a stamp to include the negotiations time in commemorating a major event. This stamp might be the first in this regard. (USA #1021, ISSUED 1953)