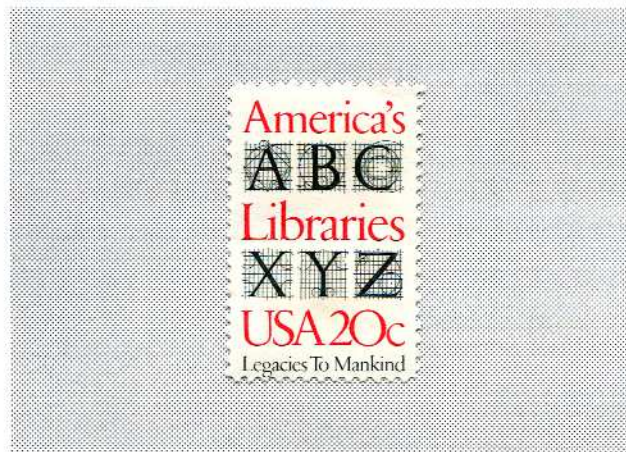


SECTION SEVEN

DESIGN SIDE ISSUE ANECDOTES

ALL GONE ORGONE



Even as late as the 1950's, books in America's "Legacies to Mankind" had some very strict censoring. What could be considered scientific books written by Dr. Wilhelm Reich were ordered to be withheld from distribution by a U.S. court and were later destroyed by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). In his books, Reich claimed he had discovered the primary energy of the universe which he called "orgone." This energy, he alleged, could be used to help people resist disease. A seven-year study by the FDA (1947-1954) resulted in the discrediting of Reich's claims bringing about the court action. The FDA then exploited the court ruling and had Reich's books burned. Reich was fined \$10,000 and sent to jail for two years where he died the day before he was to be released (November 3, 1957). Remarkably, there appears to be some evidence to support Reich's claims. Moreover, some eminent people, including Albert Einstein, had paid considerable attention to Reich's unusual ideas. (USA #2015, ISSUED 1982)

ARIZONA ABOUT-FACE



Arizona's history leading to statehood shows there is more than one way to kill a cat. The following article from the Encyclopedia Americana is by Edward H. Perlow, Jr. of Arizona State University:

After a twenty-five year period of petitioning for statehood, a constitutional convention was finally authorized. It met in Phoenix during the last three months of 1910 with George W. P. Hunt as president. Hunt was leader of the "peoples' forces" as opposed to "big interests." On February 9, 1911, Arizona voters ratified the constitution as drawn up by the convention,

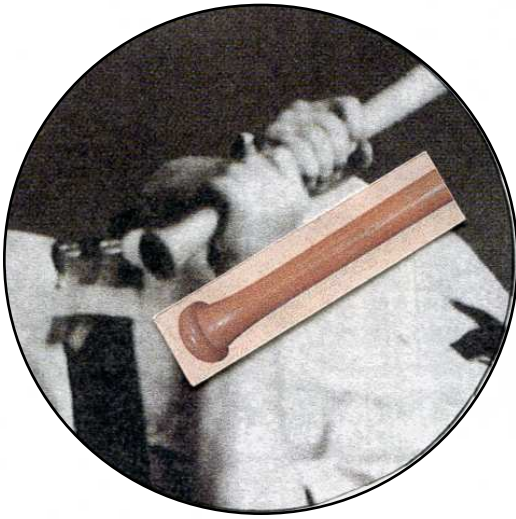
but President William Howard Taft vetoed the admission act in August because of its provision for popular recall of judges. Congress then altered the proposed constitution by striking out the recall provision. On August 21, 1911, Taft signed the resolution admitting Arizona, and on December 12, 1911, Arizona's voters accepted the revised constitution and elected Hunt to the first of seven terms as governor. Arizona was officially proclaimed the 48th state on February 14, 1912. On November 5, 1912, Arizona's voters quietly amended their constitution, restoring the recall provision. (USA #1192, ISSUED 1962)

BABE'S BATS



The legendary Babe Ruth continues to be the best known and probably most loved professional baseball player in the history of the sport. There can be no doubt that Babe was remarkable and any attempt to belittle or question his accomplishments would be in very poor taste. There is, however, one little (very little) change in the game Ruth brought about that may have given him a *slight* advantage over his predecessors and perhaps some competing team players. Babe Ruth changed the design of the baseball bat -- he had the bat equipped with a *proper* knob on the end of the handle. Up to this time, the knob was just a tapered "swelling." We can reason that Ruth knew a proper knob would enable the player to position his hands as low as possible on the bat handle without fear of slipping. This condition gives the player a much higher degree of confidence. The new bats were produced by the Louisville Slugger Company sometime between 1914 and 1919. With the newly designed bat, Ruth

hit twenty-nine home runs in 1919. Just what the situation was relative to redesigned bats in use with other teams at the time is unknown to your author. The following illustration shows an original bat (being held by an early player) and a redesigned bat. Also shown is a detail from the stamp (note the bat handle). (USA #2046 ISSUED 1983)



NOTE:
Whatever game this photo is from, it was definitely a game played after 1914.

BACKWARD THINKING



When this stamp was issued it caused a bit of a stir. The acronym NATO appears both forwards and backwards (OTAN) on either side of the globe. Many people thought this was a major design error. However, the French for North Atlantic Treaty Organization has the initials OTAN (Organisation du Traite de L'Atlantique du Nord). The backward initials shown on the stamp were exactly as intended. The fact that they come out in the precise reverse order of the English initials is, "just one of those things." (CDN #384, ISSUED 1959)

BAFFLING BOUNTY



In 1883, woodchucks had become a state nuisance in New Hampshire. A study was made and it was concluded that: *The woodchuck is absolutely destitute of*

any interesting qualities. Thereupon, a bounty of ten cents was placed on the offensive rodents. The bounty could be collected by presenting the tail of a killed woodchuck to state authorities. In keeping with Christian principles, the bounty did not apply to woodchucks killed on a Sunday. The following year, 339 bounties were collected, which really did not bother anyone. In 1885, however, 122,085 tails were presented. This eventuality had a profoundly adverse effect on the state treasury, so the bounty provision had to be repealed. The embarrassed state officials discontinued payments after 1886. As a result, there is now doubt as to, "Who really put the bite on whom?" (USA #2307, ISSUED 1987)

BANFF SPRINGS SPIRITS



The famous Banff Springs Hotel seen on this stamp was completed in 1888. About two years later, new wings were added to the building. In one of the wings, a serious construction error resulted in a room size space that did not have windows or a door. The construction company decided to just keep quiet about the error as it was not noticeable. In 1926, a fire de-

stroyed most of the wing and thereby revealed the hidden room. There was nothing in the room, however, its location was noted by night watchmen as being the place of an unusual apparition. Over the years, the watchmen had reported seeing a shadowy figure going down the hall near the room. There were also reports from guests in the wing stating they had been served by an elderly bellhop. The hotel, however, only employed young men as bellhops. Another area of the building has also had reports of strange happenings. Near the hotel's Rob Roy Lounge, a young bride fell down the stairway and broke her neck. People have stated they have seen an apparition of the woman in that area. Further, some bar patrons have stated they were told by a certain bartender that they had had enough to drink. The bartender they described had been dead for years. (CDN #1468, ISSUED 1993)

BARKING UP THE RIGHT TREE



This stamp calls attention to the disease, malaria. The word *malaria* is Spanish for, "bad air." The disease was given this name by Spanish explorers because they thought it was spread by vapors rising out of marshes or swamps. Actually spread by mosquitoes, the disease was greatly feared by early travelers. The Peruvian Indians were probably the first to find a cure for malaria. They discovered that something in the bark of the cinchona tree (later isolated as quinine) cured the disease. In the early 1600's, Jesuit missionaries brought crushed cinchona bark to England to help those suffering from the disease. However, the well-intentioned Jesuits met with unexpected opposition. Many people thought the remedy was part of a Catholic plot to wipe out Protestantism. Indeed, Oliver Cromwell died of the disease rather than take what he termed the, "devil's powder." As to the specific design of the stamp, The Great Seal of the United States shown is incomplete. It does not include the motto, *E PLURIBUS UNUM* (*One out of many*), in the seal ribbon.

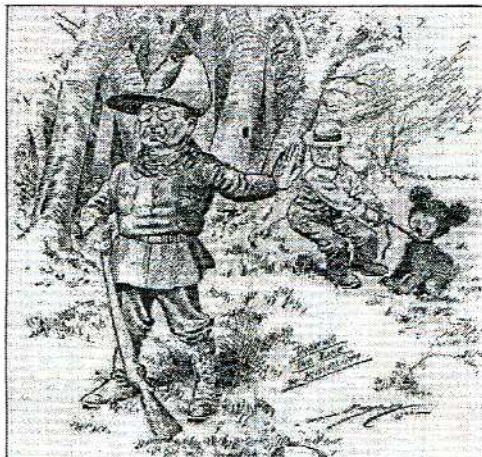
While it can be reasoned that the image is too small to include this level of detail, the fact still remains that the motto is missing. An enlargement of the stamp detail follows. (USA #1194, ISSUED 1962)



BEAR FACTS



This stamp shows a wind-up toy bear. The bear, which is very rigid in appearance, has an oversized key in its back and apparent hinges for movement in its arms and legs. The description of the stamp is "Felt Bear on Sleigh," which is unusual because it is unlikely a toy of this nature would be made of felt. It appears as though the stamp designer, Naiad Einsel, did not want to portray the traditional stuffed teddy bear. Could the reason for this decision be because "Teddy" was the disliked nickname for President Theodore Roosevelt and the teddy bear itself was named after him? The origination of the teddy bear is somewhat bizarre. In 1902, President Theodore (Teddy) Roosevelt took a trip to the South to resolve a border dispute between Louisiana and Mississippi. Knowing that the president was a keen hunter, his hosts had organized a hunting trip for him. To ensure the president left with a trophy, they trapped a young bear for him to shoot. Roosevelt, however, was a very honorable sportsman and refused to fire at the prearranged prey. The incident caught the attention of the press. A cartoon (as follows), drawn by Clifford K. Berryman, showing the president, rifle in hand with his back turned to a cowering bear, was soon published nationwide. The caption (handwritten within the cartoon) reads, "Drawing the line in Mississippi," a clever play on words which referred to the purpose of the president's trip.



Berryman's cartoon prompted Morris Michton, a Brooklyn toy merchant (Ideal Toy Company), to make a stuffed bear which he placed in his shop window to attract attention (1903). It is reasonable to assume that Michton called the toy, "Teddy's bear," which led to the name, "teddy bear." Customer requests for the "teddy" led Michton to manufacture the new toy. The following is a photograph of an original (1903) teddy bear made by the Ideal Toy Company.



A tourist showed Berryman's cartoon to Margaret Steiff, a toy manufacturer in Germany, which led to the production of teddy bears in that part of the world. In

time, teddy bears spread throughout the world and are now a part of our heritage and our language. Original teddy bears have become highly valuable collectors'

items. The following newspaper article reports on the sale of an original Steiff teddy bear in the 1990's. (USA #1940, ISSUED 1981)

EXPENSIVE DATE:
Yoshihiro Sekiguchi holds "Teddy Girl," which cost him \$220,000 Cdn. She's going to a Tokyo museum.



AP

LONDON AUCTION

'Sex-change' teddy bear fetches record \$220,000

The Independent

LONDON — The world record price for a teddy bear doubled Monday when a female bear, known as Teddy Girl, was sold to a Japanese collector for the equivalent of \$220,000 Cdn.

She was bought by Yoshihiro Sekiguchi, a soft-toy manufacturer, after a bidding war which sent the price soaring above the estimate of \$12,000 to \$16,000 at Christie's in London. The previous world record was set in 1989 at \$110,000.

Teddy Girl belonged to Lt.-Col. Bob Henderson, a noted collector, who founded the British branch of the charity, Good Bears of the World, to send bears to children in hospitals and war zones.

The bear's rarity is because it was made by Steiff in 1904, only a year

after the German toy company made the first jointed plush teddy bear.

She is now the most famous bear to have had a sex change.

Originally known as Teddy Boy, she was given to Henderson soon after his birth in 1904.

It was his daughter Cynthia who dressed the bear in a frock and told her father: "Her name is Teddy Girl."

Sekiguchi bought her for his new teddy bear museum outside Tokyo. His adviser, Pam Hebbes, said: "She has a wonderfully appealing face but we have seen bears like that go for \$30,000. It's her history that makes her special."

The sellers were Alan Williams, 37, an engineer from Thame, and his wife Deirdre, 30, Henderson's granddaughter.

BEOTHUK TRAGEDY

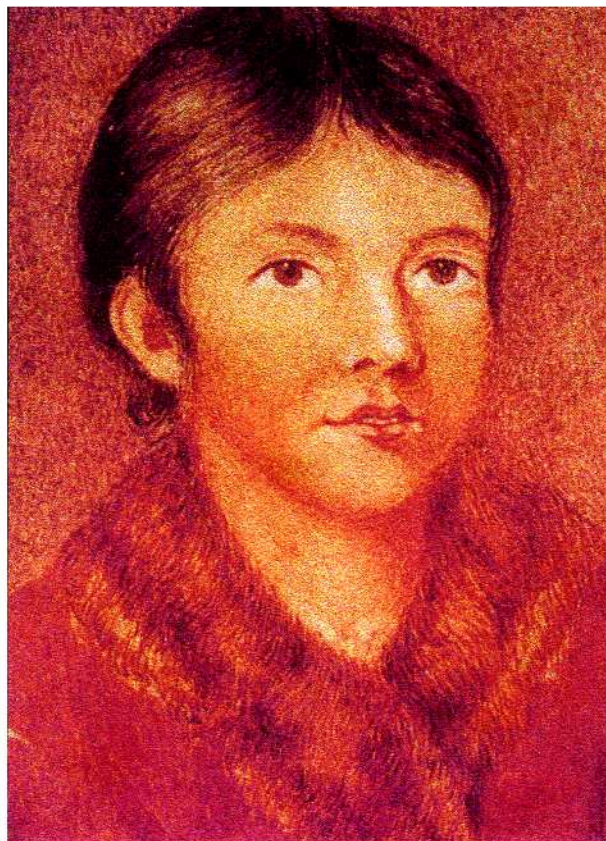


This stamp shows the picturesque St. John's Harbor in Newfoundland. On the south side of the harbor stands a simple monument (adjacent photograph) which marks one of the greatest tragedies in North America's history. The monument mentions Nancy Shanawdithit, probably the last Beothuk Indian to walk the face of the earth. The plaque on the monument reads:

This monument marks the site of the Parish Church of St. Mary The Virgin during the period 1859-1963. Fishermen and sailors from many ports found a spiritual haven within its hallowed walls. Near this spot is the burying place of Nancy Shanawdithit, very probably the last of the Beothuks, who died on June 6, 1829.



Through ignorance, misunderstandings and mistrust, European and other settlers virtually wiped-out the Beothuk Indians. This unique native race had occupied Newfoundland since about 1000 AD. Their unusual custom of painting their bodies with red ochre gave rise to the term “redskins” or “red Indians.” The only known portrait of a Beothuk depicts Demasduit, or Mary March, as she was named by Europeans. The portrait (as follows) was made in 1819 by Lady Hamilton, wife of the governor of Newfoundland.



Demasduit was captured the previous year by John Peyton, a fish and fur merchant. We are given to believe that Peyton had been robbed by a band of Beothuks. He was therefore given permission to recover his property. He went on an “expedition” and found a small Beothuk settlement. He killed Demasduit’s husband and probably a second native. Peyton captured Demasduit, taking her away from her sick child who later died. Demasduit was deposited at an Anglican missionary. An attempt was later made to return Demasduit to her people but it was not possible to make contact with them. Demasduit died of tuberculosis on January 8, 1820. For the next three years, there was no known European contact with Beothuks. In 1823, three starving and sick Beothuk woman surrendered themselves to a European settler. They were taken to John Peyton Junior who took them to St. John’s where it was decided to take them back to the wilderness. After wandering around for a few days, two of the women died. The survivor, Shanawdithit, made her way back to Peyton Junior’s residence and remained there as a servant. In 1827 an attempt was made to search for Beothuk Indians, but none could be found. Shanawdithit was probably the last of her race. In that same year, a group of influential citizens who called themselves the Beothuk Institution, took Shanawdithit under their care. Over the next two years, she provided a wealth of information about Beothuk language and culture. In June 1829, she fell ill and died, most probably due to tuberculosis. Unfortunately, no known portrait of Shanawdithit exists. Further, at the time of this writing, the monument illustrated was in a deplorable state of repair. Several bricks have fallen from one side of the structure and lay scattered on the ground. It is highly evident no maintenance has been performed for many years. Unfortunately, like the Beothuks, it appears the monument is also headed for extinction. (NFD #C7, ISSUED 1931)

BIBLICAL CATCH 22



In the Biblical story of the three wise men, who are seen on this stamp, we learn that they followed a star to Bethlehem. The Bible states that the star was in the east. However, as the wise men were *probably* coming from Persia, they would have to travel west to get to their destination. This reasoning, however, can be countered with the fact that we do not know exactly where the three wise men were when they observed the star and received the message to follow it. As to the actual star itself (known as the *Star of Bethlehem*), which is shown on the following stamp (CDN #435) issued in 1964, scientists (astronomers) have provided a

possible explanation as to what the star might have been.



About the time of Christ's birth (5 BC) there was a nova (a star that increases several hundred times in brightness for a short period) in the constellation Capricorn. This nova may have started the wise men on their journey. Nevertheless, one can argue that the nova was occasioned by divine intervention. On a different note, there is also a scientific explanation for the burning bush encountered by Moses in the Old Testament. In Exodus, Chapter 3, Paragraph 2 we find: *And the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the middle of a bush; and he looked and behold, the bush burned with fire and the bush was not consumed.* Remarkably, there is such a thing as a bush that burns without consuming itself. In 1959, Brazil issued a postage stamp (BRAZIL #902), as follows, that shows this natural wonder.



The scientific name of the bush is, *dictamnus fraxinella*. It is native to Western Asia and the temperate regions of America. The plant secretes a fragrant oil in great abundance in warm weather. The oil impregnates the surrounding air which results in a highly flammable vapor. Any kind of naked flame will ignite the vapor with amazing results -- the whole plant bursts into flames and burns without any damage to the leaves. Another Biblical story tells us that God created the rainbow as a reminder that He would not again destroy the world with water. A stamp (CDN #1287) as follows, issued in 1990 shows a rainbow.



We know, of course, that a rainbow is caused by sunlight shining through water droplets. In other words, it is a natural phenomenon which can be easily explained. From the religious perspective, of course, it can be argued that both the burning bush and the rainbow did not exist *before* the Biblical events that created them. What we see, therefore, are symbols to reinforce the Biblical stories. (CDN #975, ISSUED 1982)

BRADDOCK'S BUNDLE



In 1755, a British force in North America marched against Fort Duquesne, a French outpost in what is now the state of Pennsylvania. The force, which consisted of 2,100 men, was under the command of General Edward Braddock. The forward column of this force, 1,459 officers and men (including Colonel George Washington), was ambushed by the French and

Indians in what is known as the Battle of Braddock's Field. This battle is commemorated on the featured stamp. General Braddock was wounded in the fighting and died four days later. On the march to Fort Duquesne, General Braddock was carrying a large army payroll. Rather than chance having the money fall into enemy hands, Braddock had the money placed in a large chest and buried somewhere in what is now Braddock Heights, Maryland. Win or lose, he had full intention of retrieving the loot. However, the troops who buried the money were killed and Braddock himself died without revealing the whereabouts of the stash. To this day, the payroll has not been found and has joined the ranks of the mystery treasures jealously guarded by Mother Earth. (USA #688, ISSUED 1930)

BUFFALO BICKERING



Both the United States and Canada have issued postage stamps showing what we commonly call the *buffalo*. Both countries, however, are careful not to call the animal by this name. As shown on a Canadian stamp (CDN #884) issued in 1981, as follows, the animal is a *bison*.



The word *buffalo* is really the common name for several types of wild oxen. The name was first given to the black water buffalo of India. There are two major differences between a bison and a buffalo. First, a bison has fourteen pairs of ribs instead of thirteen as found with a true buffalo. Second, a bison has a much larger head and neck. Nevertheless, few people would disagree that Buffalo Bill and Buffalo, New York sound much better than Bison Bill and Bison, New York. Likewise, the word *cattalo*, which resulted from crossing cattle with bison, sounds better than *cattison*. By calling the animal the *American buffalo* we can *unofficially* get around the issue, but the fact remains that a bison can never be a buffalo. (USA #1392, ISSUED 1970)

CALIFORNIA DREAMING



The name "California" appears to have come from an early Spanish 16th century romantic novel entitled, *The Exploits of Esplandián*, by García Ordóñez de Montalvo. The book refers to a fictitious island called California which is peopled by black women. When an explorer, possibly Fortún Jiménez, visited what is now Baja California in 1533, he thought the land was an island. It is reasoned that the explorer had read de Montalvo's book and thereby selected the name "California" for the peninsula. The name first appeared in print in reference to what is now the State of California in 1542. It is found in the journal of the explorer Juan Cabrillo. The word is apparently used in such a way as to imply that it was already an established name for the region. Ironically, Baja California ended up as part of Mexico. (USA #1373, ISSUED 1969)

CANADA'S FIRST SCIENTIST



The pitcher plant, shown on this stamp, catches and digests insects. The plant received its scientific

name, *Sarracenia purpurea*, from Canada's first scientist, Dr. Michel Sarrazin. A physician and naturalist, Sarrazin came to Quebec from France in 1685. He often risked his life to study plant species unknown in Europe. It is believed Sarrazin turned the production of maple syrup into a major industry in the New World, thereby reducing the need for expensive imported sugar. Interestingly, the French name for the plant, *sarracénie pourpre*, as shown on the stamp, is very similar to the plant's scientific name. (CDN #427, ISSUED 1966)

CAPITOL COMMENTS



The United States National Capitol building, shown on this stamp, did not appear this way for the full 150 years being commemorated for the Capital (City of Washington, D.C.). The building, originally designed by William Thornton, was later enlarged and the dome was added in the mid 1850's. (USA #992, ISSUED 1950)

CARRY'S CRUSADE



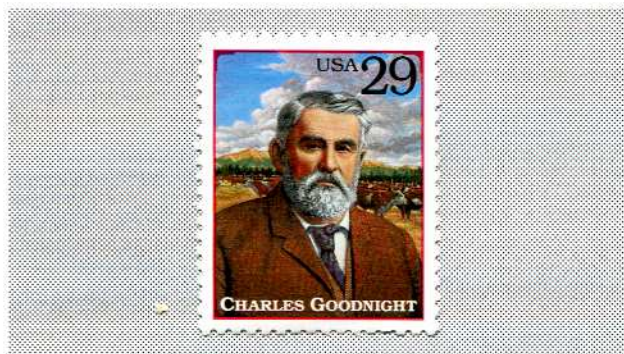
With this stamp, our attention is drawn to alcoholism, probably the greatest ill in our society. Undoubtedly, the greatest advocate for the prevention of alcohol abuse was the militant temperance leader, Carry Nation (1846-1911). Her crusade against the evils of alcohol has known no equal. Carry had seen her first husband destroyed by alcohol, so she devoted her life to ridding the country of the menacing spirit. Although Kansas, the state in which she lived, was technically "dry," the law was generally disregarded and saloons flourished throughout the land. When

Carry's letters of protest and other passionate appeals to stop the sale of alcohol fell on deaf ears, she decided to take the matter into her own hands. On June 4, 1900, she claims she heard a voice from above that said, *Take some things in your hands and throw at those places and smash them!* The next day, armed with a stack of bricks wrapped in newspapers, Carry walked into a saloon in Kiowa, Kansas, and virtually destroyed the place. Next on her list was an elegant bar in Wichita, Kansas. This place featured a huge plate glass mirror and a somewhat suggestive painting entitled, *Cleopatra in the Bath*. Here, Carry went on a rock-throwing and bottle smashing spree, with the mirror and painting falling prey to her wrath. She was subsequently arrested and in the trial that followed, many Kansas citizens rallied to her defense. Probably because the saloons were illegal in the first place, the charges against her were dropped. This victory gave Carry a great deal of publicity for her cause. Over the

next year, she launched over twenty successful saloon raids. She became so notorious that saloons would close if she entered a town. Some saloons even hired armed guards to protect their property. In time, Carry improved her technique, which also provided her with an opportunity to finance the many fines eventually levied against her. She began to use a metal hatchet for destroying saloons and sold souvenir hatchets inscribed with her name. In all, Carry was arrested about thirty times in her saloon-smashing career. A big woman, nearly six feet tall, and weighing over 175 pounds, she performed feats of amazing strength. She could tear icebox doors clear of their hinges. On one occasion, she ripped a huge cash register from its moorings and hurled it across the room. Needless to say, challengers were few and far between. Eventually, Carry took up

lecturing and spoke throughout the United States on the evils of alcohol. She also published a weekly newspaper, appropriately called *The Hatchet*. When she was sixty-three years old, she undertook the greatest raid of all time. In Washington, D. C., she destroyed the Union Barroom with three hatchets which she named *Faith, Hope and Charity*. The great crusader died at the age of 65. Although a few years later national prohibition was effected, it did not stop the flow and desire for alcohol. If anything, it gave the criminal element another drug commodity to market. What did Carry Nation and prohibition prove? Not very much, other than the fact that, like it or not, alcohol is here to stay. However, Carry Nation did make a stand and her courage and firmness of purpose is a shining example for us all. (USA #1927, ISSUED 1981)

CATTALO TALE



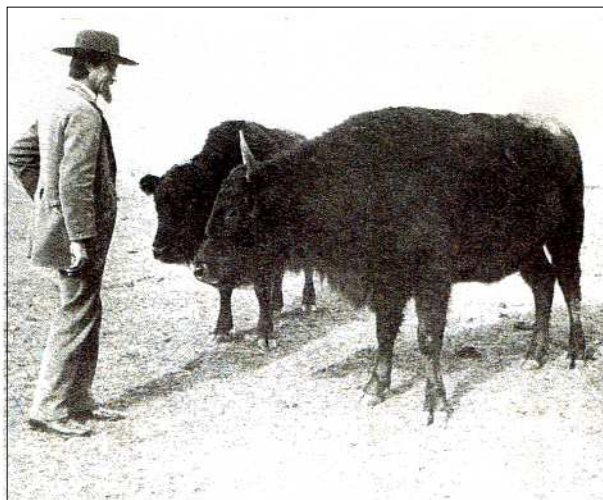
Charles Goodnight, who is shown on this stamp, is generally given the credit for breeding the first *cattalo* (steer/buffalo [bison] hybrid). On the reverse of the illustrated stamp we see:

Charles Goodnight
1836-1929

Texas Ranger, Indian fighter and pioneer cattle rancher. Both the Goodnight Trail and the Goodnight-Loving Trail are named for him.
First bred the "cattalo."

A brief description of Goodnight by historian William H. Forbis is given as: *A cowboy who made it up the ladder to baron, tough Charlie Goodnight stole when he wanted to, lynched when he had to and died ruling 20 million acres of Texas rangeland.* From this description, we can gather that animal husbandry experimentation was not one of Goodnight's passions. As it happened, some time in the early 1880's, Goodnight's

pet buffalo [bison], Old Sikes, just happened to mate with a number of the baron's longhorn cows. Goodnight, we are told, saw an unusual offspring *but he did not make the incident public nor did he come up with a name for the creature.* The man who intentionally bred a cattalo and *named the creature* was Colonel Charles J. Jones. Jones made his find public in 1888. The following photograph shows Jones with two cattalo heifers. The animals were the offsprings of longhorn cows that were specifically bred with a buffalo [bison] bull.



When Goodnight was informed of the new breed, he came forward with his story. Being the influential man he was, Goodnight naturally got the credit. Whatever the case, however, the cattalo virtually evolved into nothing. While the creature had some excellent attributes, it appears it was just not meant to be. The mor-

ality rate in female cattle giving birth to cattalos is very high. Also high is the mortality rate of the calves themselves. Further there is much sterility among the

males of the species. Added to these problems, cattalo seem to inherit the ornery behavior of buffalo, making them difficult to control. (USA #28691, ISSUED 1994)

CHANGING TIMES



Arlington Amphitheater and The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier (foreground) at the Arlington National Cemetery, Virginia, are seen on this stamp. The Tomb contains the bodies of unknown American soldiers who were killed in World War I, World War II

and the Korean war. There is a fourth crypt for the Vietnam conflict, however it is empty. There appears to be two reasons for this condition. First, modern methods of identification dramatically reduce the number of unknown casualties. Second, the Tomb requires that 80% of the soldier's body must be recovered. In the Vietnam conflict, there were only four Vietnam war casualties who could not be identified. In each case, the body recovery requirement was not met. Modern warfare apparently makes this situation the rule rather than the exception. It is interesting to note that at this time (1999) DNA testing will probably result in the removal of one previously unknown soldier (war not mentioned). (USA #570, ISSUED 1992)

CHRISTOPHER QUESTIONABLES



Without detracting from the fame of the great explorer, Christopher Columbus, there are a few anomalies associated with his life and accomplishments. To begin, Christopher never used the last name "Columbus." He signed himself under the names of

Colombo, Colomo, Colom and Colon. The latter was the form he himself came to prefer and wished to be used. Next, there are no facts to substantiate that Queen Isabella had to use her jewels to finance the Columbus expedition. This story is officially termed as, "quite untrue." Further, the first person to sight land in North America on the original Columbus expedition was a sailor named Ridrugi de Triana. De Triana was on one of the ships accompanying Columbus. Moreover, Columbus landed on an island in the Bahamas. There is nothing to indicate that he even saw the mainland of North America during his first or successive voyages. Finally, Columbus never realized that he had skirted the edge of two new continents. He went to his grave believing that he had explored the outlying area of Japan. (USA #245, ISSUED 1893)

COLONY FOLLY



President James Monroe's name has found a place on the east coast of Africa. In 1822, the American Colonization Society established a colony there for freed American slaves. The Society named the colony "Monrovia" after the President, who is honored on this stamp. The idea of sending blacks back to Africa was a hotly debated issue. Indeed, by this time most of the blacks in America had been born in America, so to

them the word "colonization" was a euphemism for "exile." Monrovia is now the capital of Liberia and is that country's largest city. The credit for this accom-

plishment, however, lies with the exiled people, not the misguided and bigoted American Colonization Society. (USA #1038, ISSUED 1954)

CONFLICT CONFLICTIONS



Robert E. Lee, Confederate commander in the American Civil War, was totally opposed to slavery -- the main issue of the war. Lee is on record as saying, *...slavery as an institution is a moral and political evil*. We are told Lee released his slaves in the late 1840's. Nevertheless, his wife had slaves whom she inherited from her father. It appears she was not

quite as compassionate as her husband. She did, however, release her slaves in 1863 -- two years before the end of the Civil War. On the other side of the conflict, the Union commander, Ulysses S. Grant, had purchased a slave as late as 1858. To Grant's credit, he did release him (or her) the following year. Grant's wife, however, also had slaves whom she did not release until the end of the Civil War in 1865. Ironically, while Lee knew he was fighting to retain slavery, he was personally against this institution. Grant, on the other hand, did not really care either way. In all, 184,594 Confederate and Union troops died in battle during the Civil War. The Union lost 110,070 troops and the Confederate, 74,524 troops. The estimated cost of the war is \$6,006,232,513. Given there were about 600,000 slaves in America in 1861, this amount of money would have been enough to have purchased them all at \$10,010.39 each and to have set them free without firing a shot. (USA #2975b and #2975d, ISSUED 1995)

CONFLICTING IMAGERY



The photograph used for the design of this stamp was taken shortly *before* the coronation of Edward

VII. The stamp, therefore, shows Edward when he was the Prince of Wales. Two crowns, however, in the left and right upper corners of the stamp indicated that he is the King. Further, Edward is seen wearing his Royal Robes of State. The intent of the design, of course, is to depict Edward as the King. Certainly, the timing of the photograph is just a technicality. Nevertheless, it cannot be denied that the stamp has conflicting imagery. The stamp design was created by Edward's son, George, who later became King George V, and J.A. Tilleard of Britain's Royal Philatelic Society. (CDN #90, ISSUED 1903)

CRIMES OF PROFIT



For Canadian soldiers, such as those seen on this stamp, the First World War was far from a "gentleman's war" when it came to army contracts for supplies. Soldiers' boots had cardboard heels, overcoats absorbed rather than shed water, horses were so weak they had to be destroyed and the Ross rifle was a piece of junk. In the Battle of Ypres (1915), of the roughly

5,000 Canadian infantrymen who survived, 1,452 had thrown away their Ross rifles and used the Lee-Enfield rifles of British casualties. To add insult to injury, the

Lee-Enfield rifles were \$7 less expensive per unit to purchase than the Ross rifles. (CDN #1249, ISSUED 1989)

CROSS PURPOSES



In 1945, the International Red Cross, honored on this stamp, received an unusual gift -- complete ownership of a Finnish arms factory that had produced some 275 million cartridges during World War II. This factory, which was in Russian occupied territory, was given to the Red Cross to avoid having it fall to the Soviets. Under Red Cross ownership, the factory actually produced arms from the early 1950's to 1962. During 1962 the factory was sold to a cable company, relieving the Red Cross of its dubious holding. (USA #1239, ISSUED 1963)

CUSTOMER IS ALWAYS RIGHT



During the autumn of 1969, an elderly customer purchased ten six-cent stamps from a post office in Vancouver, British Columbia. When he arrived home, he used one stamp to mail his telephone bill. He then noticed that the stamps he had bought had no black printing. There was no country or denomination shown. He returned to the post office and complained, whereupon the clerk took back the remaining stamps and refunded the customer fifty-four cents. The stamps, which had missed a part of the printing process, were among 191 known stamps out of a total stamp run 99.95 million. They are presently valued at \$3,000 Canadian each and are now on the list of Canada's most rare postage stamps. The stamp as it was normally printed in 1969 (CDN #503) is as follows.



As the defective stamp was used on an envelope for a telephone bill payment, the customer could be traced. The following is a copy of the actual envelope.

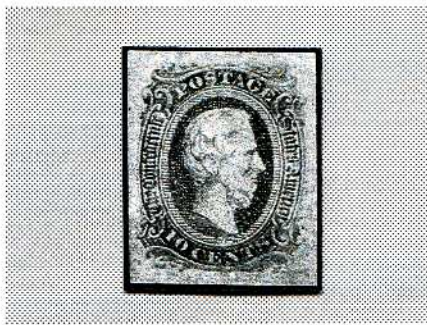


The story presented here is that told to Mr. Verne Perry, a British Columbia Telephone Company employee and co-worker of your author. (CDN #503a, ISSUED 1969)

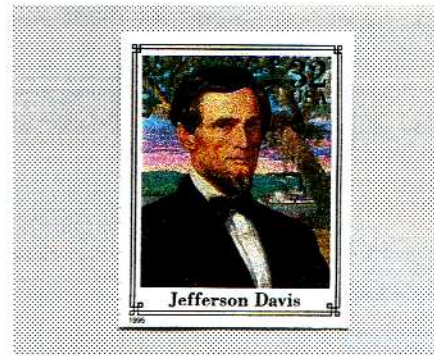
DAVIS DELAY



It took 81 years for Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederate States, to find his way onto a United States postage stamp. Ironically, Davis was 81 years old when he died in 1889. The stamp that “broke the silence” was the illustrated Stone Mountain Memorial stamp issued in 1970. On this stamp, Davis is the center figure. A number of Confederate States stamps, of course, show the proud president. The following example (CS #10) was issued in 1863.



Davis' treatment after the Civil War left a lot to be desired. Upon being captured in 1865, he was placed in a cement cell with shackles on his ankles. The shackles were finally removed as a result of a strong public outcry. He spent two years in prison which severely impaired his health. After being released, he went to Canada, and then to England a number of times where he was warmly received. Mostly, however, he resided in his beloved South. Throughout the whole ordeal he lost and never regained his U.S. citizenship. Nevertheless, a stamp issued in 1995 (USA #2975f), as follows, specifically honored Davis.



The other figures on the Stone Mountain Memorial stamp are Robert E. Lee (front) and Thomas “Stone-wall” Jackson, (last). (USA #1408, ISSUED 1970)

DEALING WITH A DOUBLE STANDARD

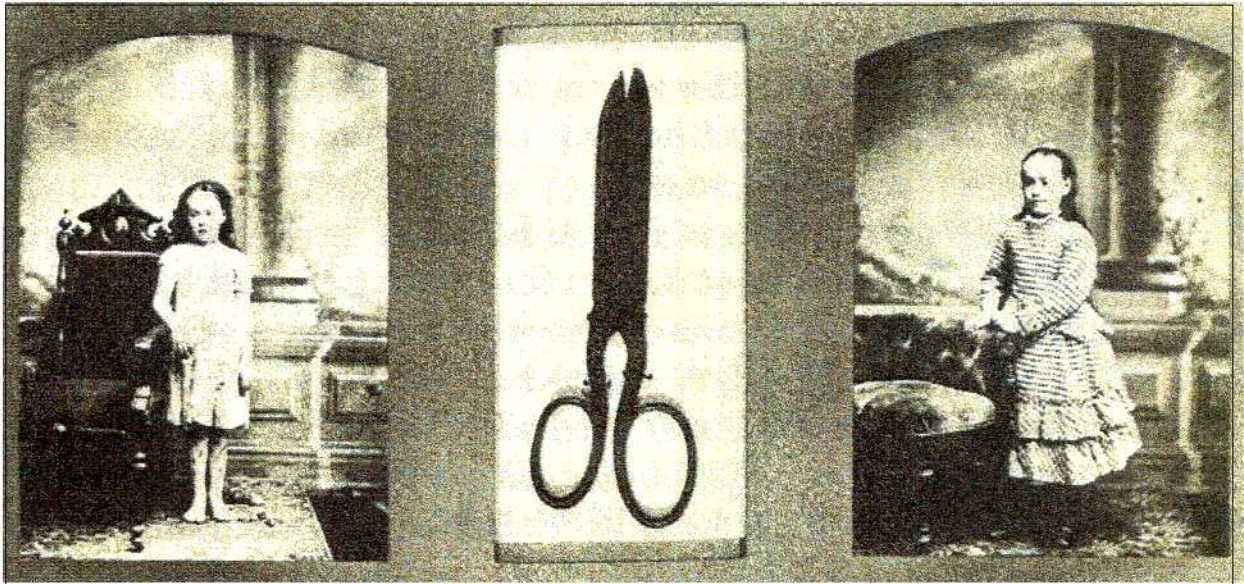


This stamp commemorated the centenary (1866-1966) of the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (S.P.C.A.). Ironically, in the United States, the S.P.C.A. brought about laws to prevent child abuse. Prior to 1875, there were no laws in the United States that permitted police interference in child battering allegations. In New York, a nine-year-old girl by the name of Mary Ellen Wilson was being severely mistreated to the point of torture by her

guardians. The police, however, were powerless to act. Neighbors reported the situation to Etta Wheeler, a church worker, who took the matter to the S.P.C.A. Proceeding on the grounds that a child was a member of the animal kingdom, legal clearance was granted the S.P.C.A. to remove Mary Ellen from the home in which she lived. Charges were laid against her guardians and the case was heard in the New York Supreme Court. The little girl was placed in a new home and

about one year later the New York Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children was incorporated. To this day framed "before and after" photographs (illustrated below) of Mary Ellen may be seen at the New York S.P.C.A. office. The photographs show

Mary Ellen in the pitiful state she was found and then as a pretty young lady one year after she was placed in a new home. Also in the frame is a pair of scissors that was used by the evil guardians to punish the girl. (USA #1307, ISSUED 1966)



DECORATION DISCUSSION



The custom of decorating a tree for Christmas was introduced into Britain and subsequently North America by the first male depicted on a Canadian postage stamp -- Prince Albert. The prince is shown on the following stamp (CDN #2) issued in 1851.



Prince Albert was from Germany where the custom of decorating a tree at Christmas originated, giving rise to the term "Christmas tree." Prince Albert married Queen Victoria (his first cousin) in 1840. At Christmas time in 1841, Albert had a tree sent from Germany for family celebrations at Windsor Castle. Word of the royal custom spread and before long decorated trees appeared in public places and shops. From there, the trees found their way into private homes in England. In time the custom crossed the Atlantic to Canada and the United States where it was also adopted. (USA #1508, ISSUED 1973)

ENSLAVING MUSIC



The roots of American blues and jazz music are found in the beautiful spirituals and distinctive singing styles of black slaves in the early 19th century. The mellow tones, however, that often drifted over the countryside late into the night were sometimes more than soothing or amusing songs. Many were, in fact, songs of survival that contained coded messages to share news or to communicate information about slave uprisings. (USA #1252, ISSUED 1964)

FEVER RELIEVER THAT BECAME A HEADACHE



Around the year 1800, an eccentric nurseryman by the name of John Chapman wandered from the Allegheny River to Central Ohio planting apple seeds. It is said that he covered over 100,000 square miles in his travels, and as a result he has become the patron of

American orcharding. Better known as Johnny Appleseed, Chapman is honored on this stamp. Chapman planted the seeds in advance of early settlement, making things a little easier for the pioneers who followed in his footsteps. He was a great believer in the medicinal properties of plants, and during his time it was commonly believed that the *dog fennel weed* could be used to relieve fever. Therefore, with the best of intentions, Chapman also scattered dog fennel seeds as he trekked vast midwestern regions. The weed has spread beyond Chapman's wildest dreams, and reaches heights of fifteen feet. It has virtually infested valuable farm country and to this day is a "headache" to exasperated midwestern farmers. The foul-smelling plant is commonly known as *Johnnyweed* in memory of its well-meaning propagator. (USA #1317, ISSUED 1966)

FOOD FOR THOUGHT



Luther Burbank developed the Burbank potato and many new and better varieties of fruits, vegetables and flowers. To Burbank, we certainly owe a great deal of gratitude. We must not forget, however, that over one half of all the agricultural products we currently have in North America were originally discovered and cultivated by American Indians. A stamp (USA #565) issued in 1923 honored this great race of people. An enlargement of this stamp is shown here in dual tribute. (USA #876, ISSUED 1940)



FOR LADIES ONLY



The crown shown in the upper left corner of this stamp is the British coronation crown. The actual crown, as seen in the following photograph, was designed after the crown worn by Edward the Confessor. It has been used to crown British monarchs since Charles II (reigned 1660-1685).



While this crown is indeed very intriguing, the Queen Mother's crown is even more intriguing and is apparently *reserved for ladies only*. This crown, shown in

the following photograph, was created for Queen Victoria (reigned 1837-1901). The crown has been worn by three British queens. No British king has ever worn it.



In the lower cross of this crown (directly above the head-band) is the *Koh-i-noor* diamond. The word *Koh-i-noor* means, *Mountain of Light*. Legend has it that its owner will rule the world and that it must *never be worn by a man*. Herein, one may conclude, lies the reason for the apparent stipulation regarding the crown. The diamond once belonged to the Mogul Emperor Mohammed and later the Shah of Persia. In time, it found its way to India and fell to the British when they colonized that country. (CDN #386, ISSUED 1959)

FORCING THE ISSUE



The French settlement of Quebec in the year 1700 is depicted on this stamp. As with all new colonies, stable family life and ongoing population increases in Quebec were fundamental to success. King Louis XIV of France was well aware of this fact. His concern was such that in 1669 he resorted to a little "baby bribing." He instituted a program whereby the parents of ten le-

gitimate children received a pension of 300 livres; for twelve children the sum was increased to 400 livres. This program was not the forerunner of the present-day Children's Allowance; it was a direct incentive to populate the new settlement. The following year, the program was taken one step further. Fines were levied on the fathers of unmarried men who were 20 years old or older. For girls, the threshold was 16 years. About this time, Jean Talon, the colony intendant, was importing prospective brides from France. To ensure the success of this initiative, he issued an ordinance that compelled bachelors to marry the King's Girls or be prohibited from fishing, hunting and trading for furs. With these initiatives in place, the family unit took on a somewhat different appeal, namely survival. (CDN #101, ISSUED 1908)

GIVE AND TAKE



Niagara Falls, which is shown on this stamp, is often referred to as, *The Baby City*, in view of the number of children conceived at this famous honeymoon retreat. Indeed, the magnificent falls instill in most people a feeling of awe and romantic well-being, making the location the honeymoon capital of the world. Certainly, local merchants capitalize on the falls' reputation with highly positive advertising to lure tourists from far and wide. One aspect of the falls, however, that is seldom publicized is the astonishing number of suicides they mysteriously appear to encourage. In any given year, about thirty people "end it all" by plunging into the rushing water at the top of the falls. Strangely, many people report a magnetic-like "pull" when they gaze at the current, even though these people have no suicidal tendencies. A suicide note left by one young girl read: *These waters overpower me. I cannot resist them. Please forgive me.* Concern over this phenomenon has resulted in studies to determine the kind of personalities most vulnerable to Niagara's "death lure." Niagara's highest suicide record was set in 1929 in wake of the stock market crash. In that year, fifty-three people took their lives in the falls. Perhaps

the Indian legend of *Lewlawala*, the Maid of the Mist, tells of the first recorded suicide. Lewlawala sacrificed her life for her love, plunging over the fall in a canoe. She was rescued by He-No, the Thunderer, who resides in a cave at the foot of the falls. Here, she resides with him in eternity and may be discerned from time to time in the rainbow of the falls. The following late-nineteenth century postcard depicts the fatal plunge. (USA #568, ISSUED 1922)



GRASS DIRNDLS



Hawaiian music, which is now a type of American music, was originated by a German bandmaster. Enchanted by the music of a German military band, King Kamehameha V (reigned 1863-1872) asked the Emperor Wilhelm of Prussia to have one of his officers organize and direct a Royal Hawaiian Band. Captain Henry Berger was given the task and subsequently composed some seventy-five best-loved Hawaiian songs. (Note: A *dirndl* is a German folk dancing dress.) (USA #1252, ISSUED 1964)

GREAT ONE'S TRASHY TROOPERS



The original Indian name for Mount McKinley, shown on this stamp, is *Denali*. This word means, *The Great One*. According to Indian legend, the mountain was created from magic stones hurled into the air to protect the people from harm. After the United States purchased Alaska from Russia in 1867, the mountain was renamed Mount McKinley in honor of William McKinley, the President-elect of the United States. In recent years, The Great One has been under attack as explained in the following reprint of a newspaper article.

ALASKA: Trash at the top.

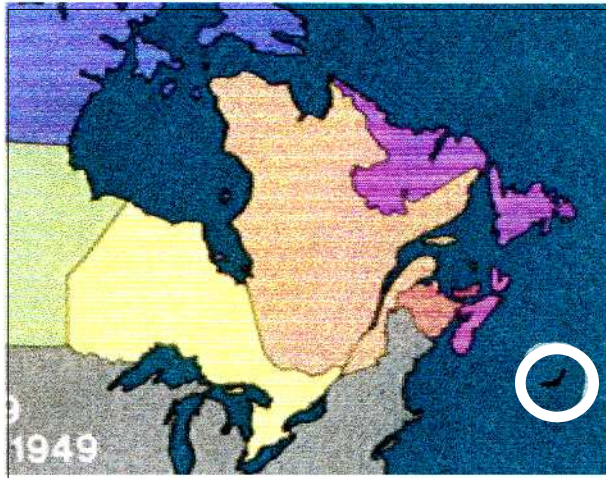
TALKEETA, Alaska -- Mount McKinley glitters white and ice blue in the sun, soaring above the tundra. But despite its pristine splendor, North America's highest peak has mundane problem -- litter. In the seven decades since American explorer Hudson Stuck made the first successful ascent of the 6,194-meter (20,321-foot) McKinley in 1913, the mountain has become increasingly popular with climbers. Now it is besieged by hundreds of people each year and the trend has left McKinley with a mountainous trash problem. The mid-1970's brought a "tremendous boom" in mountain climbing, said John Waterman, a mountaineering ranger based in Talkeetna. And with that boom came the garbage problem, and now mountaineers and mountain rangers of Denali National Park are working on an anti-litter campaign. Robert Seibert, supervisor of rangers in Denali's South District said other mountains around the world face similar problems and the "leave everything behind" days of mountain climbing must end. The trash problem is particularly acute on the West Buttress, considered the "easiest and least technical" way to the top. Of 695 climbers who tried to reach the summit last year, nearly 80 percent used the West Buttress route. Those who wish to climb the mountain must check in with the park service before and after their climb. The rangers discuss the how-tos and whys of clean climbing including sanitation. "With hundreds of climbers on the mountain, it (poor sanitation) can present a real health hazard," said Waterman, author of the book, *Surviving Denali: A Study of accidents on Mount McKinley, 1910-1982*. The three rangers cannot begin to police the whole mountain, so sanitation efforts are largely voluntary. Climbers are instructed to dig deep latrines or share those already existing with other parties.

Certainly, magic stones hurled into the air and garbage tossed around are totally different stories. (USA #1454, ISSUED 1972)

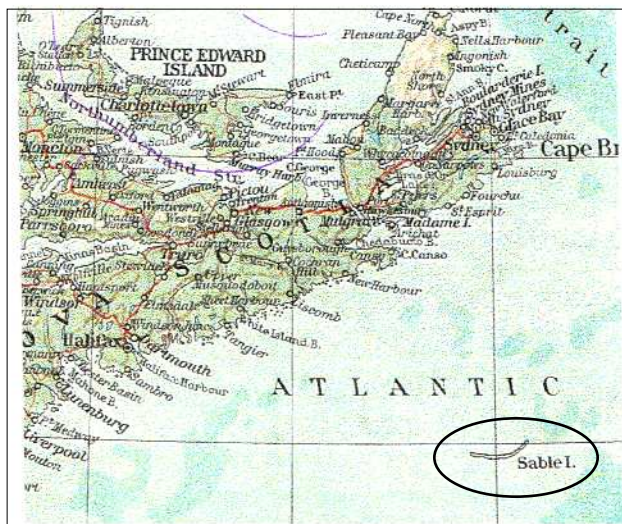
GRIM REAPER



Too small to be seen on this stamp map, but there nevertheless, is Canada's Sable Island. The approximate location of the island is marked and circled on the following detail enlargement of the above stamp.



In measured distance, the island is 180 miles east of Halifax, Nova Scotia. The follow map detail pinpoints its location in relation to the Nova Scotia mainland.



The island itself is about 25 miles long and 1 mile wide, stretching from east to west in the shape of a reaper blade. The island is rapidly shrinking in size. Four hundred years ago, it was probably three times as long and wide as it is today. In the late 1800's, Canada took the island under its wing like an orphaned fledgling. At this time, there are no trees on the island and it is devoid of permanent human habitation. About 300 wild ponies roam the sand dunes, eking a living from what plant life the island allows. Travel to the island is restricted to Government personnel. The following photograph shows a typical island view.



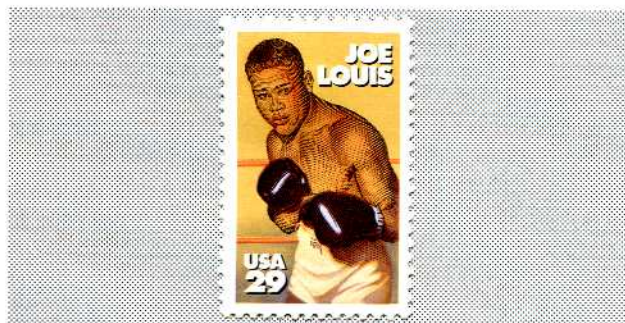
What we have today, however, was not always the case. In 1598 a French colony, comprising of about 40 convicts, beggars and vagabonds, was attempted by the Marquis de La Roche. He found wild cattle on the island, a welcome sight but a positive indicator of earlier ship wrecks. La Roche left and returned a year later with more colonist, bringing the total number to about 50. The colonist had gathered furs and sealskins which were sent back to France. For the next two years a supply ship arrived annually to provide supplies and collect the colonist's harvest. In 1602, however, the supply ship failed to arrive. Winter set in and the colonist mutinied. The commandant together with the storekeeper were butchered and the storehouse was ransacked. With not authority in place, the colonists proceeded to murder each other until there were only eleven left. The storeship arrived in the spring and took these remaining colonists back to France. Remarkably, when the mutineers told their story of hardships to King Henri IV, he pardoned them. In addition, each survivor was given 50 crowns and a share of the pelts they had brought back with them. The desolate island was now left to its own designs and that which it does best -- bring about shipwrecks. Warm gulf

streams create fogs around the island and sandbars appear and disappear creating a nightmare for sailors. Since the year 1800, over 200 known ships have wrecked off Sable Island. The number of wrecks prior to that year is not known. However, the loss of lives attributed to all wrecks is in the thousands. One researcher has put this number at 10,000 souls. There have been so many wrecks that the island is known as, *The Graveyard of the Atlantic*. Perhaps (and just perhaps) the cries of desperate and hopeless shipwrecked men carried across the waves to the old Lighthouse at Louisbourg, Nova Scotia, seen on the following stamp (CDN #1032) issued in 1984.



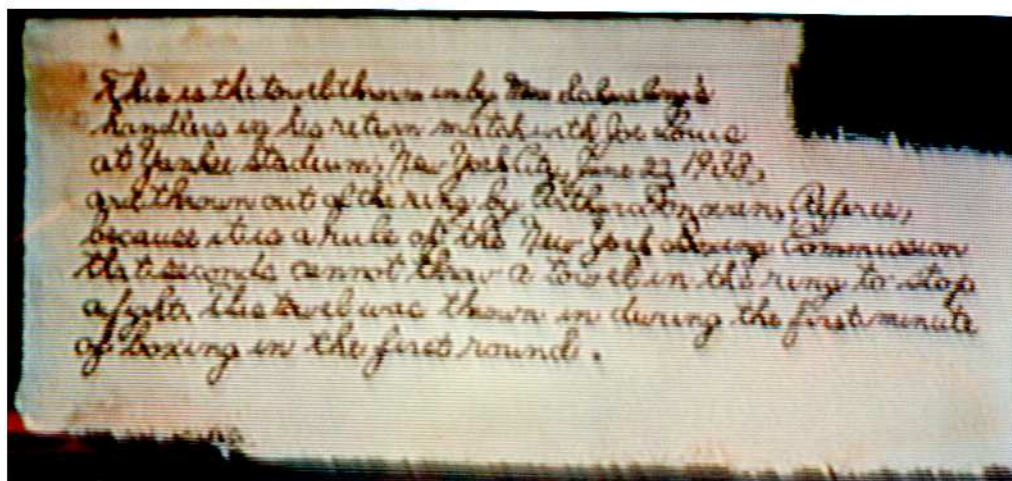
As Sable Island slowly but surely disappears, so will its wildlife -- particularly the Ipswich sparrows and the wild ponies. These creatures, under God's watchful eye, have been given to call the Grim Reaper "home." (CDN #893, ISSUED 1981)

HE WHO LAUGHS LAST



Joe Louis' remarkable boxing career was marred by a surprising turn of events on the evening of June 19, 1936. On that evening, Louis was counted-out in the twelfth round in his match with Germany's Max

Schmeling. Unfortunately, Schmeling's victory helped to support totally unfounded German theories on racial superiority. At that time, such negative theories were receiving acceptance in Germany and over the next couple of years they gained a definite foot-hold. Nevertheless, it can be reasoned that Louis' loss was actually a win in disguise. When Louis knocked-out Schmeling in the first round rematch two years later (June 22, 1938), the reverse impact on the racial issue was far greater than the support occasioned by Schmeling's win. Remarkably, during the first minute of the rematch, Schmeling's seconds threw in the towel to stop the fight. The referee, however, threw the towel out. A small piece of the actual towel, as shown in the following photograph, is in the Smithsonian Institution.



The information handwritten on the towel fragment provides the reason for the referee's action. It reads as follows: *This is the towel thrown in by Max Schmeling's handlers in his return match with Joe Louis at Yankee Stadium, New York City, June 22, 1938, and thrown out of the ring by Arthur Danarins, referee,*

because it is a rule of the New York Boxing Commission that the seconds cannot throw a towel in the ring to stop a fight. The towel was thrown in during the first minute of boxing in the first round. Joe was amazing and certainly deserved his excellent stamp. (USA #2766, ISSUED 1993)

HENRY TRIED



The 1909 Model T Ford automobile shown in the background of this stamp was not Henry Ford's first mass produced car. In 1907 he produced the Model N, followed two years later by the Model T. Nevertheless, it was the Model T that virtually changed the pattern of American life and this car is, therefore, most appropriate for the stamp. While not generally known, Henry also tried to change the pattern of World War I. In the autumn of 1915, he read in the paper that 20,000 American soldiers had been killed in the previous 24 hours. Ford was later overheard to say that he would spend half of his fortune if he could shorten the war by even a single day. A newspaper reporter overheard this statement and it made headlines. Peace enthusiasts persuaded Ford to undertake mediation efforts to end the war. Ford visited President Wilson and urged him to form an official mediation commission, Wilson, however, declined stating that he had no faith

in the proposal. Ford, thereupon, chartered a steamship and issued invitations to American leaders to join him in an independent unofficial peace delegation to Europe. Over 60 "delegates" responded, joined by an almost equal number of media people. The ship, Scandinavian steamer *Oscar II*, sailed to Norway on December 4, 1915. The following photograph shows Ford and other delegates on their outward journey. Unfortunately, subsequent efforts by the delegation to bring about any mediation processes failed. When Ford returned to the United States he stated, *I wanted to see peace. I at least tried to bring it about. Most men did not even try.* (USA #1286A, ISSUED 1968)



HIGH FLYING HOPES



Hawaii's state flag, shown here, curiously has a British Union Jack in its upper left corner. How the British flag achieved this prominence is amusing. In 1794, Hawaii's main island became an *unofficial* British protectorate. The Union Jack was adopted by the islanders with the hope that their island would one day get *official* protectorate status. By 1810, all of the other islands were united with the main island in the Kingdom of Hawaii and they too came under the same flag. Britain, however, never took steps to recognize the eager islands as one of its official protectorates. Now a part of the United States, Hawaii still echoes its lost hope on its state flag. (USA #1682, ISSUED 1976)

HORSE SENSE



Richard B. Bennett, who is shown on this stamp, was Canada's Prime Minister during the depression years (1930-1935). As such, he had the dubious distinction of having a special vehicle named after him. When the price of gasoline soared, many people with cars could not afford to keep them running. Car motors, therefore, were removed and what was left of the

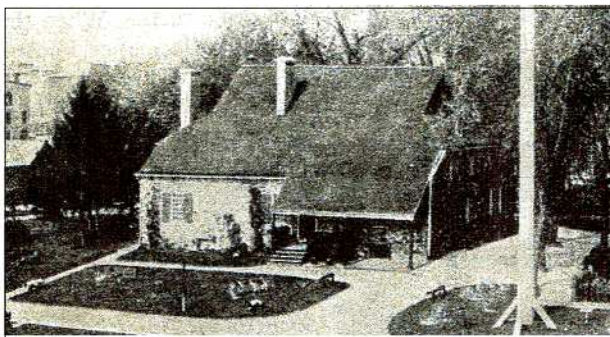
vehicle was modified so that it could be pulled by a horse. The finished product, as seen in the following photograph, was known as a *Bennett Buggy*. (CDN #357, ISSUED 1055)



HOUSE RULES



Independence Hall, as shown on this stamp, is recognized as the official birth place of the American Republic. However, the hall was actually just the building of the republic's conception. For the actual birth, we must go to a quaint little house in Newburg, New York, as shown in the following photograph.



During the winter of 1782-83, George Washington stayed in this house. Although the American Revolu-

tion was virtually over, full peace with the British had not yet been effected. Washington had wisely kept the Continental Forces in tact. He had reasoned that if the soldiers drifted home, America stood to lose everything it had gained. Britain was a well-organized sore loser in the struggle. If it saw a chance to turn the tide, it is very likely it would have taken that course. With all of these things on his mind, Washington also had to contend with a move afoot to make him king. If he would have allowed this to happen, America would have become a monarchy like Britain and would have eventually fallen back into British hands. Washington squashed the monarchy movement on March 14, 1783, by refusing to accept or condone this arrangement. As a result of this action and Washington's previous actions as stated, the path was cleared for the formation of a republic. We can, therefore, reason that the date March 14, 1783, was the actual republic's birth date, and the little house the actual birth place. (USA #2337, ISSUED 1987)

IF MAGGIE COULD SEE US NOW



One message this U.S. stamp is certainly *not* communicating is traditional tolerance for birth control. In 1915, Nurse Margaret Higgins (later Sanger), who had witnessed first hand the horrors of self-induced abortion, distributed information on birth control. She was consequently arrested and charged under the Comstock Act which deemed such information obscene. Higgins pursued her beliefs and the following year opened the nation's first birth control clinic in Brooklyn, New York. For this crime, she served thirty days in jail. Nothing daunting, Nurse Higgins went on to become president of the International Planned Parenthood Federation and was one of the greatest moving forces in the development of "the pill." Higgins died in 1966. (USA #1455, ISSUED 1972)

IF THE SONG FITS, WRITE IT



When we see this stamp, we naturally think of the old song favorite, *Take Me out to the Ball Game*. Surprisingly, the writer of this song did not personally see a baseball game until thirty-four years *after* he had written the song. In 1908, Jack Norworth, a vaudeville actor, was inspired by an advertisement for the New York Giants baseball team. He jotted down the words to the song in about thirty minutes and sang it with his wife in a stage production. The song caught on, but Norworth did not get around to going to a game until 1942. (USA #1381, ISSUED 1969)

KITE CAPER



William Hamilton Merritt (1793-1862) is best remembered for construction of the Welland Canal for which he is being honored on this stamp. He strongly supported this project and was a prime mover in building the St. Lawrence River canal system. Not so well known, however, is that Merritt was the first to

build a railway bridge across the Niagara gorge. The bridge he constructed was the first suspension bridge in the world to carry the weight of a train. The first major problem Merritt and his engineers confronted with the project was how to get a heavy cable over the raging Niagara River and up the cliff on the other side. Merritt came up with a solution. He sponsored an international kite flying contest on the American side of the river (1847). A prize of \$10 was offered for the first person to get a kite across the river. A young American boy won the contest when his kite snagged a tree on the Canadian side. The boy received his prize and Merritt took possession of the kite string. He used the kite string to pull a heavier string across the gorge. This accomplished, he pulled across a rope attached to a cable. (CDN #655, ISSUED 1974)

LABOR TROUBLES



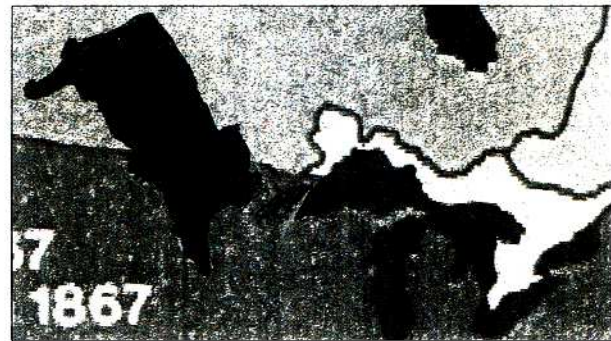
While very moving and powerful, the design of this stamp may have a tendency to stereotype life roles in society. Indeed, issuing a stamp with this design today could meet with opposition from certain groups. Also, research into the life and philosophies of Thomas Carlyle, author of the quotation, *Labor is Life*, reveals that he had a profound mistrust of democracy. We are, therefore, left to wonder what kind of "life" he had in mind. We also learn that Carlyle may have taken his own words a little too seriously. Letters written by his wife (which Carlyle published after her death) shed an unfavorable light on his character and express his neglect for her. Carlyle could never forgive himself for his actions. (USA #1082, ISSUED 1956)

LAKE LAMENTING



The Great Lakes shown on this stamp collectively form the world's largest body of fresh water. The lakes comprise a total area of 95,000 square miles. Scientists have determined, however, that during the last stages of the Ice Age, a single lake in the same area existed that was larger than all of the Great Lakes together. This lake, which is named Lake Agassiz, covered

more than 110,000 square miles. Its approximate relationship in size and location to the Great Lakes is shown in the following illustration.



All that remains of Lake Agassiz now is Lake Winnipeg and an extensive scattering of smaller lakes. (CDN #890, ISSUED 1981)

LAST DEBATE



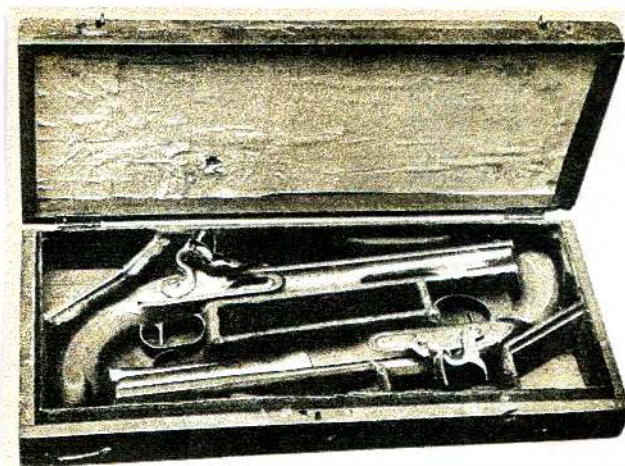
Alexander Hamilton, who is honored on this stamp, died as a result of a gun shot wound suffered in a duel in 1804 with Aaron Burr. The two men were political enemies and on two occasions Hamilton was instrumental in adversely influencing Burr's political career. The famous duel took place on the heights of Weehawken, New Jersey. Three years earlier (1801), Hamilton's eldest son, Philip, then 20 years old, was killed in a duel at the same location. It is said that Hamilton did not aim his pistol at Burr, discharging it

into the air. Burr's bullet, however, found its mark. On the spot where the duel took place, a little monument to Hamilton has been erected as shown in the following photograph.



The dueling pistols used in the famous duel belonged to Hamilton. The pistols have been preserved and are shown in the following photograph. Ironically, the same pistols were used in the previous duel that

claimed the life of Hamilton's son. Arms experts examined the pistols in 1976 and found that they had been equipped with hair triggers. If a person is not aware of a hair trigger on a weapon, discharge often occurs before the weapon is properly aimed. The arms experts' finding raises serious questions as to Hamilton's integrity. (USA #1086, ISSUED 1957)



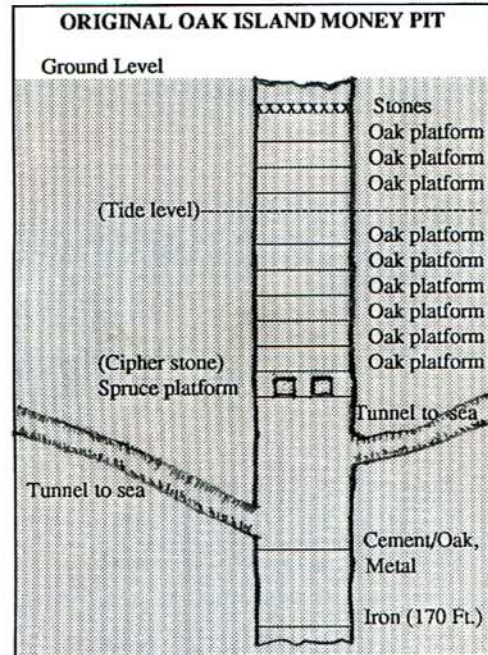
LAST LAUGH



This Canadian Folklore series stamp calls attention to the country's buried pirate treasures. By far, the most celebrated and intriguing "buried treasure" in Canada is the "Money Pit" of Oak Island, which most certainly measured in the stamp design. The island, which is in Mahone Bay on the Atlantic coast of Nova Scotia, is about one mile long and one-half a mile wide. Legend has it that a treasure map made by the pirate Captain Kidd shows an island resembling that of Oak Island. There is also conjecture that another pirate, Henry Morgan, may have buried a treasure in the area. In 1795, a 16-year-old youth, Daniel McInnes, went hunting on the island and found a ship's tackle block hanging from a tree. Below the block there was 12-foot

wide depression in the ground. Believing that the depression might be a burial place for a treasure of some sort, McInnes summonsed the help of two friends, John Smith and Anthony Vaughan, and the three boys started digging. As they proceeded, they found thick oak platforms at 10, 20, and 30 feet below the surface. Unable to go any further with the dig, the boys gave up. In 1804, Simeon Lynds, a wealthy Nova Scotian, tried his luck with the pit. He broke through six more oak platforms, of which one was sealed with ship's putty and two sealed with both ship's putty and coconut fibre. Now at about 90-feet deep, continued digging uncovered what has been termed a "cipher stone" -- a stone with strange symbols carved on it. The symbols were optimistically interpreted to mean, "Forty feet below, two million pounds is buried." The crew feverously kept digging and struck another oak platform, again sealed with putty and coconut fibre. Breaking through the platform, they struck something hard. As it was probably getting very late in the day, they decided to suspend operations until the following morning. When they returned to the pit the next day, it was filled with sea water up to the 60-foot level. Every possible effort failed to lower the water level. Nothing daunting, the crew dug another pit parallel to the original pit. At 110-feet, they burrowed towards the first

pit. Suddenly, water rushed in, sending the men in a mad scramble for their lives. The second pit then filled with water up to the same level as the first pit. Lynds, now out of funds, also gave up the dig. Surprisingly, in 1849 two of the original youths, Smith and Vaughan, who started the first pit, went back to try their luck again. Both men, now in their seventies, had secured the backing of a company in Truro, Nova Scotia. Just exactly how they proceeded is unclear, however, they did get down to the possible treasure level and apparently confirmed the existence of two or more chests. Before the chests could be secured, however, the spruce platform on which they were resting collapsed and the chests dropped into a vast cavern. The men then discovered why pits would flood with water. There was a man-made tunnel 111-feet down that connected with the sea. Smith and Vaughan thereby abandoned the project. In 1893, another group organized by Frederick Blair took up the challenge, reasoning that blocking the sea tunnel would allow them free access to the treasure. This action, however, did not stop the flooding. It was then discovered that the reason for the continued flooding was a second tunnel to the sea on the opposite shore at the 153-foot level. Using core-drilling processes, the Blair group hit cement, oak (possibly from a chest) and metal just below the second sea tunnel. Further, the bit brought up a tiny scrap of parchment bearing the letters vi and a few flecks of gold. Then, at 170 feet, the drill hit impenetrable iron. In the last 107 years, many other treasure seekers have tried their luck. Even full scale excavation of the pit area was attempted in 1965, reaching the 148-foot level. Christmas holidays, however, interrupted the work and when the men returned, the walls of the pit had started to collapse. The pit was therefore filled-in and the project abandoned. Subsequent core drilling in 1967 reached 212-feet, yielding bits of wood, china and a piece of brass. Research in 1970 uncovered the possible remains of a cofferdam which, it has been reasoned, was built to allow construction of one of the pit tunnels. In 1971, we are led to believe that a television camera was lowered to the 212-foot level, revealing three chests and a severed hand. At this time, there have been so many digs on the island that the exact location of the original pit is no longer known. A diagram of the original pit is shown on the right. The question as to what the treasure could possibly be has intrigued many people. One individual, Rupert Furneaux, has provided what is probably the most feasible answer. Furneaux's research indicated that the pit may date back to the American Revolution. In 1778, the British garrison at New York felt highly threatened by the Continental Army. The garrison held the pay chests of the British forces in America and was naturally concerned with safety of the



funds. The British governor, therefore, had the Royal Engineers in Halifax construct a suitable temporary depository. It is argued that the complexities of the pit required the expertise of professional engineers. Given Furneau's theory, we must assume there would have been a reasonably easy process devised to obtain the stash. In other words, a process other than direct vertical access. We must also keep in mind that the British would have preferred the chests to be lost rather than to fall into American hands and thereby help finance their cause. The pit, therefore, was designed so that the chests would be lost if the pit was accessed by the Americans, (as occurred with the Truro sponsored attempt). Under this scenario, the treasure, as it were, would have been significant -- millions of pounds. However, it is inconceivable that the British would have abandoned such a large sum of money. As there is no record of the British Army *losing* funds of this nature, there can be only one conclusion -- the British stashed the funds for a short time and then retrieved them. In this case, there is no treasure in the pit. There are just a number of empty chests filled with sand to get the last laugh on anyone who succeeded in obtaining them. It can certainly be reasoned that pirates, such as Kidd and Morgan, would not have had the knowledge or resources to construct the pit. In its 200-year history, the only thing of any possible value the pit as yielded is a three-link chain (finder not indicated). Some accounts say the links are made of gold, others say copper. Nevertheless, the estimated combined expense or all recovery operations is about \$1.5 million (1983 figure). While the Money Pit is certainly

intriguing, it would not surprise this author if somewhere in the dusty archives of the Royal Engineers there exists a plan entitled, *Oak Island Project*. And

that upon examination of the faded papers, it will be revealed that the project had absolutely nothing to do with buried treasure. (CDN #1337, ISSUED 1991)

LATE BILLING



Of the thirteen states that voted to ratify the Bill of Rights in 1791, three abstained. Massachusetts did not feel the conditions went far enough so the bill

ended up in the "miscellaneous" file of the state archives. Georgia put the bill "on the back burner" and never got around to making a decision. Connecticut got as far as accepting ten of the proposals in the bill but then got hung-up on the remaining two. Everyone agreed to disagree and the whole issue was postponed indefinitely. One hundred and fifty years later, all three states got around to cleaning up their unfinished business. Massachusetts took the lead with some early spring cleaning and ratified the bill on March 2, 1939. Georgia, not to be out-done, voted in favor of ratification on March 18, 1939. Connecticut soon got the same fever and gave the bill its blessing on April 19, 1939. (USA #1312, ISSUED 1966)

LINCOLN -- DOUGLAS DATE DEBATE



Nearly twenty years prior to the Lincoln -- Douglas political debates, Lincoln and Douglas were rivals in another issue -- they were both after the same girl! The pretty (and accomplished flirt) Mary Todd graced the town of Springfield, Illinois in 1839. She

first dated Douglas, a handsome refined man, but very short. His ambition and social standing impressed Mary's family who hoped their daughter would choose him. In the meantime, Mary had noticed Abe Lincoln (who apparently had not failed to notice her either) and a relationship developed. Lincoln was the exact opposite of Douglas. He was not handsome, lacked refinement and was six feet four inches tall. However, the following year Abe and Mary were engaged. Some time later, Mary flirted with Douglas at a party so Lincoln broke off the engagement. Nevertheless, Abe and Mary patched up their differences and were married in November 1842. (USA #1115, ISSUED 1958)

MAYFLOWER SHOWER



The three U.S. Pilgrim Tercentenary Commemorative stamps of 1920 are bordered on the left and right sides by flowers. The illustrated stamp is the first stamp in the series. The flowers on the left of the stamps are Hawthorn blossom, which is the British mayflower. The flowers on the right of the stamps are trailing arbutus, which is the American mayflower. Tradition says that the American mayflower was named by the Pilgrims after their ship the *Mayflower* (shown on this stamp) -- which was probably named after the British mayflower. (USA #548, ISSUED 1920)

MELVILLE'S BORROWED MONSTER



Herman Melville (1819-1891) is best known for his classic book, *Moby Dick*, the story of a monster white whale which was given this name. The book, to some extent, is based on the author's own experience on a whaling ship. However, evidence supports that Melville borrowed *Moby Dick* from an article in *The Knickerbocker* magazine. This magazine ran an article prior to Melville's book about a white whale named *Mocha Dick* which was responsible for the deaths of thirty sailors. Nevertheless, despite the popularity of Melville's book in later years, originally it was a commercial failure. In fact, its publication marked the beginning of Melville's downfall as a popular writer. (USA #2094, ISSUED 1984)

MOTTO MUSING



The motto, *In God We Trust*, as shown on this stamp, has appeared on United States coins and paper currency for many years. The motto is near and dear to the hearts of most Americans. One particular American citizen, however, thought so highly of these words that he did not like to see them associated with money or stamps. As he saw it, money, stamps and God simply did not mix. As a result, he had the motto removed from the country's coinage. It is a safe guess he also instructed that it not be shown on stamps. The

citizen was Theodore Roosevelt, 26th President of the United States. The following are his own words regarding the motto: *It is a motto which it is indeed well to have inscribed on our great national monuments, in our temples of justice [and] in our legislative halls. But it seems to me eminently unwise to cheapen such a motto by use on coins, just as it would be to cheapen it by use on postage stamps and advertisements.* With that, the 1907 \$10 and \$20 gold coins were redesigned to exclude the familiar motto. When the coins appeared in circulation, a furor erupted, with clergymen of all denominations decrying the executive order. The following year a congressional bill was proposed and passed to put God back on the country's coins. Honoring his vow not to balk Congress, Roosevelt signed the bill and peace was restored. Aside from the illustrated stamp, no other U.S. stamps carry the motto, which is somewhat surprising. (USA #645, ISSUED 1928)

MURDERS CARVED IN STONE



Inuit soapstone carvings have been featured a number of times on Canadian postage stamps. The carvings depict Inuit people in their everyday life activities -- hunting, fishing or building a shelter as shown on the this stamp. Carvings, however, are also created showing scenes of murders. A Rankin Inlet, Northwest Territories judge, J. H. Sissons, appears to have started the trend in the mid 1950's. Judge Sissons ordered carvings created that related to his court cases involving Inuit people. The following presentation shows

some of the carvings that have been created in this respect along with their associated stories.



In this scene we see the stabbed Otoiak and three on-lookers. Otoiak was stabbed in May 1957 by Stephen Angulalik who owned a trading post at Perry River. He held a New Year's eve party which naturally involved alcohol. Otoiak's son had stolen goods from Angulalik's store which led to an argument between Angulalik and the boy's father. Otoiak died two days after the stabbing. Angulalik, aged 60, gave himself up and in the subsequent trial he was found not guilty.



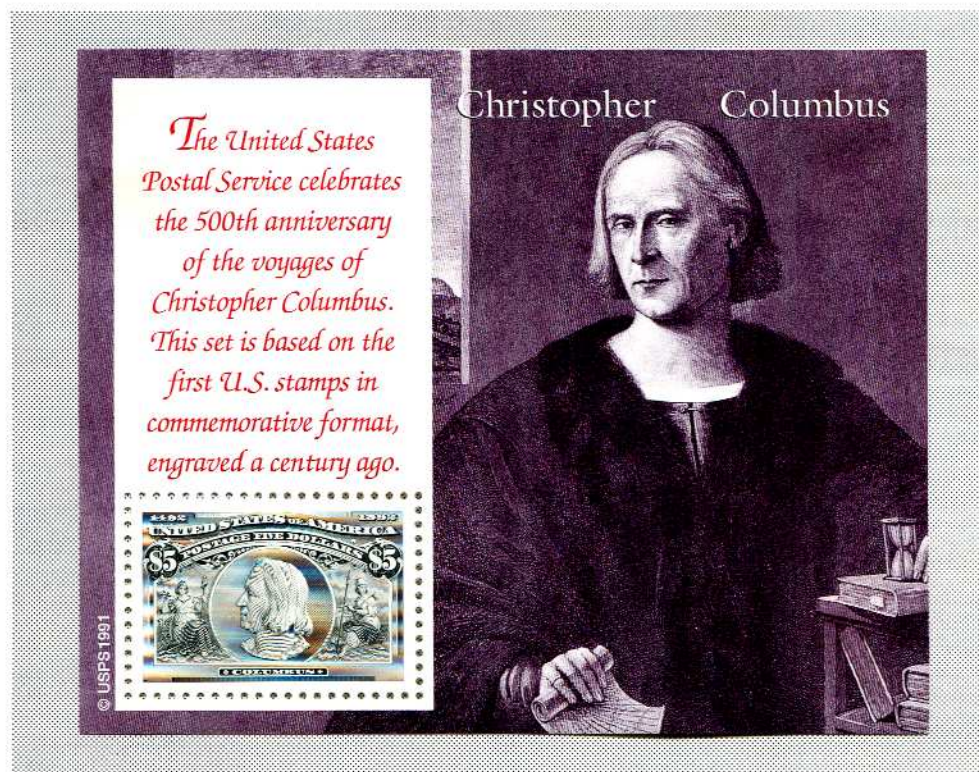
These carvings depict crimes committed in 1963 by Mingeriak who murdered a young boy and wounded his mother. Mingeriak was given a life sentence for his crimes.



This dramatic scene shows the Inuit woman Kikkik stabbing her half-brother (1958). Kikkik was charged with murder, abandonment of a child, and criminal negligence related to a second child. When the full story was told, however, she was found innocent on all counts. Kikkik's half brother thought that Kikkik and her husband had food they were not sharing. He shot and killed Kikkik's husband and then shot and wounded Kikkik. The woman seized a knife and stabbed and killed her enraged half-brother. She then fled with five of her seven children, leaving the two youngest children behind. A Royal Canadian Mounted Police patrol found the distraught woman and her children on the frozen barren land. The police went back to her home and found the other two children. One child, the youngest, had died. In considering the case, the jury was convinced that Kikkik had abandoned her youngest children so that the oldest might survive. In other words, she would not have been able to carry the two youngest children. The jury foreman stated: *She had a hard choice to make and the jury felt she had made the right one. The Arctic is like that. It's full of hard choices.*

Inuit carvings are very unique in that a setting can involve a number of individual pieces. Each piece is a work of art which contributes to an overall artistic arrangement. Murder, of course, is an unusual subject, however, art has no boundaries. (CDN #836, ISSUED 1979)

NEVER ENDING VOYAGES OF COLUMBUS



Christopher Columbus' death in 1506 was not a barrier to the voyages of the celebrated explorer. Originally entombed at Valladolid, Spain, his coffin was moved to Triana, near Seville, in 1509. Here, he lay in peace for thirty-two years and was then moved to Santo Domingo, now the Dominican Republic. When Santo Domingo fell to France in 1795, it is believed the great explorer's remains were moved to Havana. Whatever the case, it is understood that at some future point he showed up next in Seville. Details are very sketchy on this move. However, in 1877 a vault was discovered beneath a Cathedral in Santo Domingo that contained a coffin showing the initials "C.C.A." These initials are believed to stand for, *Christóbal Colón, Almiral*. The last name *Colón* was Columbus' preferred last name and *Almiral* means *admiral*. Another inscription within the coffin itself showed, *Illustrious and Famous gentleman, Don Cristóbal Colón*. We are told the coffin contained human remains in the form of dust. It is generally accepted that the dust is the authentic remains of Columbus. Some of the dust was allegedly taken from the coffin and enclosed in two different types of lockets. The following are photographs of the lockets.



In 1973, both lockets were offered for sale at an auction. Bidders, we are told, were skeptical. The whereabouts of the lockets at this point in time is unknown. We can speculate, however, that the lockets will pass from one collector to another all over the globe. In this way, given the dust is authentic, the voyages of Columbus will never end. (USA #2629, ISSUED 1992)

NO GIRLS ALLOWED



When this Olympic Games stamp was issued in 1932, the allowance for female competitors in the games was at best marginal. The reason for this discrimination goes back to ancient Greece. Back in those days, the games were held in honor of the god Zeus and they had a strong religious element. Only men were allowed to compete, and this they did nude, which explains the figure seen in the stamp design. Women, with very few exceptions, were barred from the games even as spectators. A person who broke the rules could be sentenced to death. When the modern games commenced, women were allowed to be spectators but they still could not compete. When they were finally allowed participation, they were limited to specific sports such as golf, tennis, fencing, and swimming. It was not until 1928 at the games in Amsterdam that they were allowed entry in track and field events. Such included an 800 meter race after which several contestants collapsed. This situation caused great concern, with doctors being quoted as saying women were not suited to feats of great endurance. It was claimed great exertion made women old too soon. Feminists, however, pointed out that men often fainted from exhaustion so the issue was resolved by allowing women to run a maximum of 200 meters. Similar re-

strictions were placed on other track and field events. The race limit remained in effect until 1964 when it was increased to 400 meters. Another increase to 1500 meters was introduced in 1972 and then 3,000 meters in 1984. Restrictions in other events were also gradually relaxed. Over the last 16 years, virtually all restrictions have been removed so now there is no great difference in the programs for men and women. The difference *between* men and women, however, still exists but only the Greeks were able to see this first hand. (USA #719, ISSUED 1932)



NO MAN'S LAND



Extending beyond the lower design border of this stamp, are the Aleutian Islands as clearly shown in the adjacent stamp detail enlargement.



One of the islands is Amchitka Island, too small to identify on the stamp map, but there nonetheless. Amchitka Island was the site of three U.S. nuclear detonations that occurred in October 1965, October 1969, and November 1971. The blasts were called Long Shot (80 kilotons), Milrow (one megaton) and Cannikin (five megatons). Radioactive contamination as a result of

these tests is extensive. There are no human residents on the island. While a clean-up has been underway for some years, such will extend well into the twenty-first century. It is certain Amchitka Island will remain a *no man's land* for many years to come. This stamp shows, albeit very minutely, one of the *worst* places on earth. (USA #C53, ISSUED 1959)

NO VACANCY



Prior to the year 1610, settlement in Newfoundland was not only discouraged, it was forbidden! It was against the law to build a house. Buildings that were allowed to be erected could not have a chimney and the building's owner could not keep domestic animals. These restrictions were effected because Newfoundland was considered a sea base and a fishery, not a colony. It was reasoned that permanent settlers would not make seamen in the case of war, nor would they likely serve the interests of the fishing merchants overseas. (NFD #86, ISSUED 1908)

NO-TELL TONGS



The great explorer, Captain James Cook, was killed for the sake of a pair of tongs! While in what is now Hawaii in 1779, he invited the natives aboard his ship on several occasions as a friendly gesture. The natives were intrigued with the metal items they saw on the ship. Many natives helped themselves to metallic objects that were not tied down and this became very annoying. When a pair of tongs was reported missing, Cook ordered a search of the Island. Failing to find the tongs, the Captain ordered that the native's king be taken hostage. A riot resulted and Cook shot one of the natives. In retaliation, the natives clubbed and stabbed Cook to death. In 1999, Great Britain issued the following remarkable commemorative stamp honoring Captain Cook, (Stanley Gibbons, GREAT BRITAIN #1389).



Here we see a highly curious native who has never seen a white man staring very intently at Cook. We certainly get the feeling that relationship with the natives was very "fragile." Cook, unfortunately, failed to realize the limits of his power and suffered accordingly. (CDN #763, ISSUED 1978)

OLD ABE



America's symbol, the bald eagle, has been featured on many U.S. postage stamps. The bird's prominence in the country's symbolism is almost on a par with the American flag. Flags, of course, see service in all walks of life. This thought leads us to wonder if any eagle in U.S. history has ever performed some great patriotic service. Surprisingly, one particular eagle has. Just prior to the beginning of the American Civil War, an Indian by the name of Blue Sky chopped down a tree in which there was an eagle's nest. An eaglet tumbled out of the nest and Blue Sky caught the little bird. Blue Sky fed and cared for the bird which grew and became very tame. Blue Sky sold the bird to a white man for five bushels of corn. When the Civil War began, the Eighth Wisconsin Volunteers (Union Force), came up with the idea of an eagle mascot. Some soldiers happened across the white man who had Blue Sky's eagle and they bought the bird for \$2.50. The eagle strutted about the army camp much like a puppy and for some reason selected a soldier by the name of Jimmie McGinnis for his master. The bird would not allow anyone to feed him except McGinnis. In time, McGinnis made for the mascot a shield-shaped perch with stars and stripes. He tethered one of the bird's legs with a long cord and paraded the mascot on his perch when the regiment marched. Crowds cheered and waved at the spectacle when the regiment marched through the towns. On a march through the state capital, the eagle was given the name *Old Abe* in honor of President Abraham Lincoln. By this time, Old Abe had reached maturity. He weighed 10.5 pounds and had a wing span of 6.5 feet. While Old Abe did not like children or dogs, he appeared to love marching soldiers, cheering crowds and music. When the regiment band played, he flapped his wings and made a whistling sound. For some parades, he was placed "on review." He was stationed on an officer's horse to watch the soldiers as they thundered by. Old Abe's military rank was apparently very high. The officers on parade would salute him as they passed. The first time Old Abe went into battle, he was a little shaken. Upon hearing a cannon shot, he broke his tether and flew away. The soldiers thought he had gone forever, but as the battle progressed, they could hear his screams amid the canon shots and rifle fire. When the battle ended and the smoke cleared, Old Abe was seen circling far above the battlefield. A little while later, he swooped down and landed on his perch. From that time on, he was not tethered. He would often leave to go fishing or hunting but always returned. Sometimes he soared aloft over the marching regiment. Old Abe went through the entire Civil War, serving in 22 battles. Stray bullets often hit his perch and sometimes tore his feathers, but he was never badly hurt. When the war ended, Old Abe was given to the State of Wisconsin and he lived in the State House at Madison for the next 15 years. In 1875, Jimmie McGinnis took him to the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia. Thousands of admiring visitors listened to McGinnis tell stories of Old Abe's battle service. In 1881, Old Abe died of old age. His body was stuffed and put on display in Madison. He was one of the city's attractions until the State House burned down. The illustrated stamp shows an eagle clutching a shield -- a highly appropriate *unofficial* tribute to Old Abe. (USA #C23, ISSUED 1938)



ONE LAST CHIME



After the Liberty Bell arrived in America from England in September 1752, it cracked during testing and had to be recast. The recasting was done at a Pennsylvania foundry later that year or early 1753, but efforts to reduce brittleness in the metal resulted in a poor tone. The bell was recast a second time with satisfactory results and then formally placed in the Pennsylvania State House (later Independence Hall) in June 1753. After the U.S. Congress moved to Washington, D.C., and the Pennsylvania legislature moved to Lancaster (c. 1800), the bell was no longer used. It was actually sold for scrap in 1824 but was found to be too heavy to move economically. It appears a new bell was commissioned with the old bell to be traded-in for a \$400 credit. Without the credit, apparently the deal was canceled. The old bell was subsequently placed back in service and was rung every Fourth of July.

Then, for some inexplicable reason, it cracked when it was tolled on July 6, 1835, in an expression of mourning upon the death of the great Chief Justice, John Marshall. Curiously, there is another version of the bell's initial history. This version states that when the bell arrived in 1752, it met with an accident while being unloaded from the ship. This mishap spoiled the bell's tone, so it was recast as in the first account. However, the year 1755 is shown for the year the bell was formally placed in service. The rest of the history remains the same. If the year 1755 is correct, then the bell went into official service the year John Marshall was born and out of service the year (and day) he died. Nevertheless, the bell was repaired and placed back in service. After ringing to celebrate George Washington's birthday in 1846, the bell cracked again. This time the damage was beyond repair. The bell was taken down, hung in a frame and placed in the vestibule of Independence Hall. As a light-hearted footnote to this story, we might muse that a bell cracked during testing would result in compensation from the manufacturer. Such would not be the case for a bell damaged in the handling process. Is it possible the eminent forefathers took a little "liberty" in this regard? (USA #627, ISSUED 1926)

PAINLESS PRINCE



The Victorian era (1837-1901) is noted for its very strict "mind set" as to what was right and wrong. Queen Victoria herself, however, was not quite as "Victorian" as we are led to believe. During the birth of her seventh child, Prince Leopold, Victoria agreed to the use of chloroform to ease the pain of labor. Up to that time, the pain suffered by women in childbirth was considered to be God's will. The independent queen put an end to that notion. (CDN #34, ISSUED 1882)



PAPAL POINTERS



The placement of a rooster or cockerel atop weather vanes came about as the result of a Papal directive. According to the New Testament (St. Mark), Jesus Christ said to his disciple, Peter, on the Mount of Olives, *Verily I say unto thee, that this day, even in this*

night, before the cock crow twice, thou shalt deny me thrice. The prediction came true and this passage highly impressed Pope Nicholas I (Papacy 858-867). To commemorate the prediction, Pope Nicholas ordered that a cockerel should surmount the highest steeple or pinnacle of every cathedral, abbey and church in Christendom. Many of these building already had a weather vane at the "top spot," so to comply with the directive, the cockerel was placed above the weather vane. In time, the whole assembly became commonly known as a weather cock. (USA #3257, ISSUED 1999)

PICKING UP ON THE PRESIDENTS



Technically speaking, there were seven presidents of the United States prior to George Washington's inauguration in 1789. The thirteen colonies had previously joined together in a loose union under the Articles of Confederation in 1781 (eight years earlier) and had elected leaders. Only one of these early presidents, John Hanson, has been specifically honored on a postage stamp. Some of the others have appeared on "group" stamps (i.e., they are in the crowd). The complete list showing postage stamps, if applicable, is as follows:

John Hanson
(USA #1941, ISSUED 1981)

Elias Boudinot
(Probably in the crowd; USA #854, ISSUED 1939)

Thomas Mifflin
(No stamp)

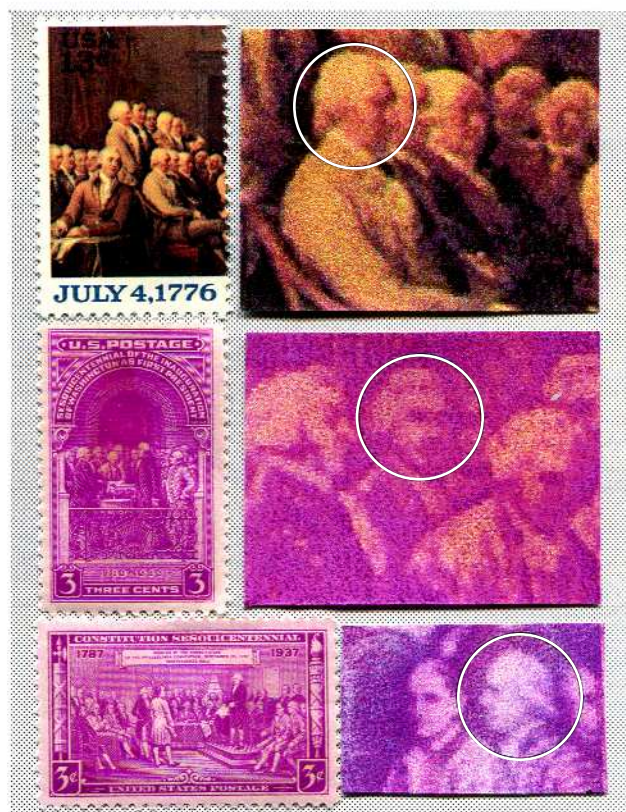
Richard Henry Lee
(Part of crowd; USA #120, ISSUED 1869; #1691, ISSUED 1976)

Nathaniel Gorham
(Part of crowd; USA #798, ISSUED 1937)

Arthur St. Clair
(Part of crowd; USA #854, ISSUED 1939)

Cyrus Griffin
(No stamp)

The following illustration shows the location of the early presidents on the applicable "group" stamps.



Top: USA #1691 showing Richard Henry Lee. He is the first seated figure on the right of the stamp. (The painting used for this stamp is the same as that used for USA #120.)

Center: USA #854 showing Arthur St. Clair. He is directly to the right of Robert Livingston who is holding the Bible.

Lower: USA #798 showing Nathaniel Gorham. He is the furthestmost figure on the right of the stamp in the front row.

Now, if we really want to get technical, David Rice Atchison should be added to the list. Atchison, was President of the United States for one day -- March 4, 1849, a Sunday. This was the day Zachary Taylor was supposed to be inaugurated as president. However, Taylor was a staunch Episcopalian, so he postponed the event to the following Monday. As the office of vice-president was not yet filled, coverage of the presidential office fell to the president *pro tempore* of the senate,

David Rice Atchison. What happened on that day? By his own admission, Atchison slept most of the day, arriving at the office quite late. His senate colleagues jested with him about changing certain cabinet posts seeing he was president, and the day just quietly slipped into history. It would certainly be appropriate for the U.S. Postal Service to specifically honor *all* of the early patriot presidents up to and including Cyrus Griffin. (USA #1941, ISSUED 1981)

PLURAL PLIGHT



This stamp depicts a "Green Mountain Boy," a member of a regiment of Vermont settlers called *The Green Mountain Boys*. The regiment was raised to defend the New Hampshire grantees against the efforts of New York to oust them or collect quit-rents. There is no specific mountain called "Green Mountain" as the regiment name implies. There is a *range* of mountains in the Appalachian system called the Green Mountains. It is apparent the double plural (Green Mountains Boys) did not have the right ring. To make matters just a little more unusual, the stamp was printed in carmine rose ink. (USA #643, ISSUED 1927)

PRESENT IN SPIRIT



In 1942, General Douglas MacArthur was forced off the Philippine Islands by the Japanese. He vowed to return. In 1944 he made good his vow and regained the Islands. The grateful Philippine Congress resolved that in appreciation and honor of MacArthur, his name be carried in perpetuity on the rolls of the units of the Philippine Army. At parade roll calls, when MacArthur's name is called, the senior non-commissioned officer answers, "Present in Spirit." In 1980, the Philippines issued a postage stamp (PHILIPPINES #1451), enlarged as follows, honoring MacArthur. The items shown on the stamp appropriately reflect MacArthur's "spirit." (USA #1424, ISSUED 1971)



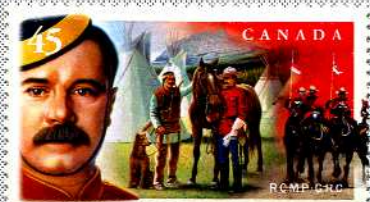
RACIST ROT



Jesse Owens competed in the 1936 Olympic Games which were held in Berlin, Germany. At that time, most of the German nation was caught up in Nazi

propaganda on Aryan superiority. Adolph Hitler used the games as a stage to promote Nazism. Swastika flags, Nazi salutes and enthusiastic shouts of *Hiel Hitler* greeted the German contestants. Jesse Owens' performance in the games, however, virtually shattered the ill-founded Nazis racist claims. Owens won four gold medals and set a record in the broad jump that lasted for twenty-four years. Further, Owens even assisted his German broad jump opponent, Lutz Long, when Long developed a cramp. Owens massaged Long so that he was able to continue in the broad jump event. (USA #2496, ISSUED 1990)

READING THE RED



The red tunic of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (formerly Northwest Mounted Police) had a double

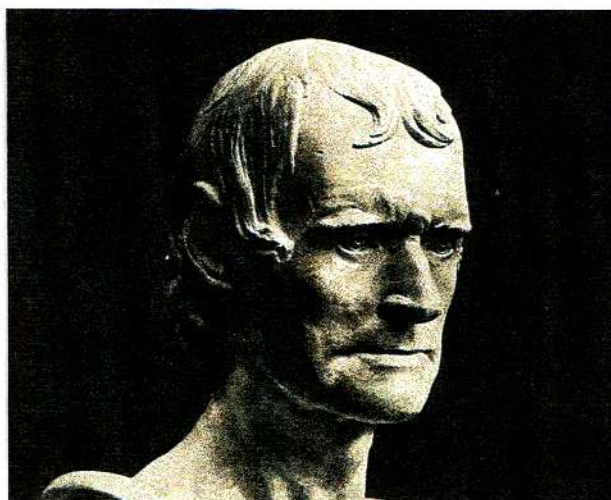
meaning to the Indians when this police force was established in 1874. On one hand, the red symbolized friendship and fair dealings. On the other hand, the red was the blood of the enemies of the Great White Queen. Whatever the belief, the uniforms did not last very long on the Canadian frontier. Within nine months they were in tatters and consequently replaced by crudely tanned deerskin garb, typical of the time and place. A new century would dawn before the uniform, as we now know it, would come into being. (CDN #1736, ISSUED 1998)

REALLY REAL THOMAS JEFFERSON



In 1825, at age 82, Thomas Jefferson underwent the agony of having his life mask produced. Sculptor John Brower covered Jefferson's face and head with plaster, which we are told, dried to fast and had to be removed with a chisel and mallet. Nevertheless, a good mask was obtained which was used to make the remarkable sculpture shown on the right. Prior to photography, life masks and death masks were the most accurate ways to capture a person's true features. While the illustrated stamp and all other stamps showing Jefferson depict him in his late 50's, there should

still be a very high degree of likeness to this sculpture. The reader is left to judge for himself. (USA #1278, ISSUED 1968)



REIGN OF TERROR



The end of World War II commemorated on these stamps, also saw the end of the war's infamous originator, Führer Adolph Hitler. The Führer was honored on numerous German stamps. The following stamp depicting Hitler (GERMANY #510) was issued between 1941 and 1943.



Hitler's reign of terror even included the use of postage stamps to promote and fund the Nazi's evil philosophies and intentions. The following stamps (SERBIA #2NB15-18) issued in 1941, were aimed at eradicating Jewish people and members of the Masonic Order. The ignorant Führer and his equally ignorant advisors, considered both entities elements of darkness which they aimed to destroy with Nazi "might and light."



The stamps show two denominations. The second denomination shown was a “charge,” as it were, to be used for anti-Masonic purposes. While Hitler ultimately failed in this and all of his other misguided ventures, the pain and suffering he caused is beyond expression in the medium of words. Canada issued the following stamp (CDN #1590) in 1995 to remind us of Hitler’s holocaust and to honor its innocent victims who were merely in the wrong place at the wrong time. The people shown now gaze at us from eternity on millions of postage stamps.



Adolph Hitler himself, we believe, committed suicide on April 30, 1945, in his Berlin bunker. As far as can be determined, he shot himself through the roof of his mouth. The adjacent photograph is said to be the last taken of the dejected Führer while alive. Debate, however, has raged for years as to Hitler’s final demise. Russian troops took the bunker so our firsthand knowledge of what remained of the Führer is sketchy. Nevertheless, it has been learned that Stalin obtained fragments of Hitler’s skull. The grim remnants were recently discovered in Russia and appear to bear out Hitler’s suicide. The following is a photograph of what is said to be the top portion of Hitler’s skull. The hole in the front center of the fragment is assumed to be that of the bullet when it exited the Führer’s head.

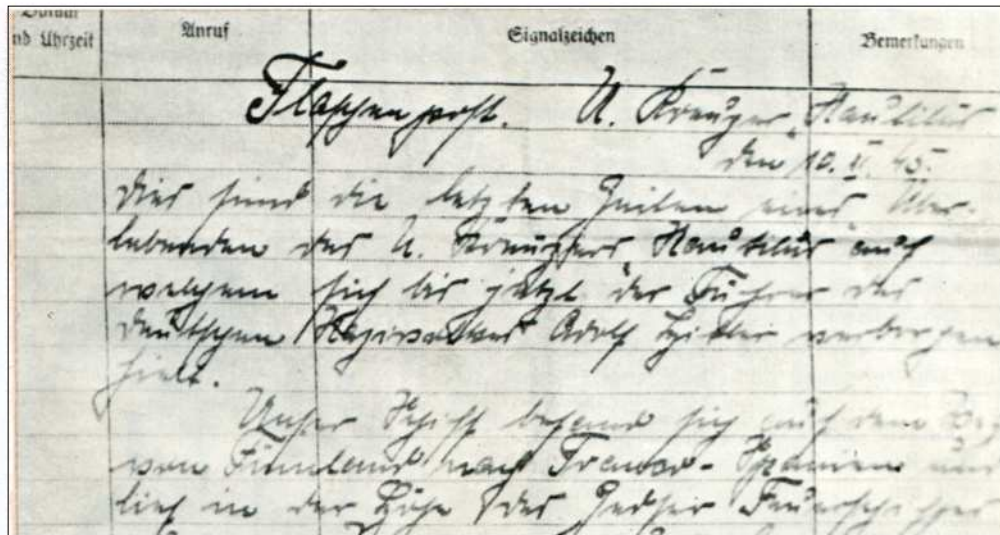


CURRENT FINDING 2015

This skull fragment was subjected to DNA analysis and other modern scientific methods. It was determined that the fragment could not have been that of Adolph Hitler because it was that of a woman. This finding lends more credibility to what is stated below.

There is, however, a different version of Hitler’s death. On November 26, 1946, a bottle containing a message regarding Hitler was found floating near the Danish coast. It is estimated that the bottle had been in the sea for

about one year. The message, written in German, states that Hitler did not die in his Berlin bunker. He lost his life in the German U-boat, *Nauecilus*, which destroyed on November 14, 1945, after colliding with a wreck. The *Nauecilus* was on its way from Finland to Franco's Spain. The paper on which the note is written appears to be torn from the log of the *Nauecilus*. A photograph of part of the message follows.



The message, though probably a hoax, has nevertheless found its way to the great archive of Second World War documents. While the last German postage stamp showing Hitler was issued in 1944, such was not the case with coins. Although it was forbidden to issue a Hitler commemorative coin, one was, however, issued. The adjacent photographs show a coin (high silver content) minted in or after 1945, (exact size shown).



To be sure, the full story of Hitler's Reign of Terror has not been told. We must wait until time unlocks other documents and artifacts concealed in the shroud of the twentieth century's darkest days. (CDN #1541-1544, IS-SUED 1995)

UPDATE

Recent research points very strongly to Hitler's escape to Spain in a submarine. It is speculated that he was then taken to Argentina and lived in Cordoba (1949–1950) and then moved to Mendoza, where he died in 1985. The photo shown here was allegedly taken in Chile, and shows Hitler when he was over 90 years old.

Scientifically, there can be no resolution to this issue unless Hitler's remains are found and DNA analysis proves they are those of the Fuehrer. The volumes written, documents uncovered, and testimony of people are simply supporting evidence and can never prove anything conclusively. If Hitler's remains were cremated, then the issue will never likely be resolved.



RIFLE GLORY STORY



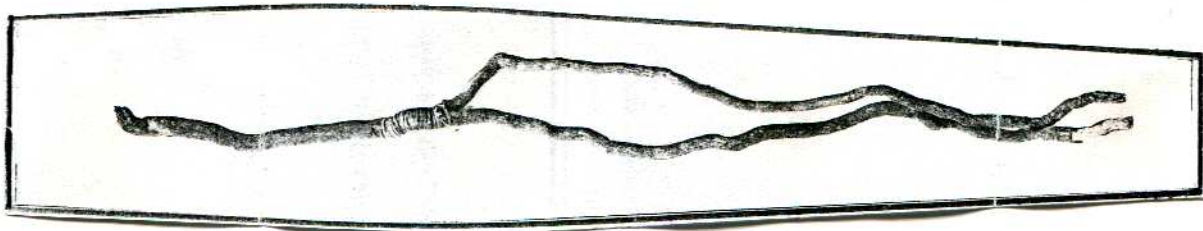
The rifle shown on this stamp is a *Pennsylvania Rifle*. It differs from the ordinary musket because

of the rifling in the barrel -- thus the name *rifle*. It was developed in the 1750's and had astounding accuracy up to a range of about 300-feet. For some reason, the British did not twig onto the idea of rifling gun barrels. British soldiers went into the American Revolution with their smoothbore muskets. The accuracy of their muskets was so poor, a soldier could hardly expect to hit anything that was more than 150-feet away. British generals are noted as referring to the, "terrible guns of the rebels." While we cannot say the Pennsylvania rifle won the Revolutionary War, it played a very large part in the American victory. (USA #1357, ISSUED 1968)

ROGER'S ROOTS



In 1860, it was decided to exhume the remains of Roger Williams (c. 1603-1683), founder of Rhode Island, and move them to a more suitable location. Upon opening the grave, however, all that could be found was an apple tree root formation, more or less resembling the shape of Roger's body. It appears the root met with Roger's skeleton and followed the path of least resistance as it grew. The root was removed and is now in the collection of the Rhode Island Historical Society. It is probably the most famous root in the world. In the words of one of the Historical Society's officials: *To some, the root has taken on a 'sacred' meaning because it just happened to grow through a site in which Roger Williams was buried. Those who dug up the grave in 1860, and many people who have wanted to see the root since, probably have felt a personal connection with Mr. Williams through this tangible artifact.* A photograph of the root follows. (USA #777, ISSUED 1936)





Roger Williams is seen on this stamp holding a book entitled *Soul Liberty*. These words sum up Williams' profound belief in absolute religious tolerance. The stamp design is based on a statue of Williams by Franklin Simmons. Roger Williams was an unusual man who left us with an unusual reminder of his earthly presence. The story is presented on the adjacent page 262.

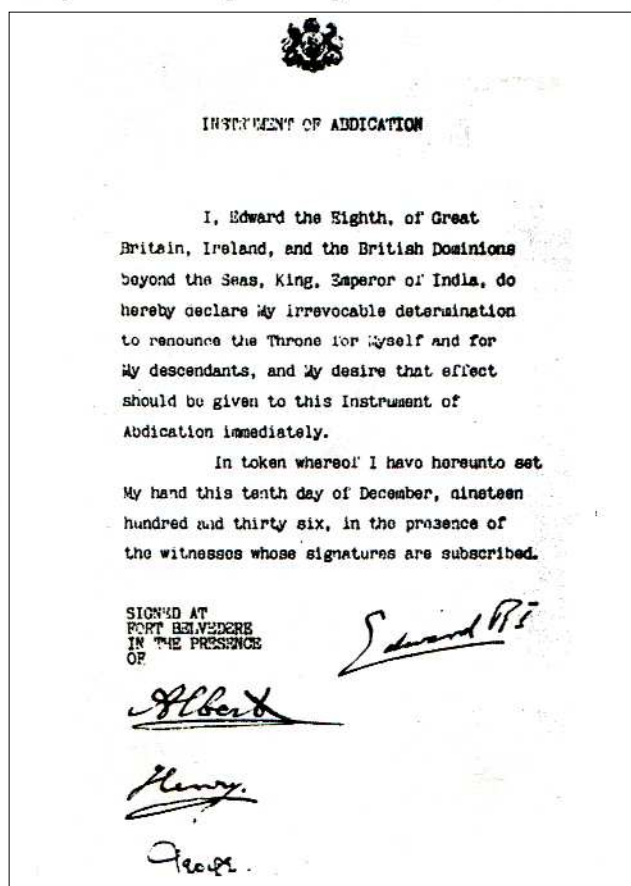


This striking stamp shows Edward, Prince of Wales, who later became King Edward VIII. Edward's relationship with Wallis Warfield Simpson became the love story of the twentieth century. Can it be reasoned that there might be more to this story than that which the royal family has allowed to be revealed? Some intriguing information has come to light which is presented in the story on the adjacent page 263.

ROYAL CONSPIRACY



The following somewhat lowly and simple INSTRUMENT OF ABDICATION document officially ended the reign of King Edward VIII.



Edward gave up the throne of Great Britain so that he could marry the woman he loved, Wallis Warfield Simpson. Mrs. Simpson had already been married twice and was involved with Edward while she was still married to her second husband, Ernest Simpson. Edward met the Simpsons some time in 1931. At that time, Wallis was 35 years old, Edward 37. Thereafter, the three met socially on many occasions. It is fairly apparent Ernest knew a relationship was developing between his wife and Edward. If so, it does not appear he did anything to discourage it. Whatever the case,

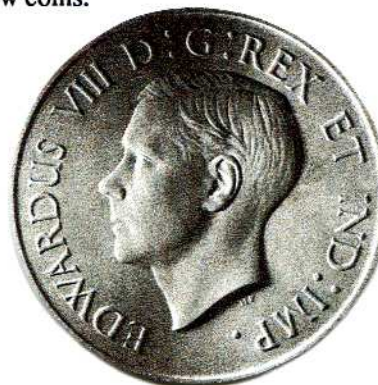
the subsequent romance and marriage of Edward and Wallis has become the love story of the 20th Century. Edward died in 1972, Wallis in 1986. A book entitled *Wallis & Edward Letters, 1931-1937*, published in 1986, provides detailed insights into the couple's personal lives. As far as we *officially* know, Wallis never had children by any of her marriages, or at least no children who survived. However, in 1995 some interesting evidence began to surface in this regard and a story was subsequently published in *The Daily Times* (Maryville, Tennessee) on February 19, 1999. The evidence *suggests* that Wallis gave birth to Edward's child, a female, on June 3, 1934. As Edward was directly in line for the throne of Great Britain, a cunning royal cover-up took place. Edward and Wallis were told that their child died at birth and they were possibly shown the body of a dead baby. The newborn was sent immediately to a hospital in Marietta, Ohio, U.S.A. She was substituted for a baby girl born on June 8, 1934, to Mrs. Nan Francis and her husband, Kenneth. Mrs. Francis had actually given birth to her baby in her home and both had been rushed to the Marietta hospital because of complications. It is reasoned that the baby died at the hospital whereupon the substitution took place. The birth date for the substitute infant (Edward's child) was changed from June 3 to June 8, 1934, and she was later given the names Elizabeth Marie. This amazing conspiracy has been pieced together by Elizabeth Marie who is presently married to Dr. Edward Mark Kelman, a retired pathologist. Elizabeth tells us that in 1990, events in her life brought her into contact with Harold Long, the noted Karate expert and Knox County, Tennessee law enforcement officer. At a meeting with Long, he informed Elizabeth that the government had extensive files on her entire life. He told her, "Your life, nobody would ever believe it!" As Harold Long was not a person who could be pressed for more information than he intended to provide, Elizabeth let the matter rest. Long, however, certainly gave her the feeling that he knew something about her which he could not reveal. In December 1995, Elizabeth had a revelation that she was the daughter of Edward and Wallis. Reflecting on Long's statement, Elizabeth contacted him and asked him if Edward and Wallis were her true parents. Long said he was willing to confirm this connection, but intimated such would be at a great "cost" to him. Within a few weeks, Long moved out of state, leaving his children and grandchildren behind. Elizabeth telephoned Long numerous times over the next few years. At one

point she asked him if he could provide a copy of her government file. Long simply stated he no longer had access to government files and did not elaborate any further. Long died in October 1998. During this time Elizabeth received confidential information (1997) that Pentagon records show that the Duke and Duchess of Windsor (Edward and Wallis) had a daughter who was living in the United States. Further, Elizabeth has uncovered considerable additional evidence to support her royal birth. Primarily, the evidence is based on physical appearance similarities. These similarities exist between Elizabeth and Wallis and between Elizabeth's children and grandchildren to members of the royal family. Other evidence is gathered from the book *Wallis & Edward Letters*. There are inferences in Edward's and Wallis' correspondence that indicate Wallis was expecting a baby. We can conclude, of course, that DNA analysis would satisfy the question. It is unlikely, however, that this avenue could be pursued without more substantial evidence relative to the conspiracy. Elizabeth and her supporters are sure that further evidence is "out there" somewhere and they are patiently waiting for someone to come forward. The following photographs compare Wallis and Elizabeth.



One thing that strikes your author as being amusing and a little ironic in this story is the fact that the name

Elizabeth was selected for the child. This name had been previously selected for the eldest child of Albert, Edward's brother. Albert, of course, became George VI and his daughter became Elizabeth II. Readers who wish to know more about Elizabeth's amazing story are invited to visit her website at <http://we3.org>. As to the illustrated postage stamp, it was issued on May 4, 1935, and shows the future king as the Prince of Wales. While Edward was the King of Great Britain (January 20 to December 10, 1936), no Canadian or Newfoundland stamps were issued depicting the new king. Preparations, however, were underway in Canada to depict Edward on Canadian coins. The following photograph shows a plaster model made in preparation for the new coins.



Edward insisted that he face left on the proposed coin because he felt this was his "best side." In submitting to Edward's request, a traditional rule going back to the reign of Charles II (reigned 1660-85) was broken. The rule states that on coins a new king should face in the alternate direction of his predecessor. King George V, Edward's father, had faced left, so Edward was supposed to face right. Nevertheless, as no coins were issued the rule was only technically broken. Surprisingly, when coins were designed for King George VI, it was pretended that Edward faced right. As a result, George VI faces left. (CDN #214, ISSUED 1935)

ROYAL SOIL



This United States stamp honoring Yugoslavia has a little extra significance. Quietly resting at the Serbian Church monastery in Libertyville, Illinois are the remains of King Peter II of Yugoslavia. When the

Nazis invaded Yugoslavia in 1940, the 17-year-old king fled to Great Britain. After the war, Peter became a king without a country when Britain backed Tito as leader of postwar Yugoslavia. Peter eventually moved to the United States. He lived first in New York where he worked in public relations. He then moved to California and worked at a savings and loan company. He eventually settled in Denver, Colorado, where he died on November 4, 1970. He is the only European monarch to be buried in the United States. (USA #917, ISSUED 1943)

RUSH RANTING



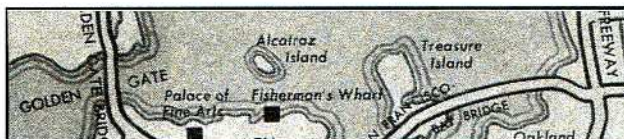
The object shown on this stamp is identified by the U.S. Postal Service as a *Candle and Rushlight*

Holder. The Scott people identify it as a *Rush Lamp and Candle Holder*. To establish which identification is correct, we have to define exactly what is a *Rushlight* or a *Rush Lamp*. Colonial housewives sometimes made a kind of candle by dipping the pith of a rush (*a plant*) into tallow (*fat of cattle or sheep*). The candle, as it were, was then placed into an ordinary candle holder and when ignited, it produced a “rushlight.” From this information, it appears both identifications are incorrect. What the stamp portrays is a *Rush Candle and Candle Holder*. (USA #1610, ISSUED 1979)

SCENE SPECULATING



It may be reasonably assumed that a distant speck of land shown on this Golden Gate stamp is none other than the Island of Alcatraz. When one looks east through the Golden Gate, Alcatraz is almost directly in the middle of the scene. The following map illustrates this fact.



In 1923, when the stamp was issued, Alcatraz was a military prison. It became a Federal prison in 1933. Another Golden Gate stamp (USA #399) issued in 1913, might also show the infamous island.



Given these possibilities, we have a new, very limited, topical field -- Prisons on Stamps. (USA #567, ISSUED 1923)

SEAWAY SPIRITS



This stamp shows an aerial view of the St. Lawrence Seaway. Totally submerged beneath the waters of the seaway are five communities: Aultsville, Dickinson's Landing, Farran's Point, Milles Roches and Moulinette. Further, parts of two other communities, Iroquois and Morrisburg, were claimed by the rushing water. In 1958, all of these communities were totally evacuated to permit the seaway opening the following year. However, if we are to believe some seafarers, there may have been a few stragglers. Apparently when ships pass over the communities, strange sights and sounds are reported. Lights from the depth of the

waters are seen and there are murmurs among the waves. The opening of the seaway was commemorated on stamps jointly issued by both Canada and the United States. While the stamps as follows, (CDN #387 and

USA #1131) issued in 1959, appear to be identical, each country produced separate plates. Minute differences in the designs can be seen upon close examination.



Remarkably, on these stamps the maple leaf (Canadian symbol) is over lakes and territory that lie primarily in the United States. The eagle (U.S. symbol) is almost totally over Canadian lake portions and territory. It appears the stamp designer reasoned that the Canadian symbol should be north of the American symbol, which is essentially correct. However, in the great lakes area,

Canada (Ontario) dips down so that its southern tip is further south than Detroit. Nevertheless, it is nice to know that no one has complained about the reverse symbolism. Certainly, we can say that the silence serves to confirm the great *spirit* of cooperation that exists between Canada and the United States. (USA #2091, ISSUED 1984)

SHADOW IN THE WHITE HOUSE



Two months before Franklin Pierce (1804-1869) took office as the President of the United States (1853), a tragic railway accident took the life of his only surviving child, eleven year old Benny. Both Piece and his wife, Jane, were with their child on the train when the accident occurred. The child died as the result of a severe head injury -- the back of his head was virtually sliced off. The sight, as can be expected, devastated Mrs. Pierce. She thereupon harbored feelings of intense guilt over the tragic incident for, as we are told, neglecting her son while he was alive. When the couple moved to the White House, Jane secluded herself in her bedroom and wrote pathetic pencil notes to her dead son asking his forgiveness. She did not attend the inaugural ball, nor make any public appearances. Further, she refused to participate in any White House social functions, save an appearance at a New Year's Day reception in 1855. Her recluse manner led

newspaper people to refer to her as, *The Shadow in the White House*. In looking at the circumstances, we can perhaps shed a little light on why Jane felt so guilty. She was a quiet, deeply religious person who abhorred political life. Franklin had originally promised her that he would stay out of politics but had reneged. The reason the little family was on the train was probably connected with politics. This fact may have provided the justification for her guilt. She might have felt she should have done more to discourage Franklin's political ambitions. At some point in time after the accident, Jane came to the conclusion that it had been God's will the boy should die so that his welfare would not distract her husband in his presidential duties. This reasoning probably allowed here to carry on as she did until her death in 1863. Jane is seen in the following photograph. (USA #2217e, ISSUED 1986)



SKULL BEQUEATH



This stamp honoring William Shakespeare shows a human skull (detail enlarged below). The skull symbol has direct reference to one of Shakespeare's plays in which a human skull is used. One theater company in the United States uses a real human skull in its performances. The skull came to the company under unusual conditions. A wealthy business execu-

tive had a secret desire to be on the stage, but lack of talent prevented him from realizing his wish. In his will, the executive left the theater company a considerable sum of money to be used for acting scholarships, with one proviso, *...that his corpse be decapitated, his head shorn of flesh, and his bleached cranium used for the skull of the jester, Yorick, in Shakespeare's Hamlet.* (USA #1250, ISSUED 1964)



STAR POSITIONING



There is an *unofficial* state name assignment for the stripes and stars on the American flag. The assignment is based on the date each state entered the Union. The thirteen stripes, of course, are for the thirteen original colonies, which end up with both a stripe and a star assigned to each of their names. The adjacent illustration shows the current assignments for the fifty-star flag. While the system appears to be reasonable, there is a problem. As new stars are added to the flag, all of the stars have to be repositioned to accommodate the newcomers. This condition results in moving placements. We see, for example, that the Texas star (#28) indicated on the following U.S. stamp



(USA #938), issued in 1945, has now moved to the edge of the star field.



The movement was a result of an increase in the number of stars from forty-eight in 1946 to fifty in 1959. While it is unlikely any more stars will be added to the flag in the foreseeable future, maintaining a balance will be difficult with additional stars. To keep the present arrangement (which is highly attractive) it appears that two (2) vertical rows would need to be added. Such would require the addition of nine new states. We might muse that if Quebec separates from Canada, there might be nine provinces up for adoption. (USA #1153, ISSUED 1960)

TAKING LIBERTY WITH LIBERTY



The original and proper name for the Statue of Liberty is *Liberty Enlightening the World*. The term "Statue of Liberty" was given to the work through common usage. It is unlikely any sculptor would use the word "statue" in the title of his work. (USA #1035, ISSUED 1954)

TARNISHED TAR MAN



Discovery of the Athabasca Tar Sands in 1778 is commemorated on this stamp. There is no mention, however, of Peter Pond, the man who made the discovery. When we look at Pond's reputation we can

see a reason for the omission. In 1778, he established the first fur trading post in the Athabasca territory and became an agent for McBeath, Ellice & Co. In 1881 he was arrested for the murder of Jean Etienne Wadin. Wadin died as a result of gunshot wounds allegedly suffered after a quarrel with Pond. Pond went to trial and was acquitted. In 1787, Pond was implicated in the murder of John Ross, agent for Pond's competitor. Ross was shot during a struggle with some of Pond's men. Now with two murders clouding his reputation, Pond retired from the fur trade. He died poverty-stricken and forgotten. His maps of Canada's Northwest are among the earliest created of this region. (CDN #766, ISSUED 1978)

TATTOO TRICKERY



Stephen Decatur, whose image is seen on this stamp (left portrait), owes his life to a man who historians have *incorrectly* identified based on a tattoo. In 1804, during the Barbary Wars, the American Navy was sent to Tripoli to bombard the city. During the confrontation, Lieutenant Decatur and his men leaped onboard an enemy gunboat. Decatur was knocked down and

jumped upon by a Tripolitan but managed to shoot the attacker. As this action was taking place, another Tipolitan came forward and raised his scimitar to strike Decatur in the neck. A wounded American seaman by the name of Daniel Frazier put his head in the way of the scimitar thereby saving Decatur's life. The scene was depicted by an artist as shown in the following photograph of the artwork.



The artist showed a tattoo on Frazier's left arm. The tattoo reads, R. JAMES, the name of another sailor, Reuben James, who took part in the raid. The following is an enlargement of the tattoo detail seen in the artwork.



Historians have naturally credited Reuben James for the heroic act rather than Frazier. It appears evident the artist thought James was the hero and just used a tattoo to identify him. We might wonder if a seaman, or anyone else for that matter, would have tattoo such as that shown in the artwork -- especially one that shows just a first name initial rather than the full first name. (USA #791, ISSUED 1937)

TAVERN TALK

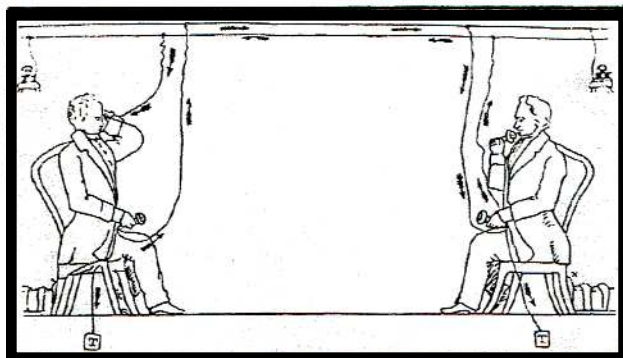


The first commissioned officer of the United States Marine Corps was Captain Samuel Nicholas. Nicholas owned the Tun Tavern near Philadelphia and used his tavern to recruit many of the first United States marines. We can only wonder how many new prospects were encouraged to "tip a few" before being presented with their application papers. Nevertheless, whichever way the wind blew, it did not blow in the direction the flags are flying on the ship in the background of this stamp. (USA #1567, ISSUED 1975)

TELEPHONY'S NEARLY FORGOTTEN CONNECTION



While Alexander Graham Bell is officially recognized throughout most of the world as the inventor of the telephone, Italy claims otherwise -- and the evidence is very convincing. According to the *Encyclopedia Italiana*, Antonio Meucci (b.1808), who was living in Cuba, invented a telephone device (c. 1837) to communicate with his invalid wife from the basement to the third floor of their home. The following is a drawing made by Nestore Corradi about 1858. It shows Meucci's telephone with transmitter and receiver instruments.



In 1845, Meucci immigrated to the United States. He settled in Long Island, New York and made a living as a candlemaker. Here he befriended Giuseppe Garibaldi (about 1850), the Italian patriot, who had taken refuge in America. Meucci took Garibaldi into his own home and gave him work making candles. Garibaldi is honored on a U.S. stamp (USA #1168), as follows, issued in 1960.



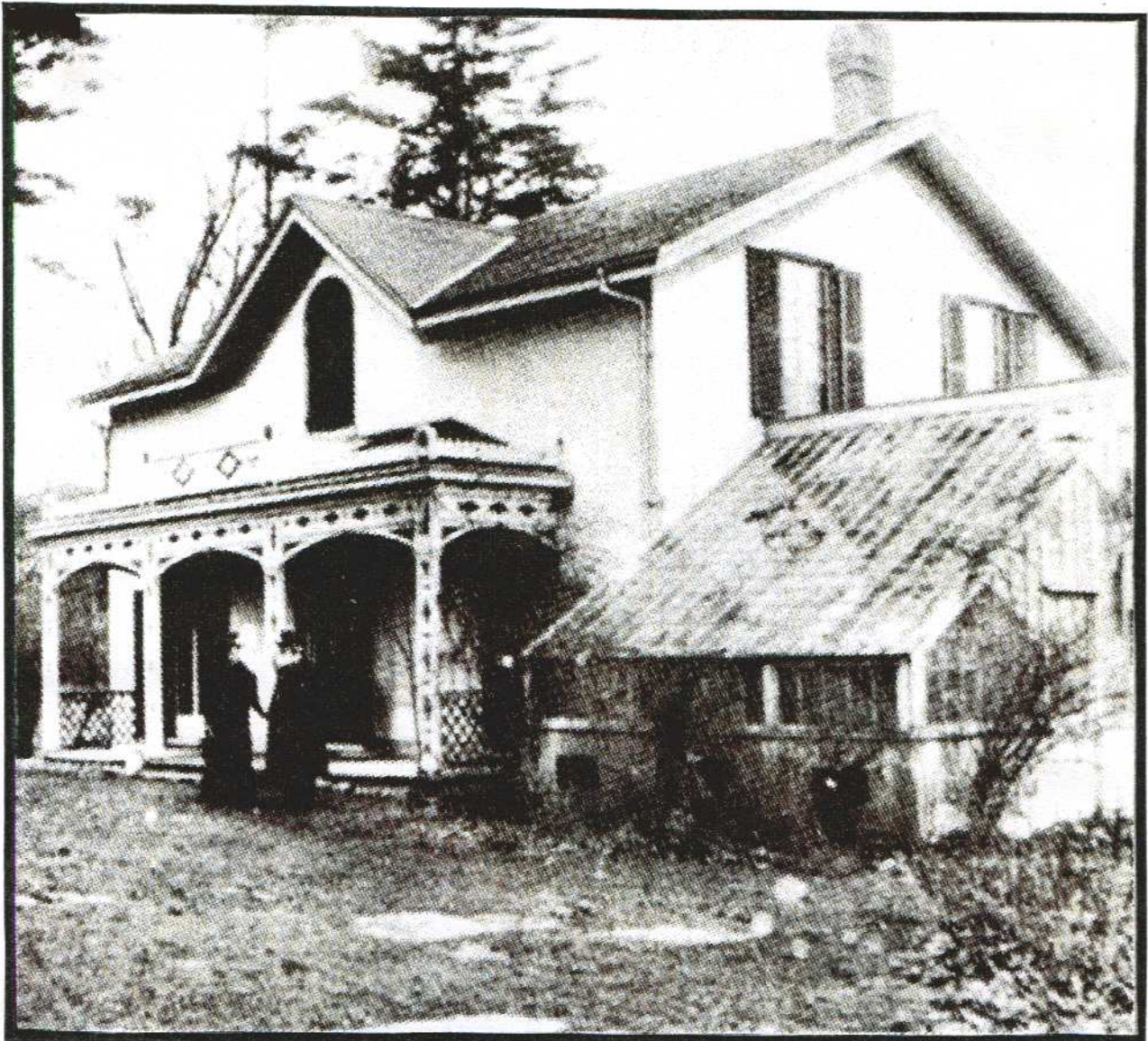
Meucci searched in vain for U.S. investors to develop and market his telephone invention. He filed a provisional patent for his device in 1871 and presented his ideas and documents to the Western Telegraph Company. Western Telegraph did not reply to Meucci, and when he asked for his documents back, they told him the files had been lost. Disillusioned, Meucci did not renew his patent. In the meantime, Alexander Graham Bell, who lived in Boston, was investigating and experimenting with devices associated with sound transmission. His primary interest was the use of such devices to assist deaf people. Bell was a professional in this field. In 1872, he had opened a school in Boston for teachers of the deaf. The following year, he became a professor of vocal physiology at Boston University. In the summer of 1874, he went back to his hometown, Brantford, in Ontario, Canada, for a holiday. While in Brantford that summer, he *determined* the basic concept of the telephone. This concept involved a membrane speaking device as a transmitter with a similar device as a receiver. Bell did not actually *invent* (physically make) anything at this time. *In fact, he doubted if he had the electrical knowledge to actually construct a device based on his concept.* Nevertheless, in later years, he still considered 1874 the actual year he invented the telephone. In a letter to the *Brantford Expositor* in March 1916, Bell stated: *Brantford is justified in calling herself 'The Telephone City' because the telephone originated there. It was invented in Brantford at Tutelo Heights in the summer of 1874.* Canada considers 1874 the invention year. A Canadian stamp (CDN #641), as follows, was issued in 1974 to celebrate the centenary of the invention.



Bell went back to Boston after his holidays and immediately studied electricity. He then assembled (invented) a device based on his ideas for sound transmission. On June 2, 1875, Bell was working on his invention with his associate, Thomas Watson. Watson was in another room at the receiving end of Bell's device. Through the device, Watson distinctly heard Bell say, *Mr. Watson, come here, I want you.* Bell had upset battery acid on his trousers and was calling out to

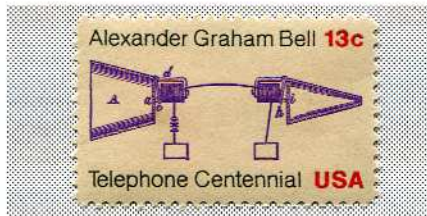


There is no doubt that Alexander Graham Bell invented the *practical* telephone. In other words, a device that transmitted the human voice fast enough and efficiently enough to be deemed useful in any situation. However, did Bell invent the *first* telephone as we are given believe? One entire country vehemently opposes this conviction. The amazing story is on adjacent page 270.



Alexander Graham Bell's homestead in Brantford, Ontario is shown here. The two people in the photograph are Bell and his daughter, Mrs. Grosvenor. The photograph was taken in 1906.

Watson for assistance. Bell did not realize that he had actually transmitted his voice until Watson rushed to Bell's room and excitedly informed him. This moment marked the *official* beginning the telephone as a practical and useful device. On February 6, 1876, Alexander Graham Bell filed his historic U.S. patent. The patent was issued on March 7, 1876. Bell then went on to exhibit his invention and later form the Bell Company (1877) which soon flourished. A U.S. stamp (USA #1683), as follows, issued in 1976 shows Bell's patent application.



In the meantime, Meucci and his supporters were challenging Bell's patent rights. However, the determined Bell Company blocked every move. In 1884 the Meucci group dropped their case. It then appears they obtained further information supporting their cause. In 1885, Bell was taken to court on a charge of fraud. The case escalated and the U.S. government initiated an inquest. The inquest was appealed by the Bell Company and the resulting turmoil forced President Cleveland to suspend his election campaign. Bell's heavy involvement with Western Telegraph and the case of Meucci's missing documents became public knowledge. It was disclosed that Bell had agreed to give Western 20% of the benefits of his invention in return, it appears, for financial backing. From 1881 to 1885 Western had received \$2 million as a result of the agreement. Eventually the court declared that Meucci's original patent had priority. However, as Meucci's patent had expired in 1873, and he had not achieved any practical results with his invention, Bell was allowed to continue. The U.S. honored Bell on a stamp (USA #893), as follows, issued in 1940.



The debate as to who really invented the telephone has raged for over 120 years. While other inventors have been involved in the issue, it appears the final decision must rest on a choice between Meucci and Bell. Subse-

quent investigation in this connection has revealed that Bell may have been personally acquainted with the patent officer who received Meucci's drawings. It is alleged that Bell may have been given access to these drawings. Apparently, the patent officer had hearing problems and had received consultation from Bell. Further, it has been disclosed that while Meucci's invention worked, it was not as practical as Bell's invention, mainly with regard to the speed of voice transmission. One researcher has stated that Meucci's device transmitted at 5,000 feet (about one mile) per second. Bell's device transmitted at the speed of light (or electricity), about 186,000 miles per second. If this information was presented at the court case in 1885, it may well have influenced the court decision to support Bell. The telephone by this time had become the most wonderful invention of the century. To deny Bell the right to continue at this stage would have been very unwise. Nevertheless, it must be remembered that the court ruled in favor of Meucci. This fact should prompt historians to fully recognize Meucci as the primary inventor of the *basic* telephone. Bell should be recognized as the inventor of the *practical* telephone. In 1965, Italy issued a postage stamp (ITALY #909), as follows, that depicts Meucci and Marconi in relation to international telecommunications. This stamp demonstrates Italy's insistence as to Meucci's place in history.



Antonio Meucci is seen in the following photograph taken in 1887. At that time he was 79 years old.



What eventually became of old Antonio? The Encyclopedia Italiana concludes its account of his life as follows: *In 1882, after Garibaldi's death, the owner of the house in Long Island, F. Bachmann, donated it to the Italians under the condition that Meucci could stay there for the remainder of his life; and the inventor spent the last seven years in peaceful poverty.* From this information, it appears Meucci lived in a rented house and received a lot of support from the Italian community in New York. Perhaps one day the United States (the world's greatest user of the telephone) will acknowledge Meucci and give him the distinction of a

postage stamp. First of all, however, if Bell is to be given primary credit, then both Canada and the United States must get it straight as to the date the telephone was invented. Canada has selected 1874, which is inappropriate for the reason stated -- a concept is not an invention. The United States has selected 1876 (stamp issued in 1976 shows *Telephone Centennial*). The year 1876 was the year Bell's patent was granted, also an inappropriate year -- patents are just legal documents. We know for certain that Bell first transmitted his voice on June 2, 1875. Why should there be any question on this issue? (CDN #274, ISSUED 1947)

THOMPSON'S MYSTERIOUS MAMMAL



David Thompson (1770-1857), explorer and geographer, is honored on this stamp. Thompson was a partner in a fur company and did all of his mapping on a private basis. His excellent work in mapping more than 1.5 million square miles in western North America was virtually unknown until 1880. In that year, the Canadian Government undertook a survey in the Rocky Mountains. Some old maps came to light and their accuracy led to an investigation as to their original source. The maps were found to be created by Thompson, whereupon his journals, survey notes and unpublished *Narrative* were uncovered. One of his journals relates a highly unusual occurrence. During explorations in what is now the vicinity of Jasper, Alberta, Thompson and his crew discovered the tracks of a very large animal that could not be positively identify. Thompson's journal entry for the date January 7, 1811, reads as follows:

Continuing our journey in the afternoon we came on the track of a large animal, the snow was about six inches deep on the ice; I measured it: four large toes each of four inches in length to each a short claw; the ball of the foot sunk three inches lower than the toes, the hinder part of the foot did not mark well, the length fourteen inches, by eight inches in breadth, walking from north to south, and having passed about six hours. We were in no humor to follow him: The Men and Indians would have it to be a young mammoth and I held it to be the track of a large grizzled Bear; yet the

shortness of the nails, the ball of the foot, and its great size were not that of a Bear, otherwise that of a very large old Bear, his claws were worn away; this the Indians would not allow.

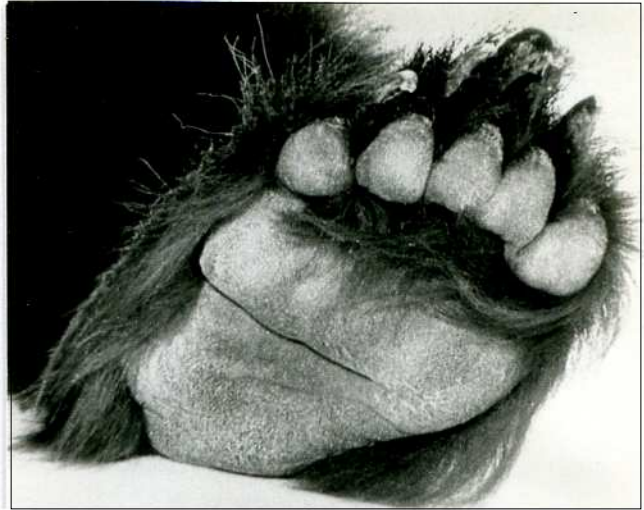
During his return journey in the autumn of 1811, Thompson again references the incident. It is evident he was back in the same area and reflected on his previous experience. The journal shows the following information:

I now recur to what I have already noticed in the early part of last winter, when proceeding up the Athabaska River to cross the Mountains, in the company with...Men and four hunters, on one of the channels of the River we came to the track of a large animal, which measured fourteen inches in length by eight inches in breadth by a tape line. As the snow was about six inches in depth the track was well defined, and we could see it for a full one hundred yards from us, this animal was proceeding from north to south. We did not attempt to follow it, we had not time for it, and the Hunters, eager as they are to follow and shoot every animal, made no attempt to follow this beast, for what could the balls of our fowling guns do against such an animal. Report from old times has made the head branches of the River, and the Mountains in the vicinity the abode of one, or more very large animals, to which I never appeared to give credence; for these reports appeared to arise from the fondness for the marvelous so common to mankind; but the sight of the track of that large beast staggered me, and I often thought of it, yet never could bring myself to believe such an animal existed, but thought it might be the track of some monster Bear.

As Thompson was a highly meticulous person, his description of the tracks would certainly be very accurate.

His speculation that they might have been made by a bear, however, would hardly be valid as a bear has five toes, not four, as seen in the following photograph. It is strange Thompson did not mention this anomaly. The length of the tracks might be explained if they were "double-tracked" bear prints. It is not uncommon for bears to place their hind feet in the same approximate spot as their front feet. This occurrence makes any resulting prints much longer and could lengthen the toe impressions. Such a conclusion might be supported by the fact that Thompson does not mention shorter tracks normally made by a bear's front feet. We are left to wonder, however, how double tracking might result in the appearance of four rather than five toes. Thompson's account has found its way into the annals of Sasquatch or Bigfoot lore. Serious Bigfoot investigators, however, do not believe there is any connection. The number of toes and presence of claws on the prints reasonable excludes the alleged Bigfoot creature. Nevertheless, it would be interesting to know more about

Thompson's reference to, *Report from old times*, mentioned in the last part of his account. (CDN #370, ISSUED 1957)



THREE STRIKES AND YOU'RE OUT



The great State of Maryland is traced back to a British colony founded by Lord Baltimore (George Calvert). The colony was officially chartered in 1632.

Maryland was not, however, the first choice for a proposed colony. Baltimore originally tried to colonize Newfoundland in 1621, however, repeated French hostilities and the harsh climate, changed his mind. Baltimore next tried his luck in Virginia in 1629. Unfortunately, his Catholicism and the opposition of powerful people ended this attempt. Baltimore's final choice was an unsettled region north of the Potomac River. He framed a charter for a colony, making sure there was no mention of specific faiths. The charter was officially granted on June 20, 1632, about two months after Lord Baltimore had died. The colony was named Maryland in honor of Queen Henrietta Maria, the wife of the British monarch, Charles I. The name *Maria* is Latin for *Mary*. (USA #2342, ISSUED 1988)

TIMBER TALK



This stamp commemorated the Battle of Fallen Timbers in 1794. The name of this battle, *Fallen Timbers*, is unusual, however, it is very appropriate. Some years before the battle, a tornado had ripped through the area. It left behind a two-mile swath of torn and twisted trees. The Indians used this natural barricade to await the arrival of General Wayne and his forces. Despite the possible advantage provided by the barricade, however, Wayne emerged the winner in the struggle. (USA #680, ISSUED 1929)

TOO RARE TO LIST



It appears Canada issued a stamp that is just too rare to list. The design of the stamp is identical to the stamp shown here, however it was printed on hand made laid paper of exceptional quality. The highly interesting story of the stamp appeared in a Vancouver, British Columbia, newspaper article, shown below, on January 20, 1993. (Stamp illustrated is CDN #24, ISSUED 1868. There is no Scott Catalogue number for the laid paper variety.

STAMP COLLECTING

Local dealer sells rare Canadian issue for \$150,000 to mystery collector

DOUGLAS SAGI
Vancouver Sun

A rare Canadian stamp that was once seized by the French government as part of First World War reparations assessed against Germany has sold in Vancouver for \$150,000.

Stamp dealer Daniel Eaton said he acquired the stamp as part of a collection from a wealthy Winnipeg collector on the weekend and sold it almost immediately to another Canadian collector he refused to name.

Only two of the stamps, worth only two cents when they were issued in

1868, are known to exist. Eaton also handled the sale of the other copy, to a U.S. collector, for \$90,000 in 1986.

The stamp is among the first series issued by the Dominion of Canada, following others issued by Canada when it was a province. It is green in color and features a profile of a young Queen Victoria. Only one sheet, containing 100 of the stamps, was printed and of the 100 originally sold, only two have appeared in collections.

The stamps are highly prized because they were printed on hand made "laid papers" of exceptional

quality.

The stamp Eaton has just sold was acquired by the late German Count Ferrary whose collection was seized by the French government as part of a claim for German war reparations following the First World War.

Ferrary's collection sold for \$500,000 in 1925. Eaton believes the Canadian stamp, sold to an English dealer, brought about 100 pounds sterling (then \$5,000). The stamp was brought back to North America by the American collector Dr. Lewis Redford, who sold it to the Winnipegger in 1948.



A YOUNG VICTORIA:
stamp issued in 1868

Eaton said he believes he, and members of his staff at F.E. Eaton Philatelist Ltd., are the only people in the world to have handled both of the rare Canadian stamps.

TRIBUTE TO TOBACCO



With present-day bad publicity associated with tobacco, it is certain this crop will not be featured on any U.S. or Canadian postage stamps. However, the disgusting weed has already made its appearance on stamps and, in a manner of speaking, "reached the top." A full tobacco plant is seen on the above stamp, it adorns the left (facing) border. The plant on the right is Indian corn. The plant's highest tribute,

however, is paid on stamps showing the U.S. Capitol dome of which one example (USA #1591) issued in 1975 follows.



A close examination of the classical columns that support the dome will reveal tobacco leaf sculptures (not visible on the stamp). The architects of the Capitol

created this little tribute when tobacco had a better reputation. Nevertheless, despite the plants "fall from grace," we must remember that it was a highly impor-

tant cash crop in early America. While we might hate to admit it, tobacco was a major factor in the survival of the colonies. (USA #329, ISSUED 1907)



TYLER NEVER MADE IT HOME



In his Last Will, former President John Tyler (1790-1862) expressed a wish to be buried on his plantation, Sherwood Forest (near Charles City County), Virginia. Unfortunately, he died while on a stay in Richmond, Virginia (some thirty miles away) and could not be transported home in view of the escalating Civil War. As the government was fully preoccupied with

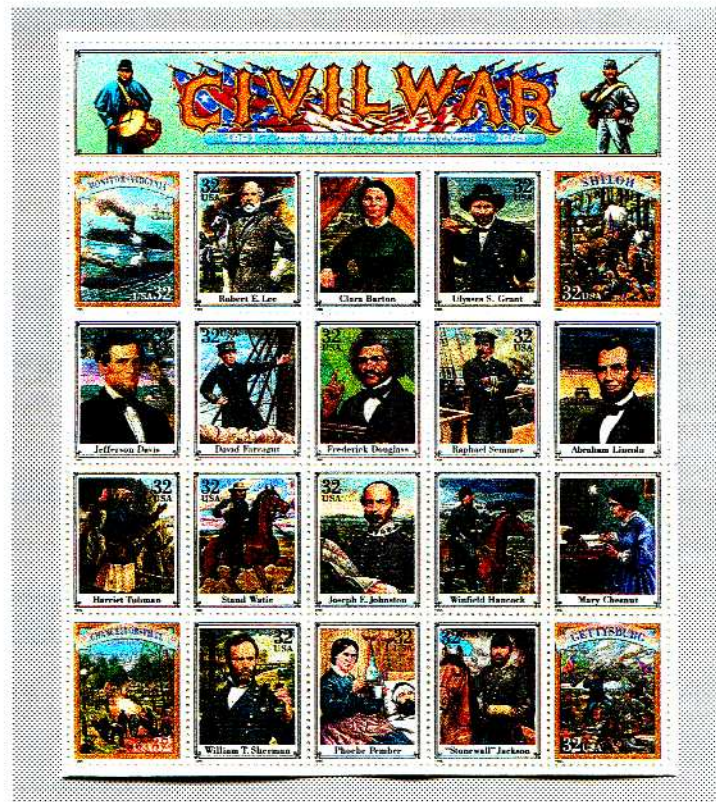
the war, no official notice was taken of the former President's death. For years his body rested in an unmarked grave in Richmond's Hollywood Cemetery. Finally, Congress appropriated the sum of ten thousand dollars to erect a monument to the neglected President, but not to relocate his remains to Sherwood Forest. This move Congress deemed as "pointless." Nevertheless, Tyler certainly left a legacy to his existence. When he entered the White House (1841), he had eight children. His wife died the following year (1842) and he remarried two years later (1844). By his second wife, Tyler fathered seven more children, bringing his total to fifteen. This accomplishment earned him the title, "Most Prolific President." (USA #815, ISSUED 1938)

UNIFORM MEASURES



While the uniforms of the Continental forces were very appealing, by far not all fighting men were fortunate enough to get one. The textile industry could not produce enough cloth to meet demands and there were major difficulties in obtaining supplies overseas. Even when supplies were available, the industry was not adequate to keep up with clothing requirements. As a result, many (probably most) enlisted men just wore what they had, and that was often a deer skin jacket and overalls. Combinations of striped coats, fancy velvet knee breeches and straw hats were common-place. (USA #1565-1568, ISSUED 1975.)

UNITING FIGHTING TO AVERT A WAR



In the final days leading up to the American Civil War, feelings in both the North and the South were at such a high pitch that prevention of hostilities was

virtually impossible. The glory of battle had been drilled into the minds of millions of young men and only the taste of battle would satisfy their desires.

However, one individual, William H. Seward, came up with a clever plan to avert the war yet unite America in a common "fighting" cause. What was the plan? Seward wrote to President Lincoln and said that the United States should demand "explanations" from Spain and France for their intervention in Caribbean affairs. If they did not respond, then the United States

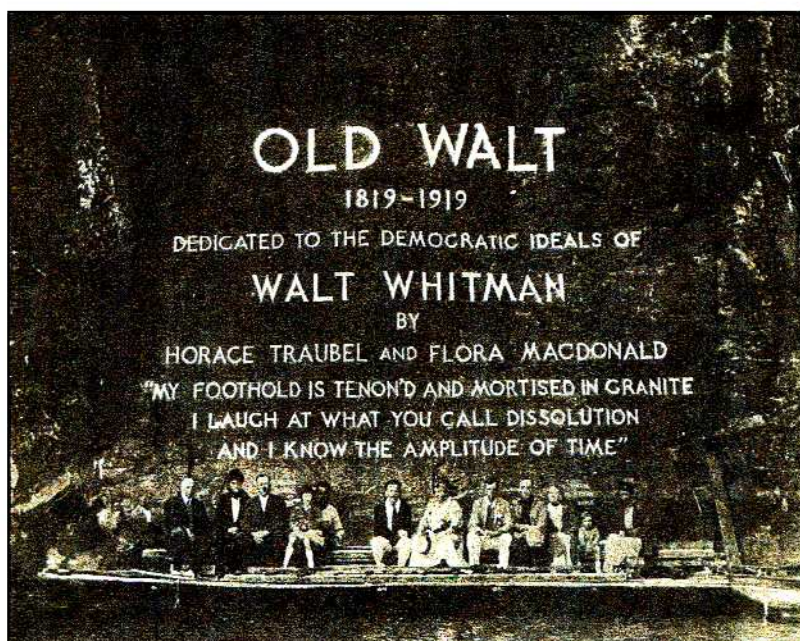
should declare war -- in other words, pick a fight. This action, Seward reasoned, would unite the North and the South in a common cause. While Lincoln declined the suggestion, it just might have worked, albeit very underhanded. However, a possible resulting war with Spain and France might have been worse than the Civil War. (USA #2975a-t, ISSUED 1995)

WALT WHITMAN'S WALL



An immense wall of granite in Ontario's Bon Echo Provincial Park was dedicated to the American poet, Walt Whitman, who is shown on this stamp. The wall or monument, appropriately named *OLD WALT*, was dedicated on August 25, 1919. Immediately after its dedication, apparitions of Walt Whitman were reported by guests of the Bon Echo Inn. Following these reports, another apparition was witnessed on August 28, 1919, by Horace Traubel, a close friend of Whitman. Traubel, along with Flora MacDonald, had sponsored the monument. Traubel reported seeing the head and shoulders of Whitman appear above the brow of *OLD WALT*. The apparition beckoned to Traubel and

whispered, *Come on*. The apparition again appeared to Traubel on September 3, 1919. This time, Whitman was in the company of two friends, Dr. Richard Maurice Bucke and Robert G. Ingersoll, both deceased, who were also friends of Traubel. Whitman said to Traubel, *Come on, come on*. Traubel then became very ill and was bed-ridden at the Bon Echo Inn. He was attended to by Colonel L. Moore Cosgrove who stayed by Traubel's bedside. One early morning Traubel started from his bed and motioned Cosgrove to look at something. Cosgrove states that about three feet above the bed there was a spectral of light, faint at first, then bright, which advanced toward both men until it touched them and then it disappeared. Traubel died three days later. This unusual story was fully investigated by Walter Franklin Prince, a Harvard University psychologist and psychical investigator. Prince published his findings in his work *Noted Witnesses for Psychic Occurrences*, (1928). The following photograph shows a group of people sitting in front of the inscribed granite wall. The poem quotation was added in about August 1920. (USA #867, ISSUED 1940)



WANDERING WORD



When George Washington was inaugurated as the first President of the United States, a Bible belonging to St. John's Lodge of the Masonic Order was used for the ceremony. A popular story has it that when the ceremony was about to begin, it was discovered that there was no Bible in place. One of the quick-thinking officials, Jacob Morton, Master of St. John's Lodge, ran "around the corner" and obtained the Bible from his lodge. This Bible has since been used for a number of presidential inaugurations and has become a very famous book. There is some conjecture that Morton actually planned that a Bible *not* be in place at the ceremony. In this way he would ensure that the lodge Bible (available on very short notice) would be used. The idea being, of course, that such action would give the Bible and the lodge a prominent place in history. While this story is amusing, realistically it is highly unlikely. Bibles were scarce in Washington's time. The fact that the Masonic Lodge had one (and a very good one, I might add) was probably known by most or all of the officials. We can realistically conclude that it was planned to use the lodge's Bible right from the start. If a Bible was not in place at the ceremony, it is most likely Morton just forgot to bring it. The Bible was last used to inaugurate a president (George Bush) on January 20, 1989. The adjacent newspaper article appeared in the New York *Daily News* on January 6, 1989. (USA #854, ISSUED 1939)

In-augurs well



KING JAMES BIBLE, printed in London in 1767, is prepared for a trip to Washington by Clifford Green, master of St. John's Masonic Lodge, 71 W. 23d St. Presidents named George swear by it. G. Washington used it for the first oath of office, in 1789, and G. Bush will do likewise Jan. 20. It has also been used by Warren G. Harding, Dwight D. Eisenhower and Jimmy Carter.

MISHA ERWITT DAILY NEWS

WAYWARD WAGONS & TANGLED TRAILS



This stamp is based on an original drawing depicting the first settlers entering the valley of the Great Salt Lake. The statement, "This is the place," is attributed to Brigham Young, the Mormon Church leader who guided the settlers to what is now the state of Utah. A major history reference work has the statement as, "This is the *right* place." Considering the situation,

this statement appears more appropriate. Nevertheless, the figure shown in the stamp design with his arms outstretched is undoubtedly Brigham Young. It is reasonable to assume Young would have been in the lead wagon and he would have made his profound declaration when the valley appeared before him. However, on the left side of the stamp, there are several wagons *ahead* of Young's wagon, as can be clearly seen in the following stamp detail enlargement.



Whatever the case, we can speculate that riding in one of the wagons is the mysterious Lucinda Pendleton (b. 1801). Lucinda is considered the most famous woman

in the Mormon Church. She was one of the plural wives of Joseph Smith (1805-1844), Brigham Young's predecessor and founder of the Church. Before she teamed up with Smith, however, Lucinda lived in Batavia, New York and was married to the infamous William Morgan. Morgan mysteriously disappeared in 1826 after he published an exposé on Masonic ritual. Several members of the Masonic Order were implicated and subsequently charged and convicted relative to Morgan's *presumed* demise. This event touched off the great anti-Masonic movement that swept across the United States and almost destroyed Freemasonry in that country. Morgan was never found, dead or alive. Some historians contend he was given a sum of money, escorted to Canada and told not to return. Joseph Smith saw in the whole event an opportunity to promote his cause. He condemned membership in the Masonic Order and all other similar Orders, thereby giving the formation of his Church greater public acceptance. Remarkably, Smith later (1841) joined the Masonic Order and was directly involved in the formation of several Mormon lodges in Illinois. He even "borrowed" Masonic symbols and ceremonies and incorporated them into his Church. Mormon exuberance for Freemasonry was astounding, resulting in the formation of numerous Mormon lodges. This action led to an inquiry by the Illinois Grand Lodge (governing body). The Mormon lodges refused to cooperate and were therefore struck from the register. The Church then reverted back to its previous stand on Masonic membership -- Mormons are not allowed to join the Order. (USA #950, ISSUED 1947)

WHAT GOES AROUND COMES AROUND



George Eastman introduced his Kodak camera in 1888. Camera's were purchased with the focus and shutter speed factory-set and they came loaded with film. After snapping all the pictures, the early photographer returned the complete camera to the Kodak Company. The pictures were developed and the camera returned, again already loaded with film. As time went on, cameras became more sophisticated and only the film was sent for processing. Camera companies then came up with the idea of one-time use cameras. Cameras are purchased "pre-set," and they are loaded with film. After the pictures are snapped, the complete camera is returned for development of the film. Save the fact that the camera is separately recycled (hopefully), we have come full circle back to Eastman's original system. (USA #1062, ISSUED 1954)

WHAT PUT THE BEAVER ON TOP



Canada's first postage stamp, which is shown here, depicts a beaver, one of the country's symbols. More than anything else, it was the beaver that lured Europeans to North America. What made the beaver so popular? It was *felt*, made from the short woolly undercoat of a beaver's fur. *Felt* was highly desired by

Europeans for making hats. The beaver's undercoat was removed, rolled or pounded flat, and then bonded with shellac. Microscopic hooks that covered each hair helped hold the felt together and reduced the amount of bonding compound needed. By the late 1600's, nearly 100,000 beaver pelts were traded each year. The hat makers prospered, charging 20-30 livres for a beaver hat (about one-third of a month's pay for a French army captain). The traders did all right as well -- their profits ranged up to 2,000 percent. The Indians who traded the pelt were not as fortunate. They never realized the true worth of their labors. As for the beavers, they got the worst of the deal. (CDN #1, ISSUED 1851)

WILD WEST FUN AND WORLD WAR I



When Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show toured Europe in 1890, Prussian army officers were quick to notice the efficiency of the circus group. They studied and took detailed notes on every aspect of how the show was assembled and disassembled. These techniques were later adapted to the movement of equipment and troops in military operations during World War I. Ironically, something that had been developed to bring laughter and happiness inadvertently aided in

the death and destruction of the *War to end all Wars*. (USA #2177, ISSUED 1988)



WOMAN WHO WOULD BE PRESIDENT



A conspiracy with potentially very dangerous consequences casts a shadow on Thomas Woodrow Wilson's presidential term. After an exhausting speaking tour, the president suffered a massive stroke that

paralyzed the left side of his body and impaired his judgment. Edith Bolling Galt Wilson, the president's wife by a second marriage, conspired with Dr. Cary Grayson to conceal the president's real condition from the government and the American people. Press releases containing phrases such as, *nervous exhaustion*, *not alarming*, *absolute rest is essential*, and the like, lulled America into a false sense of security. For seventeen months Mrs. Wilson shielded her husband from contact with virtually everyone. All matters of state were submitted to the First Lady in writing. She alone would see the President and return with his signature

on official documents. There were strong suspicions that the signatures were forgeries; however, the iron-willed first lady was never challenged. On virtually every policy decision and government appointment, the Cabinet had to take Mrs. Wilson's word as the expressed wish of the president. Historians and political scientists agree that during this time the Republic underwent a dangerous and unconstitutional transference of power. Indeed, it is argued that if President Wilson had not been incapacitated, he could have won Senate approval for American membership in the League of Nations. This action, some historians contend, could have prevented World War II. While this contention might be stretching the limits of probability, there is room for argument. If it were public knowledge that the president was unable to make decisions, then the vice-president would have relieved him of his duties. It is possible the vice president would have followed a course more closely aligned to that of the president if he was available. Whatever the case, the First Lady

would certainly not have been involved in decisions so things would have been "different." (USA #1040, IS-SUED 1956)



Edith Bolling Galt Wilson

