

THEMATICS

Nr 177: JUNE 2023

Newsletter of *Thematics Southern Africa*/ Nuusbrieff van *Tematika Suider-Afrika*

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ARTICLES FOR THEMNEWS

Most of the articles which appear in **Thematics** are sourced from a variety of available philatelic magazines; however, it would be wonderful to use more local articles. I have adjusted the newsletter to allow for local and longer articles. The request for articles remains as strong as ever.

FROM THE EDITOR OF THEMATICS

Dear Thematicists,

Last month I wrote about the long-running series of **Philatelic Terms**, and how it started. The series, in all reality, is an add-on to the newsletter, and was never intended to be an integral part of the newsletter. This seems to have changed some over time, but it is still tacked on at the end of the newsletter. As you know, there is another long-running series published in my newsletters, which is called **Facts and Feats: The Postal Services**. Once again this series is based on another publication, which was also written by James Mackay in close co-operation with Guinness Superlatives Ltd. The book's title is **The Guinness Book of Stamps**, which was published in 1982 (First Edition) and 1986 (Second Edition). I have not been able to establish whether there is a later edition. The author writes in the preface that there are normally two kinds of philatelic publications, i.e. the stamp catalogues (which lists and prices of stamps in chronological order) and books ranging from manuals for beginners to learned treatises dealing with every aspect of a single stamp or stamp issue. This book is neither, as it deals with the facts and feats of philately, the *firsts*, records, largest, smallest, rarest, the oddities and extravagances, the bizarre and the esoteric in stamps and the postal services of the world. I am very grateful for this book and the vast source that the internet has proven to be to include illustrations of most of the facts and feats included. I am also grateful for the research by the author to enable him to produce this book. This series also has been a tremendous learning experience for me, and I hope that the readers have learned from them as well.

Editor

THEMATIC MEETINGS / TEMATIESE BYEENKOMSTE

***First Saturday of the month** – *The Pretoria Chapter* meets at **10:00** in Greek Orthodox Church Hall, corner of Lynwood Road and Roper Street, (opposite UP main gate).

Contact: Helena Snyman 012-803-8922, 083-990-8953 or helena.snyman@gauteng.gov.za.

***First Saturday of the month** – *The Western Cape Chapter* meets at **09:30** in the Church Hall of the DR Church Bellville-Vallei, c/o Postma and St Andrews Street, Oakdale, Bellville.

Contact: Diederik Viljoen at 021-976-2661, 082-456-6653 or diederikaviljoen@gmail.com.

STAMP FAIRS

***First Saturday of the month** – *The Cape Stamp Fair* @ DR Church Bellville-Vallei, c/o Postma and St Andrews Streets, Oakdale, Bellville, Cape Town. **Contacts:** Ken Joseph 072-597-1287 ken@philatelicfriends.co.za Robbie Harm 082 925 7103, robertharm9@gmail.com/.

From 08:30 until 12:30. Please confirm the date of the next Stamp Fair, although reminders are sent via SMS/E-mail.

***First Saturday of the month – Pretoria Stamp Fair** @ Pretoria, Greek Orthodox Church, corner Lynwood Road and Roper Street, (opposite UP main gate) **Contact:** Paul van Zeyl at 012-329-2464 or randstamps@gmail.com. From 09:00, auction at 11:00.

***Second Saturday of the month – Kyalami Stamp Fair** @ Kyalami Country Club, 433 Maple Road, Kyalami from 09:00. **Contact:** Kenny Napier Kenny.napier@mweb.co.za or Clinton Goslin at 083-272-9367 or atlasauctioneers@lantic.net.

***Third Saturday of the month – QSA, Kyalami** @ Kyalami Country Club, 433 Maple Road, Kyalami from 09:00. **Contact:** Paul van Zeyl randstamps@gmail.com.

***Last Saturday of the month – Edenvale Stamp Fair** @ Edenvale Bowling Club, 6th Avenue, Edenvale. **Contact:** Kenny Napier Kenny.napier@mweb.co.za. From 09:00, auction at 11:00.

***Last Sunday of the month – Sunbird Stamp Auction** @ 1st Hillcrest Scout Hall, 16 Shortlands Road, Hillcrest from 09:00 until 13:00. **Contacts:** Kim Breytenbach sunbird.stampauctions@gmail.com.

THEMATICS AROUND THE COUNTRY

Pretoria Chapter – 6 May 2023

Our meeting turned out to be a wonderful impromptu meeting with Heinz Wirtz sharing with us some amazing items as well as sharing a story that is scary... He showed a wooden box with the image of Union Building 100 on the lid and inside the coins and stamps commemorating this milestone. He emphasized the importance and exhibiting possibilities of collaboration between coins, banknotes and stamp collecting. To illustrate this further he showed the Van Riebeeck stamp series and banknotes, coins combination. Also showed heads of states with their stamps and coins: with inauguration a stamp is issued and if they completed their term a coin of their profile. Then of course the pattern changes in the 1990s. The scary story: he and his stamp partner decided a month ago to do a trip to the role players in their interest field: SA Mint; Reserve Bank and Philatelic Services. They did not realise that the new coins will be gazetted on Monday, but when they heard the news thought they could buy some proofs. What a disappointment! No new coins, proofs or old coins, banknotes. Nothing is available. Then they moved to the Reserve Bank and found they can't have access, no entry and it is uncertain when the public would get entry again to the building and the collections. Off to Philatelic Services they went – the dying entity received them, showed them the museum, collections, sheets. This was at least one light in a very dark South African tunnel. The coins feature Knysna lourie (50c); Aloe (20c); Working bee (10c); Whale (R5.00); Springbuck (R2.00); Protea (R1.00). **Helena Snyman**

WC Chapter – 6 May 2023

No report was received.

Reanie de Villiers

FACTS AND FEATS: THE POSTAL SERVICES

Sunday Delivery stamps were issued by Bulgaria in 1925-39 and 1941-42. They had to be affixed to mail intended for delivery on

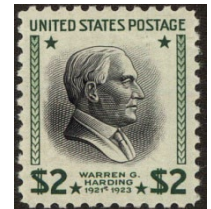


Sundays and public holidays in addition to the normal postage. The revenue from the Sunday delivery fees was used for the maintenance of sanatoriums and rest homes for postal employees and their families. The stamps actually depicted the sanatorium.

Thematic stamps



are stamps issued in sets with a common theme or subject for a limited period only. The first set of this type was issued by San Marino in April 1953 and depicted different sports. Earlier sets (such as Hungary's sports series of 1925) were issued for a specific purpose, either with a charity premium or to commemorate an event or a personality. The San Marino issue had no other motive than to provide collectors with a series whose designs explored a single theme. In December 1953 San Marino issued a set of 9 stamps depicting flowers. Before that several countries had issued definitive sets with a single theme, e.g. the USA Presidential series (1938), the Austrian provincial costume series (1934 and 1948), the Bulgarian historical scenes series (1942), and many more.



Regardless of the above very narrow view of thematic stamps, thematic stamp collectors will view any stamp that fits their collection as a thematic stamp – Ed

The longest thematic set

was issued by Turkey in 1958 and comprised 5 and 20 kuruş values depicting all the major towns from Adana to Zonguldak, a total of 158 stamps.



The first stamps depicting the most popular themes



(confined to government issues) are the United States (aircraft in 1912), Canada (animals in 1846 the St Louis postmaster stamps depicting bears), Alwar (arms and armour in 1877), Basle (birds in 1845), New South Wales (coins in 1861), Costa Rica (flags in 1863), New Brunswick (flora in 1851), Egypt (landmarks in 1867), New Brunswick (locomotives in 1860), New South Wales (maps in 1888), United States (motor vehicles in 1901), France (mythology in 1849), Portugal (religion in 1895), New South Wales (scenery in 1850), Buenos Aires (ships in 1858), Greece (sport in 1896), and Sirmoor (stamps in 1892).



Facts and feats

from Mackay, James, The Guinness Book of Stamps, Guinness Publishing Ltd, Enfield, 1988

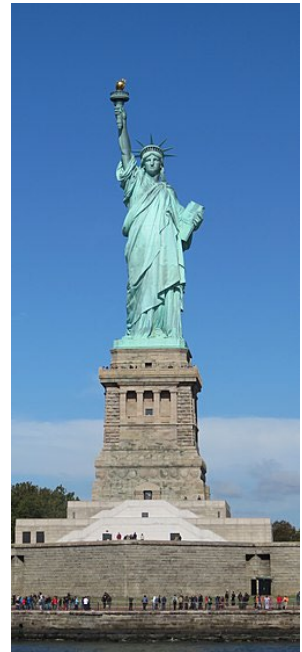
Please note that the information used for this article has in many cases been overtaken by events – Ed

TIMELINE – THE STATUE OF LIBERTY ARRIVES IN NEW YORK



On 17 June 1885, the French steamer *Isère* arrived in New York with the crates holding the disassembled statue on board. New Yorkers displayed their newfound enthusiasm for the statue. Two hundred thousand people lined the docks and hundreds of boats put to sea to welcome the ship. After five months of daily calls to donate to the statue fund, on 11 August 1885, the **World** announced that \$102,000 had been raised from 120,000 donors and that 80 per cent of the total had been received in sums of less than one dollar (equivalent to \$30 in 2021). A ceremony of dedication was held on the afternoon of 28 October 1886. President Grover Cleveland, the former New York governor, presided over the event. The **Statue of Liberty** (*Liberty Enlightening the World*; in French: *La Liberté*

éclairant le monde) is a colossal neoclassical sculpture on Liberty Island in New York Harbour in New York City, United States. The copper statue, a gift from the people of France, was designed by French sculptor Frédéric Auguste Bartholdi and its metal framework was built by Gustave Eiffel. The statue is a figure of Libertas, the Roman Goddess of Liberty. She holds a torch above her head with her right hand, and in her left-hand carries a **tabula ansata** inscribed JULY IV MDCCLXXVI (4 July 1776 in Roman numerals), the date of the U.S. Declaration of Independence. A broken chain and shackle lie at her feet as she walks forward, commemorating the national abolition of slavery following the American Civil War. After its dedication, the statue became an icon of freedom and the United States, seen as a symbol of welcome to immigrants arriving by sea. The statue was built in France, shipped overseas in crates, and assembled on the completed pedestal on what was then called Bedloe's Island. The statue's completion was marked by New York's first ticker-tape parade



An article by Christer Brunström in Linn's Stamp News Weekly of 21 November 2022

THE PHILATELIC FACE OF THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION 1948 TO 2020

By using stamp issues from around the world, the author highlights the hugely important work and history of the World Health Organisation as it celebrates its 75th anniversary this year.

National postal administrations of over 100 member states of the World Health Organisation (WHO) have, since its founding in 1948, commemorated and honoured this global organisation in philately. Stamps, and the health messages they carry, have uniquely told the story of WHO's changing role and priorities over the years. This article presents, through these stamps, the work, history, and insignia of WHO as it celebrates its 75th anniversary in 2023. It quantifies the number and periodicity of successive anniversary stamp issues. All countries in the six volume *Stanley Gibbons Stamps of World* catalogue were screened. Decennial dates were checked from 1948 to 2020, including 1973 and 2013, the 25th and 65th anniversaries, and 1966, the inauguration year of WHO headquarters in Geneva, and World Health Days commemorated annually. Excluded were stamps related to the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO), whose foundation pre-dates 1948.

Founding of the World Health Organisation

The first World Health Assembly in Geneva ratified WHO's constitution on 7 April 1948, a date marked annually since 1950 as World Health Day. In 1948 the first country to issue stamps to commemorate WHO's foundation was Switzerland, which issued overprints of its previous stamps released between 1936 and 1949, with the overprint '**ORGANISATION MONDIALE DEL LA SANTÉ**', although they depicted historical, not health-related themes (*right*). At this stage, despite its mandate for health, WHO was a small affiliate of the United Nations (UN) organisation. Accordingly, in 1949 Austria released



a single stamp bearing the UN emblem to promote the UN Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), with a picture of a child requesting help (**left**). By 1950 WHO activities had grown and the small budget of a few million dollars secured from member states was insufficient to undertake its health programme. India, therefore, at the third World Health Assembly in 1950 proposed that member states raise funds by issuing special annual World Health Day postage stamps for public purchase, with proceeds to be used by WHO, in agreement with the relevant country. This resolution kick-started and charted WHO's activities through public health philately.



The first ten years 1948–1958

The idea of promoting health through stamps did not take hold immediately. Thailand, Indonesia, and the Philippines released stamps to commemorate UN Day (24 October 1951) but none illustrated health themes. Despite its resolution in 1950, India waited until 1955 to issue its own stamp depicting mosquito control. Twenty-four other countries released stamps during the 1950s commemorating UN days or UN technical assistance, with 14 acknowledging the role of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO). None showed medical themes. During this decade UNICEF, but not WHO, was highlighted in stamp sets from Honduras (1953) and Liberia (1954), which hosted a UN World Health Conference in 1952 (**right**). The WHO emblem, chosen by the first World Health Assembly in 1948, was first used in 1956 in postal issues from the United Nations and Iran (**left and right**).



Adopting the caduceus symbol of medical science, it showed the staff of Aesculapius (the god of healing whose cult involved the use of snakes) with a serpent coiled around it (symbolising immortality and wisdom), overlaid on the UN globe symbol, the latter surrounded by a double laurel symbolising peace. Belgium issued a



single stamp in 1958 commemorating WHO which incorporated only Aesculapius' staff. This emblem was the primary design for the tenth-anniversary issues from Taiwan and South Korea, with the latter also showing children celebrating (**right**), but still no health message. It was not until 1960 that stamps to specifically commemorate World Health Day were released. Issued by Indonesia, they illustrated mosquitos, reflecting the growing international commitment to control malaria (**left**). Thus, in its first decade, the WHO emblem was little used and few stamp images reflected its work. This changed in the following decade.



WHO initiatives 1960–1978

Malaria and smallpox control campaigns became important in the 1960s and postage stamps with various iconic designs emerged, until WHO eventually produced a malaria

emblem (**right**). WHO's Executive Board finally resolved that postage stamps could make a valuable contribution and would stimulate interest and provide key information in the battle to eradicate malaria. Most member states released stamp issues to coincide with World Health Day in April 1962, with extensive omnibus issues using the malaria emblem. Paradoxically, even though dozens of African States produced malaria stamps, these countries were largely excluded from WHO's malaria control programmes. By the late 1960s, when it became clear that eradicating malaria was unrealistic, there was a large decline in malaria postal issues. In the 1960s priorities shifted from malaria to smallpox eradication. In 1965 the World Health Assembly approved a resolution establishing smallpox eradication as a major WHO priority as its eradication now seemed feasible. A new vaccine which remained heat stable for several weeks had been developed and could be delivered with an intradermal jet injector which allowed health personnel to work in rural areas. Global eradication was confirmed in May 1980 by the 33rd World Health Assembly and marked a high point for WHO.



For its 25th anniversary in 1973, stamp issues were released featuring immunisation, alongside other topics (malnutrition and children's clinics) and showing the WHO emblem (**left**). Unlike the malaria eradication campaign, the smallpox eradication programme had been accompanied by very few special stamp issues. Failure of the WHO malaria eradication program

may have blunted the adoption of a proportional philatelic initiative. Nevertheless, following smallpox eradication celebratory issues were released by several member states, some using the WHO emblem (Senegal, Lesotho and Egypt). The UN issued special releases both in 1978, at the time of eradication, and in 2018 to commemorate the 40th anniversary of eradication (**right**).



Inauguration of WHO Geneva Headquarters and regional offices 1966



The innovative modern design of the new WHO Geneva building by the Swiss architect Jean Tschumi (1904-1962) created an exceptional statement. He deliberately drafted preliminary architectural sketches within the limited proportions and dimensions of a postage stamp. This followed the philosophy of French designer Émile-Jacques Ruhlmann (1879-1933) who advised that designs should fit on a postage stamp to ensure fine craftsmanship. In 1966, 67 countries plus the UN, celebrated the inauguration of WHO headquarters with stamp issues illustrating this Geneva building – the largest philatelic release depicting a single building (**left**). WHO has six regional offices in Africa; the Americas; Eastern Mediterranean; Europe; South-East Asia, and the Western Pacific, but only three African States issued commemorative stamps showing their own regional buildings (Gabon, Liberia, and Tchad).



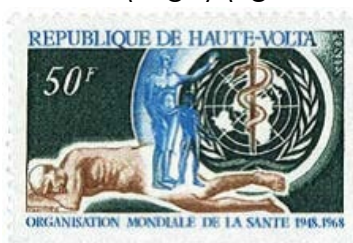
Some regional office activities were represented postally (**top right**). A special stamp to commemorate the 10th European Regional Meeting, which showed a breastfeeding mother, was issued by Denmark in 1960, which also issued a 1972 stamp to commemorate the inauguration of the WHO regional building in Copenhagen. In 1963 an overseas aerogramme commemorated the 14th WHO Regional Meeting of the Western Pacific Committee held in Papua New Guinea.

WHO anniversary issues 1968–2018

The 20th, 25th and 40th anniversaries of WHO's foundation were dates which corresponded to times of immense technological development in health care. Philatelic issues were frequently used to commemorate these events and captured shifts in WHO strategies. Many commemorative stamps were issued by 132 countries for these anniversary dates. Eastern Mediterranean and African States released more issues than other regions, with the fewest from Europe and America. For the 20th anniversary, 20 states opted to use the WHO emblem alone (**left**), while others included images of man's control of the world (Mauritania); aid to the sick (Upper Volta); children (Lesotho); provision of hope represented as



as flowers and sunshine (St Pierre et Miquelon), or more dramatically, Rembrandt's anatomical dissection of the skull, which was contrasted with Raphael's portrait of Christ healing the sick (Togo) (**right and below**). Other themes adopted



were: mythical (Greece: goddess Hygieia); expressive hands (Libya); national flags (Brazil, Ghana); doctors (Somalia, Tunisia); Arab physicians (Syria); nurses (Fiji, Morocco, Gibraltar); child images (Argentina, Senegal, Zambia); surgery (Ghana), or a Head of State (Brunei). Vaccination, illustrated by Albania, Cuba, and Kenya, was not prominent as the WHO Expanded

Program for Immunisation was not launched until 1974.

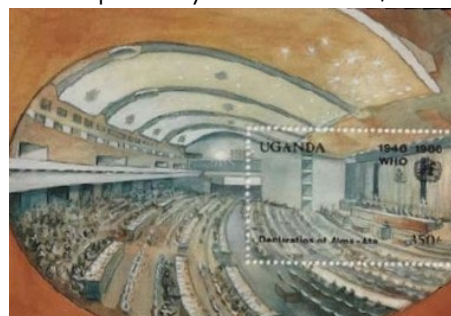
In the 1960s the impact of population growth and fear that reduced mortality from improved disease control would lead to increased population size, led to much greater emphasis on family planning. Although the World Health Assembly resolution in 1968 recognised contraception as a component of basic health services, it was a sensitive topic. Twentieth-anniversary stamp issues ignored this



thorny issue and only one set showed images of a small nuclear African family (**right**). The theme for the annual World Health Day in 1973, which corresponded to the 25th WHO anniversary, was 'Health Begins at Home' and is well depicted in a commemorative set from Zambia on 'Clinics at your service' (**left**). A new period



of collaboration between WHO and UNICEF endorsed primary health care programmes, following a much-publicised international conference in 1978 on primary health care, held at Alma Ata in Kazakhstan and commemorated on a Ugandan miniature sheet (**right**). Yet fewer anniversary WHO stamps were issued in 1973 than for the 20th anniversary in 1968. Mexico celebrated it with a stamp celebrating Dr Rodolfo Robles (1878-1939), who first described onchocerciasis (caused by a parasite that can lead to blindness). Switzerland released five stamps incorporating the WHO emblem in 1975 but without a health message. No commemorative stamps were released for the 30th anniversary in 1978.



In the following decades, many new WHO health initiatives were launched without accompanying stamps. An exception was the 1985 Universal Childhood Immunisation Initiative, leading to the 1988 goal to eradicate poliomyelitis and improve childhood vaccine coverage. For the 40th anniversary in 1988, stamp issues mostly emphasised the WHO emblem, with Mauritania colourfully illustrating a schematic figure waving the emblem (**left**). Later anniversary issues between 1998 and 2018 were far fewer for all WHO regions except South-East Asia. Only nine countries produced issues for the 50th anniversary. WHO now shared leadership in international health with other agencies on issues such as

AIDS; vaccine and drug development; neglected tropical diseases; safe motherhood; tuberculosis, and malaria control. The philatelic response by postal institutions was to switch emphasis from releases related to WHO's main anniversary to commemorating World Health Days, UNICEF campaigns, or National programs, such as those on HIV prevention and lung disease.

World Health Days

The first stamps to commemorate World Health Day appeared on 7 April 1961 and 1962 as part of the 'The World United against Malaria' campaign. Since then, many countries have issued stamps in April, the month WHO was founded, to promote the health theme adopted by WHO for that year. For the 1972 theme of 'Your Heart is your Health', Cameroun depicted the venous and arterial circulations and the heart and large blood vessels in an airmail issue (**right**), while a Belgian stamp showed a WHO emblem transplanted over a heart. In 1976 (theme: Foresight prevents blindness); in 1980 (theme: Smoking or health, the choice is yours)



(**left**) and in 2013 (theme: Stay healthy, check your blood pressure) more than 20 countries issued stamps for each theme, and in 1987 (theme: Immunisation, a chance for every child) Papua New Guinea issued a special

aerogramme. For the 70th anniversary of WHO in 2018 the UN issued six stamps, without the WHO emblem, on World Health Day for that year promoting universal health coverage (**right**). Only two other countries





issued stamps for this anniversary (Sierra Leone, Central African Republic). In addition to World Health Days, member states also commemorate other official health days to raise awareness and understanding about health issues. Most do not include the WHO emblem. For World TB Day, for example, they have been used to honour Robert Koch (1843-1910), who discovered the tubercle bacillus. In 2009 the UN issued a stamp with the message to *combat HIV/AIDS malaria and other diseases* but with its own emblem (**above left**).

Discussion

The iconic WHO emblem has been used by more than 100 states since WHO's foundation in 1948, bolstering the global role of the organisation and cementing its identity. Since 1998 there have been far fewer anniversary issues across all WHO regions, except South-East Asia, which has the smallest number of member states. Several countries have never issued any health-related stamp using the WHO emblem, or text of WHO, including South Africa, the United Kingdom, Spain, Italy, France, Chile, Ecuador, and New Zealand. Nevertheless, postal agencies still value the role of stamps reflecting the work of WHO. The UN Secretary-General in July 2020 launched UN postage stamps to support the COVID-19 Solidarity Response Fund, which paid tribute to health workers around the world. (**right**). So, with the current number of WHO member states registered as 194 (for 2021), how many will choose to commemorate postally WHO's forthcoming 75th anniversary in 2023?



An article by Bernard Brabin in Gibbons Stamp Monthly of May 2023

CANADA, BASEBALL & PHILATELY

When one thinks of Canada and sports, the first thing that comes to mind is usually ice hockey. Yet, baseball has held a very storied place in the history of Canadian sports, and its development occurred almost simultaneously with the game in the US. Most baseball fans today are aware that Canada has been the home of two Major League teams: the now-defunct Montreal Expos and the Toronto Blue Jays (**right**), but this is as far as most fans' knowledge usually goes.



In this article, I would like to briefly examine the topic of baseball in Canada as it relates to philately. The game of baseball as we know it, developed from the English game of rounders. In New England, this game became very popular and gradually evolved into a sport known as townball. During the 19th century, townball was often played informally after public events, such as picnics and town meetings. Townball eventually developed into two distinct games, known as the Massachusetts or New York games. The Massachusetts game was closest in form to townball and was played with 10 to 14 men on a team. The New York game was played with the more traditional 9 players. These two early versions of baseball vied for popularity throughout the early history of the game.

The first recorded baseball game, which used a variation of the Massachusetts rules was played in Beachville, Ontario, on June 4, 1838. This is the first recorded baseball game in



Canada and the earliest newspaper account of a game in North America. In fact, the game was played a full year before the more famous, yet completely fictitious, American game was supposedly held in Cooperstown, New York. In 1988, this historic event was commemorated by Canada Post on a 37¢ stamp called **"Baseball in Canada"** (*left*). The early history of organized Canadian baseball is closely tied with what

is now southwestern Ontario. The first professional Canadian team, named the Young Canadians, was formed in Hamilton, Ontario, in April 1854. At this time the Massachusetts rules were still favoured in Canada. However, this changed in 1859 when the New York Rules were introduced to the country in Hamilton, Ontario.

During the 1860s, the growing trend towards international play led to the demise of the Massachusetts game and the eventual adoption of the New York game rules in Canada. In 1867, three southwestern Ontario teams - Woodstock, Hamilton and Ingersoll - entered the world baseball tournament in Detroit, Michigan, with Ingersoll winning the junior class team championship. In 1868, the Canadian Championship was won by the team from Woodstock. However, in 1869 the title went to the Guelph Maple Leafs. The Guelph team's climb to the top of the Canadian baseball world may have been fuelled by the fact that they were the first team to import professional players from the US. Guelph's president, George Sleeman – owner of The Sleeman Brewery which still operates in Guelph today – formed the first Canadian League in 1876, with teams located in the Ontario cities of London, Kingston, Toronto, Guelph and Hamilton.

During the next few years, the Guelph Maple Leafs were the league's dominant force. They were finally dethroned by the London Tecumsehs, after the team signed six Americans among which was Fred Goldsmith, one of baseball's very first curveball pitchers. In 1877, several smaller American cities joined together to establish a new league



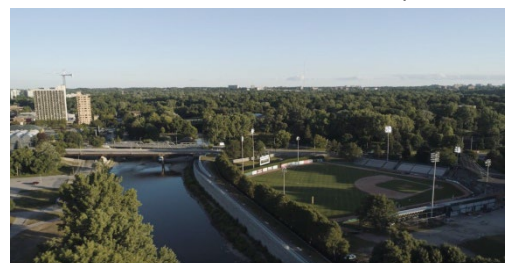
called the International Association. This new league, which was started to challenge the already established National League, included teams from the Canadian cities of London and Guelph. The London Tecumsehs won the league's first championship with a season-ending victory over the Pittsburgh Alleghenys.

Earliest known image of Labatt Park, London, Ontario.

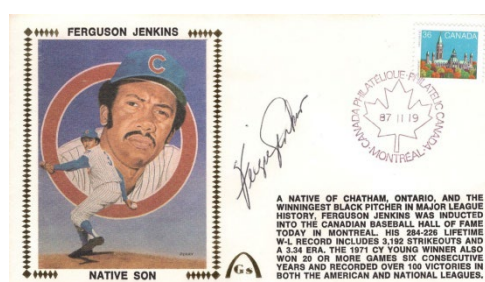
The game took place at the team's new ballpark in London.

A contemporary image of Labatt Park, London, Ontario.

This ballpark, named Labatt Park, still stands today and is the home of the semi-professional London Majors, winners of the International Baseball League Championship in 2021. Labatt Park is recognized by *The Guinness Book of World Records* as the oldest baseball field in continuous use in the world. Teams from both Toronto and Montréal would eventually join the International Association, with Montréal quickly developing a reputation for having Canada's rabid baseball fans. The Montréal team was at one time owned by Charles Trudeau, the father of former Canadian Prime Minister, Pierre Trudeau and grandfather of current Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau.

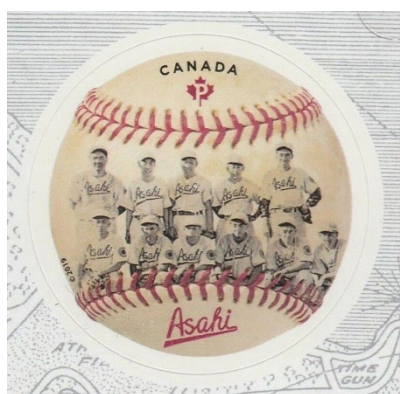
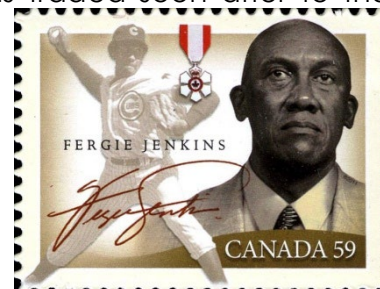


In the 20th century, the two Canadian minor league teams, which belonged to the International Association, are associated with the early careers of two of baseball's greatest stars. On September 7, 1914, Babe Ruth (**left**) hit his first professional home run in Toronto, as a member of the minor league Toronto Maple Leafs, for whom he also pitched a one-hitter that day. While in 1946, Jackie Robinson (**right**) became the first black player to play in modern "organized" baseball, when he appeared in a game for the minor league Montreal Royals. He was a crowd favourite, leading the Royals to that year's minor league baseball championship.



Perhaps the greatest MLB player to ever come from Canada was Chicago Cubs pitcher Ferguson Jenkins. Jenkins grew up in Chatham, Ontario, where he excelled in baseball, basketball, and hockey. His family had originally arrived in Canada on the Underground Railroad which had its terminus in Chatham. After graduating from high school, Jenkins signed with the Philadelphia Phillies but was traded soon after to the

Chicago Cubs. In 1967, he posted the first of six consecutive 20-game winning seasons. After Jenkins retired from the major leagues in 1983, he continued to pitch for the London Majors at Labatt Park in London, Ontario through 1985. Jenkins was inducted into the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame in honour in 2007 when he was inducted into the Order of Canada. In 2011, Jenkins was honoured with a postage stamp by Canada Post as part of the Black History series (**right**).



While Ontario is considered an important centre of early Canadian baseball history, the province of British Columbia, located on Canada's west coast, has also played an important role in the game's history. The minor league Vancouver Canadians played in the Triple-A Pacific Coast League and are now members of the Class A League. There can be no doubt that British Columbia's most storied team is the Vancouver Asahi. The team made up of Japanese Canadians, functioned from 1914 to 1942. Unable to match the brawn and size of other Canadian teams of the day, the Asahi played a different style of baseball, which was created

by their manager Harry Miyasaki. Miyasaki called his game "brain ball," and stressed the importance of precision bunting, base stealing and the use of the pinpoint sacrifice. Under Miyasaki's leadership, the team won championships in 1926, 1930, 1932 and 1933. Sadly, on February 24, 1942, just six weeks after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour, the team, along with 22,000 other Japanese-Canadians living within 160 km of the Pacific Coast, was interred in various detention camps. Following the end of the war, the Asahi never re-formed. In August 2008,



the Asahi was recognized as a National Historic Event by the Government of Canada. In 2019, Canada Post issued a stamp to honour the team (**above left and right**).

An article by Gregg Redner in Topical Time 433 of May-Jun 2022

ANCHORS AWEIGH! A POSTAL SALUTE TO THE U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY

Many U.S. stamps have shown graduates of the U.S. Naval Academy since the 1936-37 Army and Navy series introduced the Academy from a postal perspective.

On March 6, 1936, the **Washington Evening Star** reported: "By request of President Roosevelt, the Post Office Department will bring out a series of postage stamps in homage to the memory of famous soldiers and sailors. The set will be known as the Army and Navy Commemoratives ... "... the President desires to employ the stamps to show people the history of the military and naval establishments of the government. Patriotism, he believes, must be intelligent, and even the Post Office Department can help in the work of educating the masses to understand the traditions of the armed service." Over the next 15 months, the Post Office Department issued 10 postage stamps, five honouring the Army and five honouring the Navy. The first four stamps in each set honoured heroes from the Revolutionary War through the Spanish-American War. The final stamp in each set featured the respective service academy at West Point for the Army and Annapolis for the Navy. In many ways, postage stamps tell our nation's history, highlighting the people, places and institutions that have made our country great. The Army and Navy series formally introduced the U.S. Naval Academy to the American public from a postal perspective. The 4¢ Navy stamp issued on 23 March 1937, marked the first time that a U.S. Naval Academy graduate appeared on a U.S. postage stamp.

The stamp, shown on a first-day cover **right**, features Admiral of the Navy George Dewey (U.S. Naval Academy class of 1858; all following mentions of class also refer to the U.S. Naval Academy), and Rear Adms. William T. Sampson (class of 1861) and Winfield Scott Schley (class of 1860), all of whom distinguished themselves as naval heroes of the Spanish-American War.

A first-day cover of the 4¢ Army and Navy series stamp honouring naval heroes of the Spanish-American War. The stamp shows George Dewey (U.S. Naval Academy class of 1858), William T. Sampson (class of 1861) and Winfield Scott Schley (class of 1860). This marked the first time that the Naval Academy graduates were depicted on a U.S. postage stamp.

Dewey defeated the Spanish fleet in the Battle of Manila Bay in the Philippines in May 1898. Sampson and Schley destroyed the Royal Spanish Navy in the Battle of Santiago de Cuba in July 1898, ensuring the independence of Cuba from Spanish rule. For a detailed history of the 4¢ Navy stamp featuring Admiral Dewey, see "FDR and the 4¢ Navy Stamp" by Paul M. Holland in the November 2022 issue of *The United States Specialist*, published by the United States Stamp Society. The 5¢ stamp honouring the Naval Academy (Scott 794) is shown postmarked on 26 May 1937, the first day of issue **left**.



the corresponding Army stamp, featuring the U.S. Military Academy, was issued at West Point, N.Y.) Although the stamp was officially issued at the Annapolis post office, many covers

were postmarked on the first day of the issue at the post office's Naval Academy branch located inside Bancroft Hall.

Built in 1906 to house the midshipmen, Bancroft Hall, with 1,700 dorm rooms, holds the distinction of being one of the largest academic dormitories in the world. The stamp features the academy seal, flanked by midshipmen dressed in 19th and 20th-century uniforms. This stamp is probably the one most frequently associated with the academy and is still used today by collectors seeking postmarks for special events. Stamp designer Stevan Dohanos proposed more than a dozen designs for the 5¢ stamp, including those shown in Figure 3 from the W. Curtis Livingston collection at the Smithsonian's National



Postal Museum.

Essays for the 5¢ Navy stamp in the U.S. 1936-37

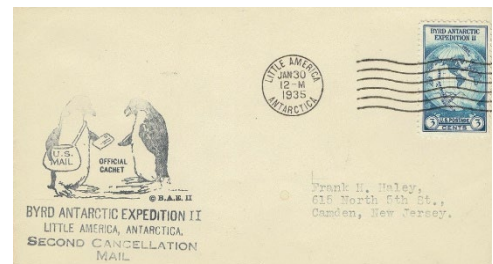
Army and Navy series.

Image courtesy of W. Curtis Livingston Collection, National Postal Museum.

The essay shown on the left features Bancroft Hall. The middle design depicts a rather whimsical seahorse as its central figure. The essay on the right shows the academy chapel (see discussion when illustrating *Swift*). The final approved design for the 5¢ stamp, by Alvin R. Meissner of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, more aptly represents the academy to the American public. Meissner designed all five stamps in the Navy series.

Although the 4¢ Army and Navy stamp featuring Sampson, Dewey and Schley was the first to depict Annapolis graduates, they were not the first graduates whose accomplishments were honoured on a stamp. That distinction belongs to Adm. Richard E. Byrd (class of 1912), whose second Antarctic expedition is commemorated on a 1933 3¢ stamp (Scott 733), as seen on the cover *right*.

The 3¢ Byrd Antarctic stamp, shown on a cover postmarked in Little America, Antarctica, commemorates the second Antarctic expedition of Medal of Honour recipient Adm. Richard E. Byrd (U.S. Naval Academy class of 1912). The reverse of the cover (not shown) is postmarked as received in San Francisco on March 25, 1935.



The stamp was based upon a design suggested by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, who was also a renowned stamp collector. It depicts Byrd's record-setting Arctic, Antarctic and trans-Atlantic flights and anticipated his Little America expedition. The stamp was subsequently issued in several different formats, both perforate and imperforate.

One of four stamps issued in 1988 to honour Antarctic explorers features Richard Byrd.



Byrd was awarded the Medal of Honour for his 1926 flight over the North Pole. Following his 1929 Antarctic flight, Byrd was promoted to rear admiral at the age of 41, becoming the youngest admiral in the history of the U.S. Navy. In 1988,

Byrd was personally recognized on a 25¢ stamp *left*, in a set of four stamps commemorating Antarctic explorers.

Fleet Adm. Chester W. Nimitz (class of 1905) was honoured in 1985 on a 50¢ stamp issued for his 100th birth anniversary (Scott 1869). The stamp, shown *right*, was one of over 60 issued between 1980 and 1999 in the Great Americans series.

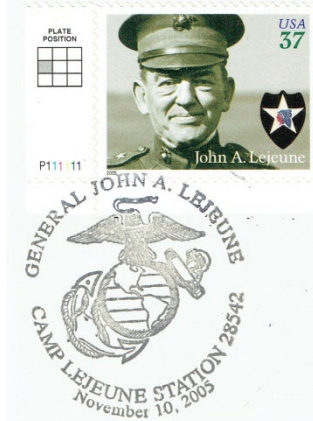
The 50¢ stamp honouring Chester Nimitz (U.S. Naval Academy class of 1905) postmarked on the first day of issue aboard the aircraft carrier USS Nimitz.



Nimitz served as commander in chief of the U.S. Pacific Fleet and Pacific Ocean areas during World War II. He signed as representative of the United States when Japan formally surrendered on board **USS Missouri** in September 1945, and he later served as chief of naval operations from 1945-47. Nimitz is the only one of the Navy's four five-star admirals to appear on a U.S. postage stamp. The **USS Nimitz (CVN-68)**, currently the oldest aircraft carrier in the U.S. Navy fleet, was commissioned on May 3, 1975, under the command of Rear Adm. Bryan W. Compton Jr. (class of 1951). At the time the Nimitz stamp was issued and postmarked aboard the **Nimitz**, it was under the command of another Naval Academy graduate, Rear Adm. Eugene D. Conner (class of 1957). In 2005, the U.S. Postal Service issued four Distinguished Marines stamps honouring legendary 20th-century marines (Scott 3961-3964).

These followed a similar series issued in 2000 honouring distinguished soldiers (3393-3396).

A 2010 Distinguished Sailors stamp honours William Sims (U.S. Naval Academy class of 1880). The pictorial postmark was used on the first day of the issue in Norfolk, Va.

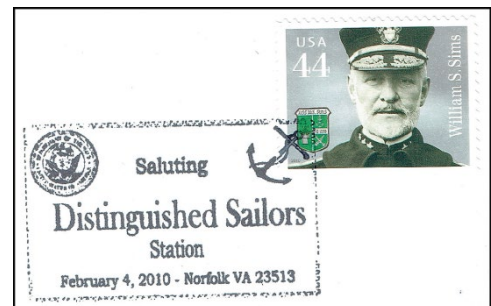


Those featured on the Distinguished Marines stamps included Medal of Honour recipients both before and after the war. During his second term, he wrote and published **The Victory at Sea**, describing his experiences in WWI. **The Victory at Sea** won the Pulitzer Prize for History in 1921.

Distinguished Marines stamp honours John A. Lejeune (U.S. Naval Academy class of 1888). This pictorial postmark was used in the U.S. Marine Corps Camp Lejeune on the first day of issue.

The ship's crest of the destroyer escort **USS W. S. Sims (DE-1059)** is depicted in the lower-left corner of the stamp. The **USS W. S. Sims** was commissioned in 1970, under the command of another

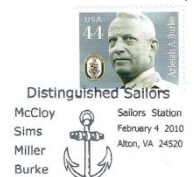
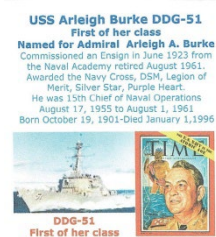
Naval Academy graduate, Capt. Charles M. Plumly (class of 1955).



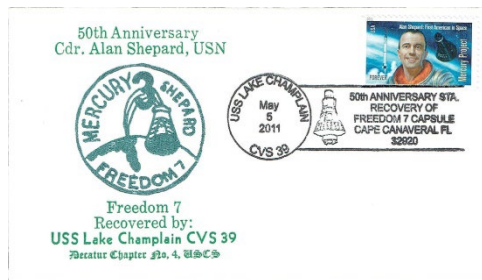
The stamp shown **right** features Arleigh Burke, who distinguished himself during WWII as chief of staff to the commander of Task Force 58, the 5th Fleet's Fast Carrier Task Force, and as the commander of Cruiser Division 5 during the Korean War.

A first-day cover with a pictorial postmark honouring distinguished sailors. The cover is franked with a Distinguished Sailors stamp featuring Adm. Arleigh Burke (U.S. Naval Academy class of 1923).

He later served as chief of naval operations during the Eisenhower and Kennedy administrations. On July 4, 1991, Burke was present in Norfolk for the commissioning of the **USS Arleigh Burke (DDG-51)**, the lead ship of the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyers. The ship's crest appears on the stamp. In 2011, 50 years after becoming the first American in **(some 68 of these ships have already been built – Ed)** space, Alan Shepard (class of 1945) became the first U.S. astronaut whose portrait appears on a U.S. postage stamp (Scott 4527). One of the first Mercury 7 astronauts, Shepard made his historic 15-minute suborbital flight on May 5, 1961. In 1971, at age 47, Shepard became the fifth, and oldest, person to walk on the moon and the only one of the Mercury 7 astronauts to do so. Later that year, he was promoted to rear admiral, the first astronaut to reach that rank. Shepard was awarded the Congressional Space Medal of Honour by President Jimmy Carter on Oct. 1, 1978. The stamp was designed by veteran stamp designer Phil Jordan, who also designed the Distinguished Sailors and Distinguished Marines stamps. It depicts



Shepard, his Mercury Redstone launch vehicle and the *Freedom 7* capsule. The cover **left** shows the stamp postmarked with a special cancellation recognizing *Freedom 7*'s recovery vehicle, the aircraft carrier **USS Lake Champlain**, commanded by Capt. Ralph Weymouth (class of 1938) at the time of the landing.



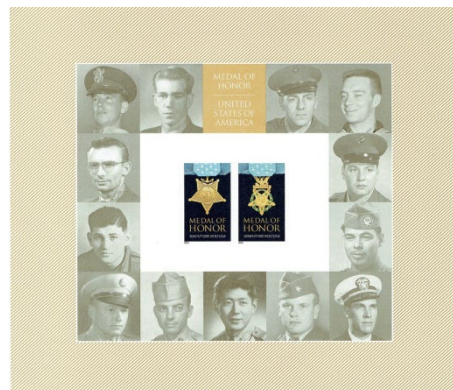
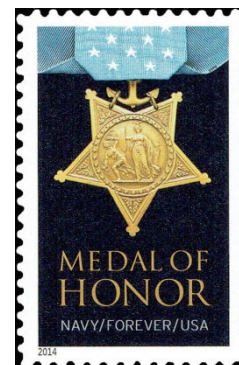
The 44¢ stamp honouring Alan Shepard (U.S. Naval Academy class of 1945) was postmarked the day following the stamp's first day of issue. The cover commemorates the recovery of *Freedom 7* by the aircraft carrier *USS Lake Champlain*.

The carrier was decommissioned in 1966; this postmark mimics its original naval postmark.

Each year from 2013 to 2015, the USPS issued similar folios of stamps featuring the Medal of Honour.

The 2014 issue of the Medals of Honour U.S. forever stamp, was originally issued in 2013. The 2014 issue honours the U.S. Navy Medal of Honour winners from the Korean War.

The 2013 folio honoured WWII recipients, followed by Medal of Honour recipients from the Korean War in 2014 and the Vietnam War in 2015. To the **right** shows the 2014 stamp for the Navy Medal of Honour (4823a). Postage stamps on the front cover of each folio depict the Medal of Honour from each service surrounded by photographs of living Medal of Honour recipients from that war.



Each folio's interior lists the names of every Medal of Honour recipient from that war.

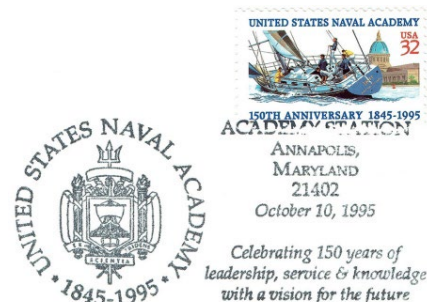
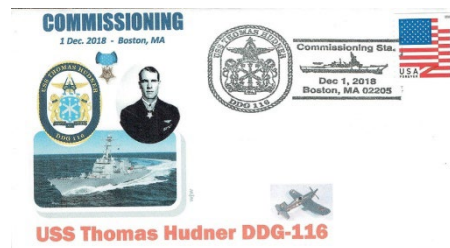
A 2014 folio featuring Korean War Medal of Honour recipients. The folio includes stamps depicting the Army and Navy versions of the Medal of Honour. Naval Academy graduate Lt. j.g. Thomas J. Hudner Jr. (class of 1945) appears in the lower right corner.

The photo **left** shows the 2014 Korean War folio, which includes a photograph of Thomas J. Hudner Jr. (class of 1945) in the lower right corner. Lieutenant, j.g. Hudner received the Medal of Honour for his actions in trying to save the life of his wingman, Ensign Jesse L. Brown, who

had been shot down.

The **USS Thomas Hudner**, an Arleigh Burke-class destroyer named in his honour, was commissioned a year later in December 2018. The illustration **right** features a naval cover marking the commissioning of this destroyer.

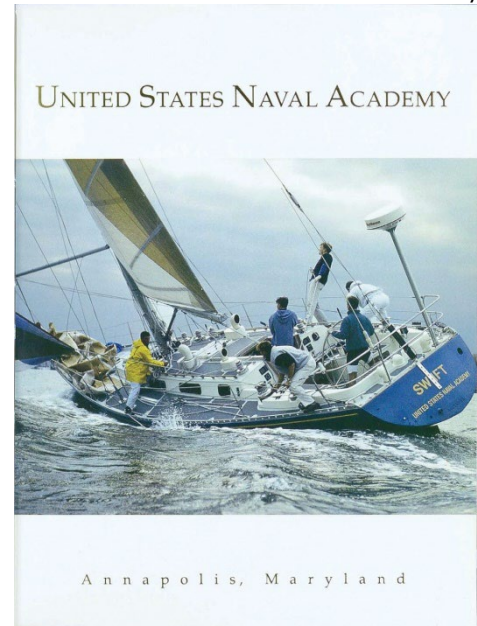
A naval cover marking the commissioning of the U.S. Navy destroyer *USS Thomas Hudner*, named after Hudner, who is pictured in the folio shown above **left**.



For the academy's sesquicentennial in October 1995, the USPS issued a stamp based upon a composite watercolour depicting the Offshore Sailing Team's sloop *Swift* sailing in the Chesapeake Bay with the academy chapel in the background. Shown **left above** shows this stamp. Artist Dean Ellis used a photograph originally taken by Diane Olmstead, the U.S. Naval Academy publications director, for the cover of the academy's 1993-1994 catalogue,

which can be seen **below right**. The background image of the chapel is based on a photograph taken at Sycamore Point in Eastport, Md., by Robert W. Madden, a senior assistant editor of **National Geographic**. Although the Annapolis city post office (ZIP code 21401) was listed as the official first-day site, the formal first-day ceremony took place in

Mahan Hall, one of the academy's oldest academic buildings. Speakers included Secretary of the Navy John H. Dalton (class of 1964) and USPS Senior Vice President Michael J. Riley (class of 1965). The Naval Academy branch post office (ZIP code 21402) offered several pictorial postmarks to commemorate the occasion. Despite USPS policy that stamps will not depict living individuals, the crew members of the **Swift** can be easily identified in the original photograph, including Midshipmen Ara Barton and Chip Wrye (class of 1993); Stephen Karson, James Detwiler and William Wright (class of 1995); and Timothy Kinsella (class of 1996). Kinsella, seen in the upper right corner (dressed in whites) was still a midshipman when the stamp was released. Though it was common knowledge at the time, neither the USPS nor the Naval Academy would officially acknowledge that these were the figures depicted on the stamp. Addressing this point, following the first-day ceremony, Deputy Postmaster General Michael S. Coughlin remarked: " ... the stamp does not violate two customs of U.S. stamp design — that no living persons appear on stamps and that stamps are not issued to commemorate birthdays of academic institutions. Depicting anonymous human figures is different from honouring specific people ... [and this] really has more to do with national security."



While this article has focused on U.S. postal items, some of the graduates seen here, along with others, have appeared on stamps worldwide. Nimitz was honoured on the tabs



(attached labels) of a 2014 stamp issue in Israel. Albert A. Michelson (class of 1873), the 1907 Nobel Prize winner in physics, is seen on stamps from several countries, including a 1967 issue of Sweden. President Carter (class of 1947) has appeared on stamps from Guyana (Scott3439I) and Liberia (817-819, 933, 2569i, 3179i).



Astronauts are popular figures on stamps, and several U.S. Naval Academy astronauts have been recognized in this manner, including Sunita Williams (class of 1987), who was featured on a 2011 stamp from Chad. Each of these little pieces of paper tells its own interesting story, and collectively they honour one of our country's greatest institutions and its graduates. President Roosevelt's desire to have the Post Office Department " ... help in the work of educating the masses to understand the traditions of the armed service" remains an honourable goal still being achieved today.

(Author's note: an earlier, shorter version of this article appeared in the May 2022 issue of *Shipmate*, the journal of the U.S. Naval Academy alumni association. 10 October marked the 177th anniversary of the U.S. Naval Academy.)

Martin (Jay) Joyce is a 1974 graduate of the United States Military Academy. He is the author of **Postmarked West Point: A US Postal History of West Point and its Graduates**, the author of a variety of philatelic journal articles focused on West Point graduates and the Military Academy, and a Vermeil award winner at the 2021 Great American Stamp Show. He specializes in philatelic material related to the U.S. service academies. The author wishes to thank Sam Limneos, assistant archivist, U.S. Naval Academy Nimitz Library Special Collections and Archives Department, Gregory Finnegan of the Universal Ship Cancellation Society (USCS), and retired U.S. Navy Capt. Timothy Kinsella for their assistance in preparing this article.

An article by Martin H. Joyce III in Linn's Stamp News Weekly of 16 January 2023

PHILATELIC TERMS: N-3

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Naba Sheet

This is the nickname given to a souvenir sheet issued by Switzerland for the 1934 Swiss National Philatelic Exhibition held in Zurich. The sheet contains four definitive stamps showing Swiss scenes and at the top has the inscription NABA 1934 Zurich.



Nabha



Nabha was a Convention State in northern India, which issued stamps from 1885 until they were replaced by stamps of the Republic of India. Nabha's stamps were issues of British India overprinted **NABHA STATE** with official stamps bearing the additional overprint **SERVICE**. They were valid to any point in British India.

Nagaland



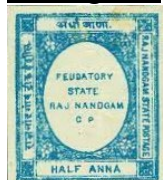
Labels inscribed **NAGALAND** exist and have confused collectors for several years. Nagaland is an area in India, located adjacent to the Burmese (Myanmar) frontier. The inhabitants of the area have made attempts to secede from India, but without success. The so-called Nagaland "stamps" are propaganda labels prepared for an independence movement. They have no postal status and should be considered *Cinderella material*.

Name Block

Panes of the US Overrun Countries of 1943-44 have the names of each country printed in the selvage. Blocks of stamps including that part of the selvage bearing the country name are known as **name blocks**. There are no plate numbers on the panes. The stamps were produced by the American Bank Note Co.



Nandgaon



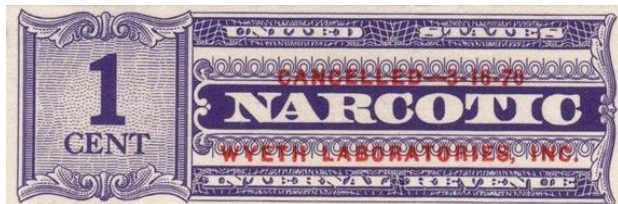
Nandgaon was an Indian Feudatory State, which issued its own stamps from 1892 to 1895. These were only valid within the borders of the state. The state was located in Central India and is now part of the Republic of India and uses its stamps. The state capital was the city of Rajnandgeon.

NAPOLETANA

This inscription on a stamp identifies that it is a stamp used in Naples during the period of the Kingdom of Two Sicilies.



Narcotic Tax Stamps



These are US revenue stamps that came into use after the Revenue Act of 1918 imposed a tax on narcotics such as opium. The stamps were placed on the drug containers to indicate payment of the 1c per ounce tax. The tax was repealed in 1971, and the use of

revenue stamps was discontinued as from 30 April 1971.

NA SLASK

This is an overprint on the first issue of Central Lithuania accompanied by a surcharge that converts the stamps into semi-postals. The overprint **NA SLASK** means "for Silesia", and the funds raised by the surtax were to be used to help finance the plebiscite in Upper Silesia following World War I.



Natal

Natal is now a part of the Republic of South Africa, and is better known as Kwazulu-Natal. But before that it was a British colony south of Mozambique and Eswatini (Swaziland) and east of Lesotho. In philatelic terms it is best remembered for the beautiful Chalon Head design used for several of the early stamps of the colony. Subsequent issues were in the more mundane, utilitarian, and downright ugly royal profiles decorated with typical late Victorian clutter. The territory had been annexed by the Cape Colony in 1844, and was born as a separate colony in 1856. The first stamps appeared in 1857, which were created by colourless embossing of various forms of the royal cipher on coloured paper. These were followed by the first of the Chalon Head design stamps. The territory has seen many wars from 1879 until the Boers defeated the British Army during the siege of Ladysmith. However, the British came back in mid-1900 and expelled the Boers. This also resulted in certain areas from the Transvaal being added to Natal's territory in 1903. Natal became part of the Union of South Africa in 1910.



National Bank Note Company



The **National Bank Note Co** was a US company of security printers that produced US stamps from April 1870. They lost the contract to the Continental Bank Note Company on 1 May 1873. The idea of applying a grill to stamps to make it impossible to remove cancellations and re-use the stamps was developed by Charles F. Steel and sold to the National Bank Note Co, which used it on many of the stamps they produced.

NATIONALER/VERWALTUNGS-SAUSSCHUSS/10.XI.1943

This is an overprint found on the stamps of Montenegro issued in 1943 while that country was under German occupation. The stamps had been issued by the previous Italian occupation authorities. Counterfeits of the overprint are known to exist.



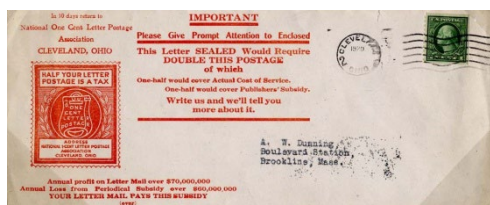
National One Cent Letter Postage Association

This is an organisation devoted to lowering the US first-class letter rate from 2c to 1c. The organisation was founded by Charles W. Burrows, who had retired from the family bookselling and stationery business to use his time to the campaign. Burrows and his followers believed that the 2c letter rate



was unfair and that first-class rate users were subsidising users of the second-class rate. The first-class rate had been introduced in 1885 and the second-class rate was 1c per ounce. The organisation had its office in Cleveland, Ohio, and it published circulars and pamphlets in support of its aim. In addition to a special cachet, Burrows has special labels prepared to support the cause. The inscription on these labels read

ONE/CENT/LETTER/POSTAGE in the centre with **HALF YOUR LETTER/POSTAGE IS A TAX** at the top and **ADDRESS NATIONAL ONE/CENT LETTER POSTAGE/ASSOCIATION/CLEVELAND, O** at the bottom. These were printed in red on white



paper and were given free on members' stationery. Although they looked like postage they were not intended to be used for that purpose. In some cases, covers went through the mail with these labels. There are three varieties of the labels, a) red lettering on white at the top and bottom of the tablet, b) white

lettering on a red background on both tablets and c) a coil version with white lettering on red at the top and red lettering on white at the bottom. There also is a variety of red lettering on white, in which **CLEVELAND, O** is 12mm in length instead of 10mm. Burrows continued his fight until 1925 when he disbanded the organisation. He passed away seven years later in 1932.

NATIONALSOCIAL DEUTSCHE ARBEITERSPARTEI

This is an inscription found on German franchise stamps issued in 1938 for the Nazi Party.



NATIONS UNIES OFFICE EUROPEEN

This overprint can be found on Swiss stamps issued in 1950 for use at the United Nations European office before the release of UN Geneva stamps. Beginning in 1955, stamps inscribed **NATIONS UNIES HELVETIA** were used until replaced on 4 October 1969 by the United Nations own Geneva Offices issues.



Compiled by Robert Harm on 14 May 2023