

TOPICAL TIDBITS



September/October 2012

Volume 1 Issue 5

STAMP COLLECTING

Welcome to the Wonderful World of Stamp Collecting. Young and old, rich and poor, kings and queens –all have enjoyed the hobby. On these pages you can learn more about philately (fə-'lā-tə-lē) as stamp collecting is called.

Also, within these pages are three opportunities for you to earn stamp gifts and prizes.

- On page 10, after learning what Perfins are, we challenge you to see how many words you can make just using the letters P-E-R-F-I-N-S.

- On our Stamp Fun, page 16, try your hand at creating a cartoon. Find a stamp, any stamp, even a picture of an actual postage stamp, glue it to a 3x5 file card. Then write what the person or object in the design of the stamp might be saying or thinking.

-Think you can crack the code on page 18?

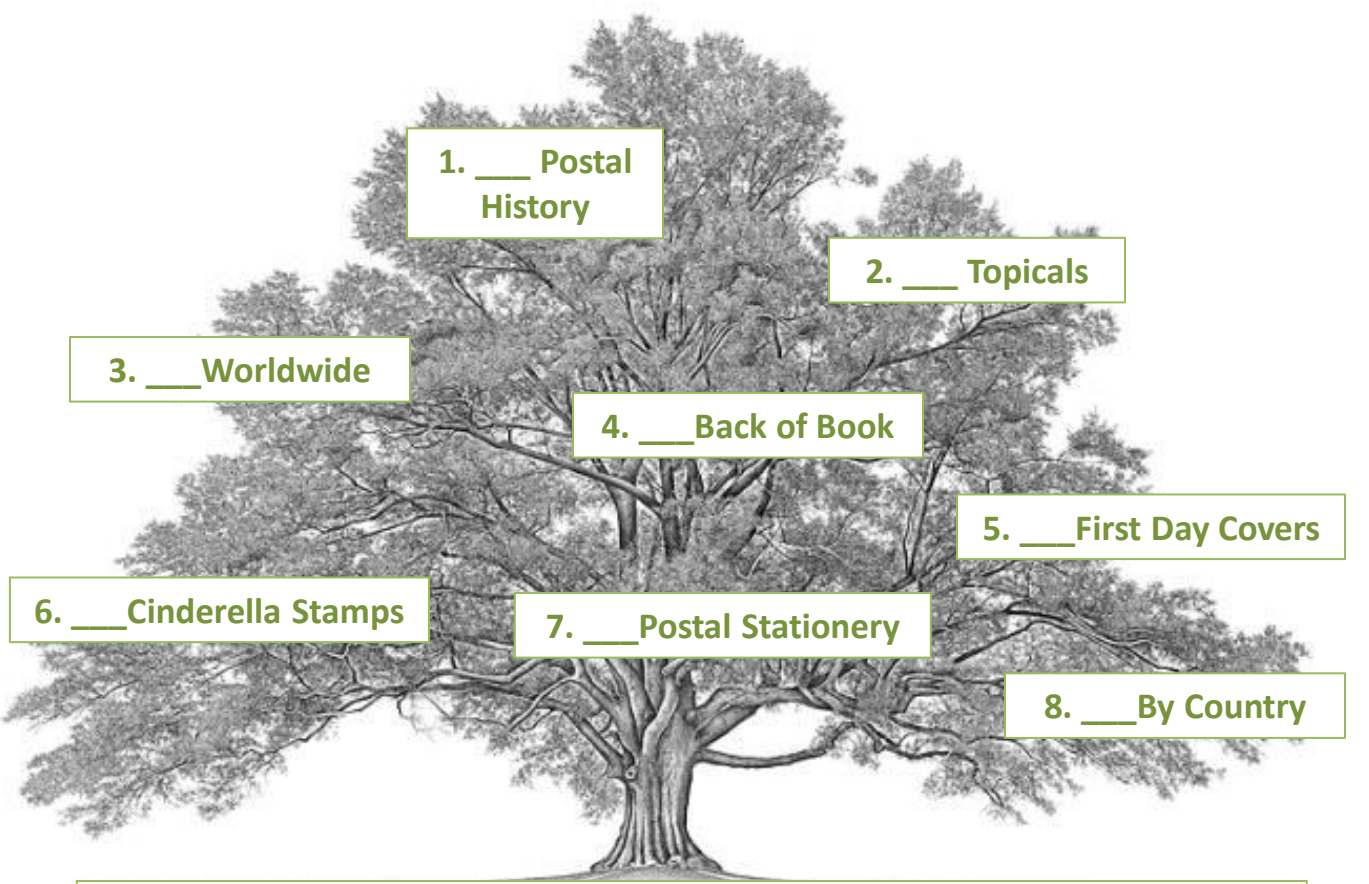
After you have completed one or more of the above activities, send them in an envelope along with your complete name, mailing address, age, and collecting interests. All entries will receive a philatelic gift. Winning cartoon entries will receive prizes and be published on this website. The person making the most words from PERFINS will receive a prize. A drawing for a special prize will be made from the entries for “Crack the Code.”

Deadline to mail your entries is October 31, 2012. Mail to:

MaryAnn Bowman
Topical Tidbits- Stamp Collecting
P.O. Box 1451
Waukesha, WI 53187



BRANCHES OF PHILATELY



1. ___ Postal History

2. ___ Topicals

3. ___ Worldwide

4. ___ Back of Book

5. ___ First Day Covers

6. ___ Cinderella Stamps

7. ___ Postal Stationery

8. ___ By Country

Supported by parents, teachers, mentors, clubs, and organizations

Look at the pictures below and match them to the correct word on the tree. Answers are on page 20.



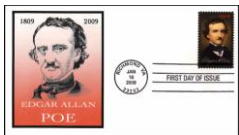
A. These stamps look like real stamps but can not be used for postage.



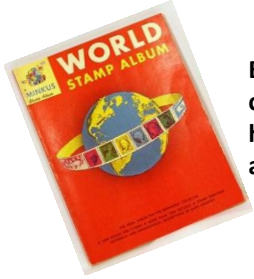
B. This method of collecting includes aerograms, postcards, and envelopes that have the postage preprinted on them.



C. These stamps can be collected by subjects – dogs, chess, trains, etc.



D. These envelopes have a stamp postmarked on the first day that the stamp could be used.



E. This way of collecting would have stamps from all over the world.



F. Stamps which are found in the back of most specialized stamp catalogs. Includes revenues, airmails, and postage dues, along with many others.



G. This type of collection would have stamps from just one country.



H. This method of collecting involves studying covers to learn about their history.

OTHER WAYS OF COLLECTING

Stamp collecting doesn't just have to be about collecting *stamps*. There are many other stamp-related items to collect. Here are some fun, and inexpensive ways to add to your collection.

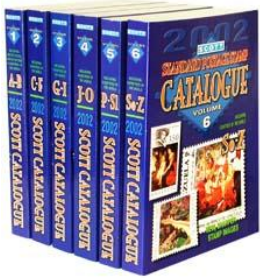
1. Look for cancels from your birthday or birth year. For example, if you were born on June 16, 2003, you could look for postmarks from 2003 or from June 16th of any year.
2. Try to collect a cancel from all 50 states. To make it more challenging, add Washington, D.C., and U.S. territories.
3. See if there is a city with your name and try to collect cancels from there. You might need an adult to help you do an online search. You could also collect cancels of your family's and friends' names.
4. How about stamps of a particular shape—triangles or other odd shapes?
5. Stamps on a single topic or theme; for instance fairy tales or space exploration, would be fun. You could also look for covers and cancels with the same topic.
6. Why not try and see how many of one stamp you can get? This is a good way to find varieties and differences in stamps.
7. You could look for stamps that illustrate your personal history—maybe stamps from the state where you were born or stamps that show things you like.
8. What about stamps containing a favorite color?
9. Stamps issued since your year of birth would be a nice way to start a collection.
10. Stamps showing the U.S. flag can be found on American and foreign stamps.
11. Using an old page from a calendar, try to find a cancel for each day of that month, regardless of year. You could even try doing all twelve months!

STAMP COLLECTING TOOLS

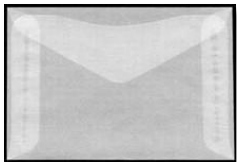
Stamp collectors use several special tools. The list below shows how these tools are useful and how they can help make stamp collecting fun and easier. Match each description to the picture. Answers are on page 20.



A. Stamp Tongs



H. Catalogues



B. Glassine Envelopes



I. Stock Books



G. Watermark Tray



E. Magnifying Glass

1. _____ I can use these to put my stamps into my album.

2. _____ I need this to tell how old my stamps are, what their designs show, and what their values are.

3. _____ I might use these to protect expensive stamps when I put them in an album.

4. _____ I can use this to store my duplicates, or stamps waiting to be put into my album.

5. _____ When I want to look at my stamps closely, I can use this.

6. _____ I will use this to handle my stamps so that I don't get them dirty or damage them.

7. _____ When my stamps have different sized perforations, I can use this to tell them apart.

8. _____ This is what I can put my stamps into once they are organized and I am ready to show them off.

9. _____ If I want to store lots of stamps without having to get a stockbook, I can use these see-through envelopes.

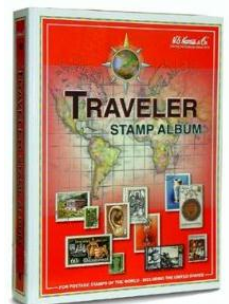
10. _____ When I have stamps that look the same, but may have different watermarks as pictured in a catalog, here is what I'll use.



J. Hinges



F. Perforation Gauge



D. Stamp Album



C. Mounts

DO'S & DON'TS OF COLLECTING

There are many things you can do to make sure that your stamp collection stays nice. See if you can figure out the do's and don'ts of the hobby. Circle either **DO** or **DON'T** and then check your answers on page 20.

1. **DO/DON'T** use stamp hinges to put stamps in your album.
2. **DO/DON'T** keep stamps out of the rain and away from high humidity, and damp basements and attics. Mold and mildew can form on stamps.
3. **DO/DON'T** put food or drink on the same table where you are working with stamps.
4. **DO/DON'T** leave older stamps on envelopes- at least until you check with an adult collector or stamp dealer. The cancellations or other markings may have more value than the stamp alone.
5. **DO/DON'T** leave your stamps out in bright sunlight or under electric light. These can fade the stamps.
6. **DO/DON'T** remove selvedge attached to your stamps if it has markings on it such as plate numbers, color registration bars, or other explanatory information.
7. **DO/DON'T** cut stamps from envelopes and package wrapping so that you leave paper around the stamps and don't cut the perforations.
8. **DO/DON'T** wash your hands before you work with your stamps.
9. **DO/DON'T** try to peel stamps off an envelope or package.
10. **DO/DON'T** put your stamps away when not being used; especially if you have younger brothers or sisters – or pets – that might mistake them for toys.
11. **DO/DON'T** put stamps in your pocket unprotected.
12. **DO/DON'T** store albums with mint stamps in them upright. Stacking heavy albums on top of one another may result in mint stamps sticking to the pages.
13. **DO/DON'T** write on the back of your stamps in ink or with a felt tip pen.
14. **DO/DON'T** scrape or pull old hinges off the back of stamps or you'll pull part of the stamps off, too.



Take Care!

There are many dangers that a stamp faces on its way from a post office into your stamp album. By knowing about them, you can help make the journey safe- and preserve the value of your stamps, too. Use a coin for a marker and a die, spinner, or some other manner of selecting a number between 1 and 6. Play this game with a friend.

S
T
A
R
T



Buy stamps at the post office, put them in back pocket. **Skip ahead 3.**

Oops – stamps stick together when you sit down at school. **Go back to “start.”**



Put stamps away carefully.

Put stamps away so carefully, they can't be found. **Lose one turn.**

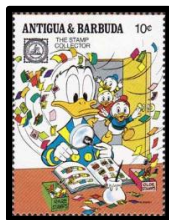


Wind blows stamps all over the room. Need to pick them all up. **Lose a turn!**

Stamp placed safely half an inch into the envelope. **Go ahead 2 spaces.**

Forgot to put stamp on letter! **Go back 2 spaces.**

Stamp gets put on a letter.



When letter arrived in mail, cut stamp carefully from envelope. **Go ahead 3 spaces.**

Ouch! Scissors slipped, cut stamp by mistake! **Go back 2 spaces.**



Tried to pull stamp off the paper – gets thin spot. **Lose a turn.**

Spilled a glass of milk on the table top, discoloring stamps. **Go back two spaces.**

Remembered to wash hands. Stamp stay clean. **Go ahead 2 spaces.**



Shared your collection with a friend.



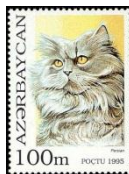
Successfully soak stamps from paper using warm water. **Good for you!**



Use tongs to handle the stamps. Take an extra turn.



Sort stamps into piles – but cat jumps on table and mixes them all up. **Lose a turn while you re-sort.**

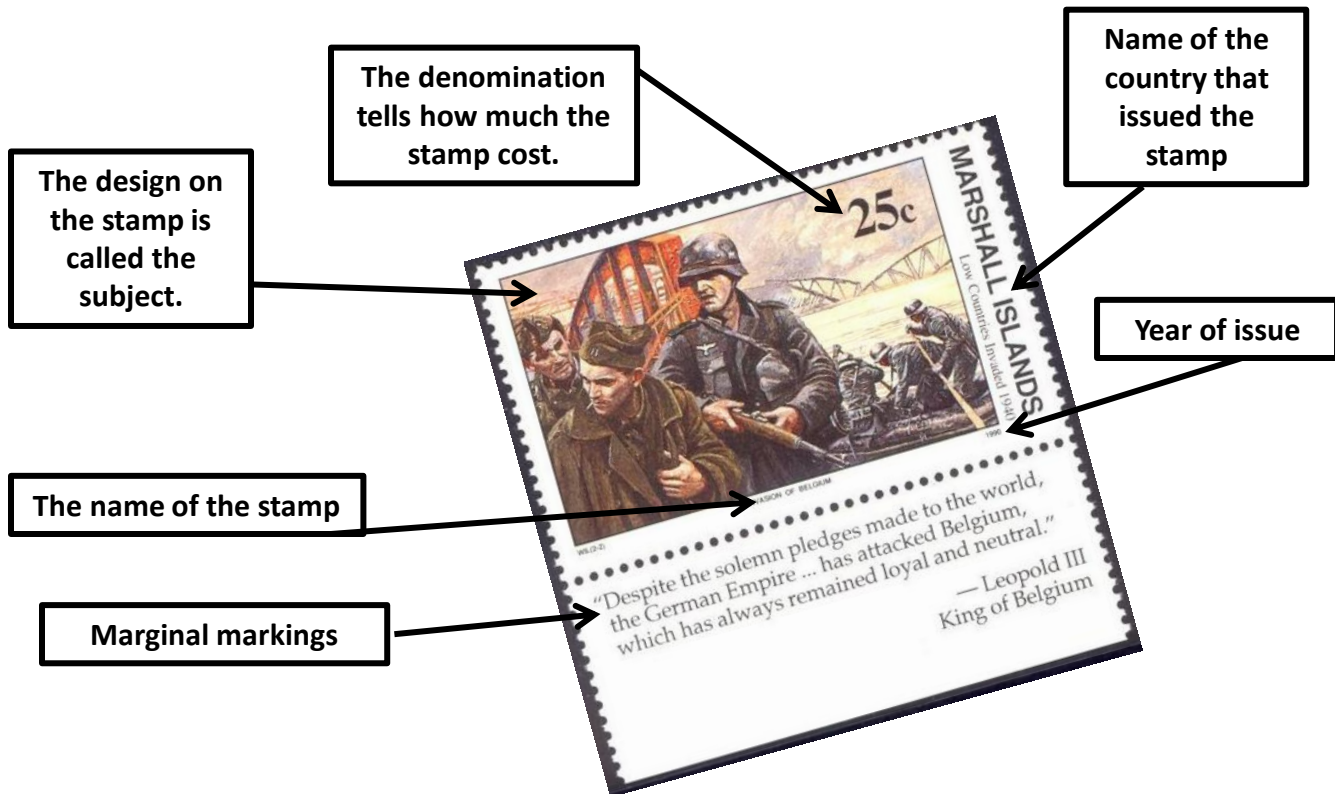


Put stamps in album with hinges, not glue.

You've done it!
You've gotten safely to the end of the journey.
Congratulations!



PARTS OF A STAMP



RATE CHANGE STAMPS

Rate-change stamps are used while definitive stamps with the new rate are designed and printed. Rate stamps use letters of the alphabet instead of numbers for the denomination. Using the hints at the right, see if you can figure out the face value of all the stamps. Answers are on page 20.

- “A” stamps at 15¢ each = _____ ¢
- “B” stamps at 18¢ each = _____ ¢
- “C” stamps at 20¢ each = _____ ¢
- “D” stamps at 22¢ each = _____ ¢
- TOTAL = _____ ¢



TYPES OF STAMPS

Two types of stamps are regularly used in the mail. Read about them below.



DEFINITIVES:



- Regular issues of postage stamps, usually sold over long periods of time.
- No special purpose for the stamp except to pay postage.
- Smaller stamps
- Often printed in very high quantity – billions.



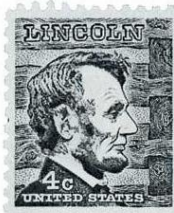
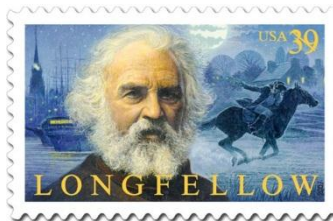
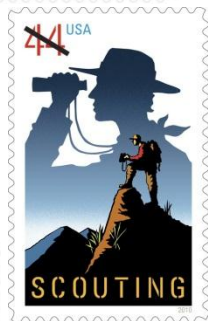
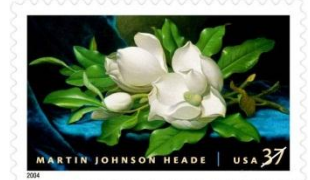
COMMEMORATIVES:



- Stamps that honor anniversaries, important people, or special events
- Sometimes issued in sets of stamps
- Larger than definitives
- Printed in smaller quantities

Using the guidelines above, circle all the definitives below.

Answers are on page 20.



SPECIAL SERVICE STAMPS

Stamps have been issued to prepay many special postal services, and even to pay for non-postal use. Below you will find some of these stamps with the background on why they were created. All those shown are American issues. Most of these stamps and the service they provide no longer exist today. Find the stamp on the left that matches the description on the right. Answers can be found on page 20.



A.

B.



C.



D.



E.



F.



G.



H.

1. _____ **Postage Due:** Postage due stamps were issued to signify collection of postage charges not prepaid by the sender.

2. _____ **Air Mail:** The first air mail stamps were issued on May 13, 1918. A premium was paid for air mail because it generally meant faster delivery.

3. _____ **Special Delivery:** The first special delivery stamp appeared in 1885 reflecting a law passed by Congress. It could be affixed to any stamped letter or article of mailable matter to secure faster delivery once the article reached its intended post office.

4. _____ **Newspaper & Periodical Stamps:** First issued in 1865, these stamps were intended to pay the postage on bulk shipments of newspapers and periodicals.

5. _____ **Special Handling:** The extra fee for special handling was to assure faster handling of parcel mail.

6. _____ **Post Office Seals:** These gummed stickers are used by the post office to close mail that has come open or has been damaged in transit.

7. _____ **Hunting Stamps:** First issued in 1934, these stamps continue to be issued yearly for use on Federal licenses for hunting waterfowl. The receipts go into a fund to maintain waterfowl life in the U.S.

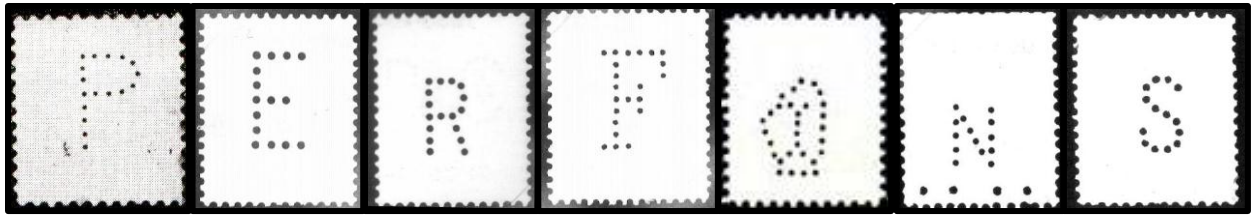
8. _____ **Revenue Stamps:** Begun in 1862, revenue stamps were used to show that the appropriate tax had been paid.



PERFINS



“Perfins” is an abbreviation for “**per**forated **ini**tials.” As you can see from the pictures, these stamps have holes punched in them that form various letters or shapes. Companies would do this to keep employees from using the stamps on their personal mail. Using the letters in the word PERFINS, see how many different words you can come up with. Good luck!



A large writing area with blue horizontal lines and a red vertical margin line. It is surrounded by several perforated stamps with words formed by holes, including 'POSTAGE', 'AUSTRALIA', 'NEW ZEALAND', and 'ONE PENNY'.

UNITED STATES "FIRSTS"

Can you match the "firsts" in U.S. philately below with the actual stamps?
The answers can be found on page 20.



1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.



7.



8.



9.



10.



11.



12.

- A. _____ Automobile on a stamp
- B. _____ Self-stick stamp
- C. _____ Christmas stamp
- D. _____ Stamp showing the name of a living person
- E. _____ Se-tenant
- F. _____ Black Heritage stamp
- G. _____ Stamp showing a spacecraft
- H. _____ Stamp showing an airplane
- I. _____ Stamp showing a rocket
- J. _____ American woman on a stamp
- K. _____ Commemorative stamp
- L. _____ Air Mail stamp
- M. _____ Stamp showing a tree
- N. _____ Full color U.S. flag on a stamp



13.



14.

STAMP ODDITIES

Stamps come in all shapes and sizes. Look below and find your favorite.



Japan issued this heart-shaped Snoopy stamp in 2010.



This diamond-shaped stamp from Sierra Leone honors the Boy Scouts.



These triangle stamps are from the United States.



These hexagonal stamps were issued by Taiwan in 2012 and show 6 types of bees.



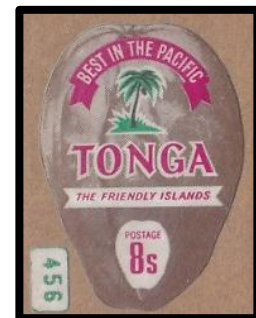
These cut-out animal stamps are from Japan.



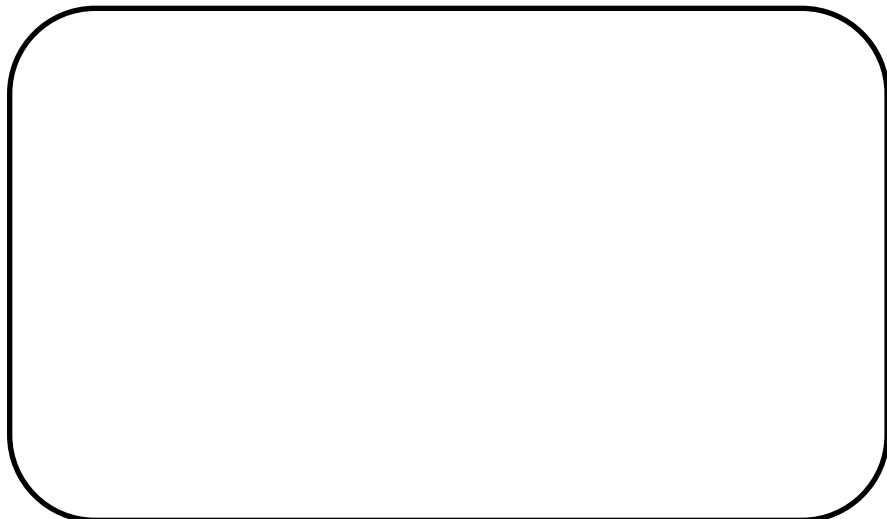
This stamp from Austria was issued in 2008. It is made of the same material as a soccer ball.



This banana-shaped stamp from Tonga looks good enough to eat.



Another stamp from Tonga is shaped like a coconut.



Use this space to design your own odd-shaped stamp. Don't forget to put the name of the country it's from and the denomination (how much it's worth).

STAMP NICKNAMES

Stamps come in all shapes and sizes. Philatelists have come up with nicknames for a few of them. This makes it easier for people to know what others are talking about.



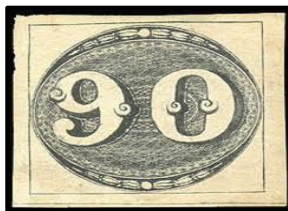
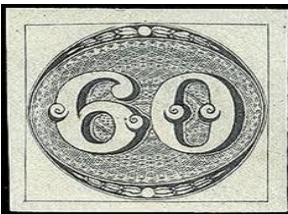
The “Penny Black” was the world’s first postage stamp. It was issued in 1840 by Great Britain.



Issued in 1851-1852, the “Missionaries” were the first stamps of the Hawaiian Islands. They are called this because they were used on mail from missionaries on the islands to people back in the United States.



The “Black Jack” was considered unusual in 1863, when it was issued, because of its large, close-cropped portrait of President Andrew Jackson.



One of the most famous error stamp in the world, the “Upside Down Jenny” or “Inverted Jenny” was issued in 1918.



The imagery was supposed to symbolize speedy mail delivery but because of the helmet’s resemblance to a stylish woman’s hat of the era, it became known as the “Merry Widow.”

In December 1908, the Post Office Department released a new 10¢ Special Delivery stamp depicting the helmet of Mercury.

Brazil was the second country to issue stamps that were good for the whole country. This set, issued in 1843, mis called the “Bull’s Eyes” because of the way the ornamentation looks on the numbers.



The 1938 “Prexies” feature U.S. presidents in order of their terms of office. They begin with George Washington on the 1¢ and end with Calvin Coolidge on the \$5 stamp.

WHAT'S MY COUNTRY? PART 2

Imagine you are looking at a large stack of mail from overseas. Can you tell what country the different letters came from by reading the words and abbreviations that appear on the stamps? Select your answer from the four choices that appear next to each stamp. Answers are on page 20. (Part 1 of "What's My Country" appeared in the May/June 2012 issue of Topical Tidbits.)



- 1. DDR:**
- Denmark
 - German Federal Republic
 - German Democratic Republic
 - Austria



- 6. NORGE:**
- Norway
 - New Zealand
 - Niue Island
 - Netherlands



- 2. HELVETIA:**
- Haiti
 - Switzerland
 - Sweden
 - Hungary



- 7. NEDERLAND:**
- Norway
 - New Zealand
 - Niue Island
 - Netherlands



- 3. ROMINA or ROMANA:**
- Russia
 - Rhodesia
 - Romania
 - Ryukyus



- 8. LIBAN:**
- Libya
 - Liberia
 - Lebanon
 - Luxembourg



- 4. REPUBLICA DOMINICANA:**
- Dahomey
 - Dominican Republic
 - Dominica
 - Denmark



- 9. GRONLAND:**
- Guernsey
 - Greenland
 - Guatemala
 - Guinea



- 5. BELGIE or BELGIQUE:**
- Bolivia
 - Belgium
 - Burundi
 - Burma



- 10. :**
- Japan
 - Thailand
 - Great Britain
 - France

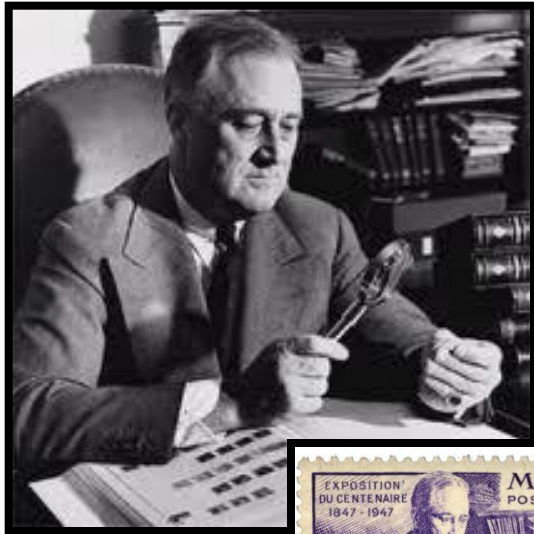
FAMOUS STAMP COLLECTORS



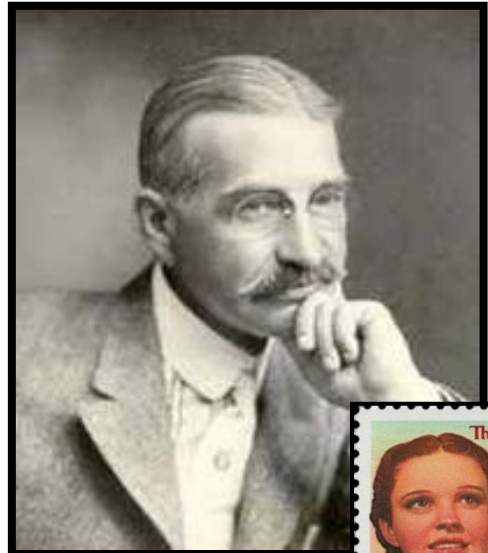
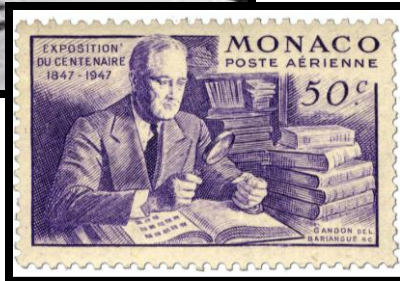
Queen Elizabeth II



John Lennon – singer
(His collection can be seen at www.postalmuseum.si.edu/lennon/)



President
Franklin
Roosevelt



L. Frank Baum – author
of The Wizard of Oz



Bruce Wayne –
otherwise known
as “Batman”

STAMP FUN



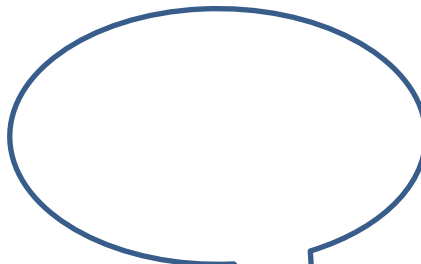
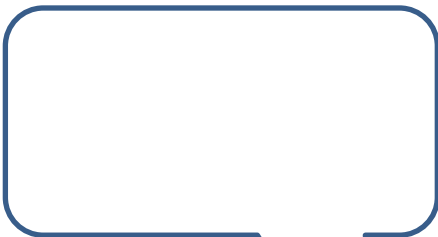
Why didn't the frog get his mail?
He forgot his Zip Toad.

What letter isn't found in the alphabet?
The one you mail!



How is a naughty boy like a postage stamp?
They both need a good licking.

Think about what each of these characters could be saying and write it in the bubble.

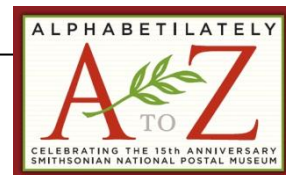


ALPHABET STAMP GAME

For this game you will need a U.S. stamp catalog. Read each clue and use the date mentioned to find the stamp in the catalog. Once you've found it, use the picture to solve the clue. Hint: The answer starts with the letter before the blank. Good luck! Answers can be found on page 20.

- A. _____ The background object on this 1966 stamp issued to honor John Chapman.
- B. _____ The 1972 Olympic Games issue features this sport on its 8¢ stamp.
- C. _____ This 1966 stamp features a beloved symbol of the American circus.
- D. _____ The 100th anniversary of the ASPCA, whose aim is the protection of animals, features this.
- E. _____ One of the designs shown on the 6¢ 1970 Natural History set.
- F. _____ Two of these examples are shown on the 3¢ 1948 stamp picturing Peter Stuyvesant.
- G. _____ The 1957 stamp honoring the 100th anniversary of the National Educational Association shows a teacher and student working with this.
- H. _____ A pair of these are found on the 1971 Care stamp.
- I. _____ This 1961 4¢ stamp portrays the favorite subject of the artist Remington.
- J. _____ These are featured on Audubon's 5¢ and 20¢ stamp issued in 1967.
- K. _____ Ben Franklin is seen holding this on a 1956 3¢ stamp.
- L. _____ The pictured item on the 1970 Maine Statehood stamp.
- M. _____ Seen on the 8¢ Stamp Collecting stamp of 1972.
- N. _____ The 1952 3¢ stamps was a well-deserved tribute to these ambitious boys.
- O. _____ The animal portrayed on the 3¢ 1949 stamp on the Centennial of the Minnesota Territory.
- P. _____ The device shown on this 1939 stamp was brought from England to Massachusetts in 1639 by Stephen Daye.
- Q. _____ This symbol is found on all 5 of the Famous American's set of authors.
- R. _____ This symbol appears on a 3¢ stamp issued in 1952 for an organization founded in 1864 by Jean Henri Dunant and organized in America by Clara Barton.
- S. _____ The largest part of this 4¢ 1961 Kansas Statehood stamp features this.
- T. _____ This 3¢ stamp of 1953 shows great vehicles that carry much of the country's freight.
- U. _____ A 1963 5¢ stamp done by Norman Rockwell shows a mailman with one of these.
- V. _____ The 1968 Register and Vote stamp shows an eagle and this.
- W. _____ These birds, once near extinction, are featured on the 1957 Wildlife Conservation stamp.
- X. _____ In the 19th century, the Washington stamp used this to show the denomination of the stamp.
- Y. _____ A stamp issued in 1968 by the Order of the Elks was issued to honor these.
- Z. _____ These airmail stamps came in denominations of 50¢, 65¢, \$1.30, and \$2.60.

For more stamp alphabet fun, visit: www.alphabetilately.com.



CRACK THE CODE

See if you can figure out the coded message below. Use the red boxes to figure out the code.
Hint: Every time you see the letter F in the paragraph below, it really represents the letter A in the message.

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

A

X	T	R	J	X	Y	F	R	U	H	T	Q	Q	J	H	Y	T	W	X	H	T	Q	Q	J	H	Y
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

R	F	Y	J	W	N	F	Q	P	S	T	B	S	F	X	J	W	W	T	W	X	K	W	J	F	P	X
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

F	S	I	T	I	I	N	Y	N	J	X	(J	K	T	'	X)	.	Y	M	N	X	N	X	R	F	-
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Y	J	W	N	F	Q	Y	M	F	Y	B	F	X	S	T	Y	U	W	T	I	Z	H	J	I	N	S	Y	M	J
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

K	T	W	R	Y	M	F	Y	B	F	X	N	S	Y	J	S	I	J	I	.	X	T	R	J	Y	N	R	J	X
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

H	F	Q	Q	J	I	"	U	W	N	S	Y	J	W	'	X	B	F	X	Y	J	,	"	N	Y
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X	M	T	Z	Q	I	M	F	A	J	G	J	J	S	I	J	X	Y	W	T	D	J	I	G	J	K	T	W	J
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J	A	J	W	W	J	F	H	M	N	S	L	U	T	X	Y	T	K	K	N	H	J	H	T	Z	S	Y	-
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J	W	X	.	T	S	J	T	K	Y	M	J	R	T	X	Y	K	F	R	T	Z	X	X	Y	F	R	U
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R	F	N	Q	N	S	A	J	W	Y	.	R	T	X	Y	J	K	T	R	F	Y	J	W	N	F	Q	N	X
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F	U	F	U	J	W	K	T	Q	I	T	W	H	W	J	F	X	J	,	F	R	N	X	H	Z	Y
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G	T	T	P	Q	J	Y	,	H	T	Q	T	W	R	N	X	W	J	L	N	X	Y	W	F	Y	N	T	S	,
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T	W	R	N	X	U	Q	F	H	J	I	U	J	W	K	T	W	F	Y	N	T	S	X	.
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STAMP FORTUNE TELLER

1. Cut out the square around the dotted lines.
2. Valley fold paper from corner to corner, making a triangle.
3. Valley fold the triangle from corner to corner, making a smaller triangle.
4. Unfold and turn face-down.
5. Fold the four corners to the center of the square (where the X crosses).
6. Flip the paper over.
7. Fold the four corners to the center of the square (where the X crosses).
8. Fold and unfold the bottom edge of the square up to the top.
9. Fold and unfold the left edge of the square over to the right.
10. Push the four corners of your square into the center and then slide 4 fingers into the flaps of your fortune teller.



Yellow

Blue

Green

Red

While digging through a box of stamps, you find a Jenny Invert.

Win a \$300 shopping spree at your local post office.

You get to pick 250 stamps of your choice from your favorite stamp company's catalog.

Inherit your great-great-uncle's stamp collection.

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ANSWER KEY

Branches of Philately, pg. 2

- H
- C
- E
- F
- D
- A
- B
- G



Types of Stamps, pg. 8



Alphabet Stamp Game, pg. 17

- Apple
- Bicycling
- Clown
- Dog
- Eagle
- Fire engines
- Globes
- Hands
- Indians
- Jays
- Kite
- Lighthouse
- Magnifying glass
- News bags
- Ox
- Printing press
- Quill pen
- Red Cross
- Sunflower
- Trains
- Umbrella
- Vane
- Whooping Cranes
- Letter "X"
- Youth
- Zeppelins



Stamp Collecting Tools, pg.4

- J
- H
- C
- I
- E
- A
- F
- D
- B
- G



Special Service Stamps, pg. 9

- A
- H
- F
- C
- E
- D
- G
- B



Do's and Don'ts, pg. 5

- Do
- Do
- Don't
- Do
- Don't
- Don't
- Do
- Do
- Don't
- Do
- Don't
- Do
- Don't
- Don't



U.S. Firsts, pg. 11

- 2
- 10
- 12
- 13
- 1
- 8
- 14
- 11
- 5
- 9
- 6
- 7
- 3
- 4



Rate Change Stamps, pg. 7

- A: $4 \times 15\text{¢} = 60\text{¢}$
 B: $4 \times 18\text{¢} = 72\text{¢}$
 C: $5 \times 20\text{¢} = \$1.00$
 D: $5 \times 22\text{¢} = \$1.10$
 Total = $\$3.42$

What's My Country, pg. 14

- C
- B
- C
- B
- B
- A
- D
- C
- B
- C

