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Designs unveiled for first Century stamps; issues will include four-pane press sheets

By Michael Schreiber

Ten designs for the first stamps in the United States' new Celebrate the Century stamp series were unveiled in the early weeks of January at selected locations across the nation.

The 10 designs are pictured here in color.

Each of the ten stamps portrays an event or person of the first decade of the 20th century, 1901-1910, mistakenly called "1900-09" in some U.S. Postal Service press releases.

One year early, however, is likely to be the way much of the public will think of the decades.

These 10 stamps will be issued nationwide Feb. 3 in a pane of 15 with five other designs.

The five designs not shown here were unveiled Jan. 15-19. These stamps picture or relate to the Pure Food and Drug Act, the Gibson Girl, Crayola crayons, Theodore Roosevelt and the movie *The Great Train Robbery*.

Also on Feb. 3 nationwide, another pane of 15 stamps



These 10 stamp designs in the Celebrate the Century series were unveiled at local ceremonies Jan. 5 through Jan. 14. The designs will be part of a pane of 15 stamps, as shown on page 16. Two different panes of 15 will be issued nationwide Feb. 3 with an official ceremony in Washington, D.C.

will be issued for events and people of the second decade of the century.

The back of each of the stamps will include descriptive text related to the design.

The two issues on Feb. 3 each will be available in

press sheets of four panes.

A pane is the largest stamp unit available at post offices.

A press sheet is an uncut unit of panes.

Ordering instructions for the press sheets are not yet available.

One stamp in each pane is expected to be printed by line engraving, with the rest produced by offset, an indirect method that uses a plate to print an inked image on a transfer cylinder, which then prints it on the paper.

The Postal Service could not provide a definite answer Jan. 12, but a USPS spokesman reported that he believes that the large press sheets have selva between the panes and that the diagonal perforations (horizontal on

the individual stamps), as shown on page 16, will run across the selva in a continuous line on side-by-side panes.

Panes available at post offices have this selva (Please turn to page 16)

Royal Mail sets firm date for Diana stamps

By Glen Stephens

The most talked about stamp issue of the past four months has finally been given an official release date.

Royal Mail (the British Post Office) has formally announced that the issue date of the set of five Princess Diana Memorial stamps will be Tuesday, Feb. 3 (*Linn's*, Jan. 12, page 2).

A Royal Mail press release dated Dec. 29, 1997, stated that all profits from the sale of these stamps would go to the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund.

Post office chief executive John Roberts said: "The tragic death of the princess deeply shocked and saddened the nation. These stamps will be a beautiful and enduring tribute to her life."

"We hope that there will be considerable demand for the stamps so that the memorial fund can benefit by millions of pounds, giving a boost to the charities to which the princess was so devoted."

The strip of five stamps



Royal Mail will issue five stamps Feb. 3 in memory of Princess Diana. The stamps are se-tenant, meaning that different designs are side-by-side. The designs are based on photographs of the princess in both formal and informal poses. The 26-penny denomination pays the first-class domestic rate.

with the designs side-by-side, or se-tenant, has been the most on-again, off-again issue in British philatelic history. The stamps were originally rush printed and slated for September release. Both Queen Elizabeth and the Spencer family seem to have blamed each other at various times for delaying the eventual release. (*Linn's* Oct. 13 and Dec. 1, 1997)

Royal Mail was even quoted on the front page of the British tabloids as threatening to burn all the stamps if permission was not given promptly to release them by the powers that be.

The global TV news network CNN showed a worker flicking through a huge pile of sheets of these Princess Diana stamps in a segment aired internationally Jan. 3. This heavily pre-promoted segment gave this Diana Memorial stamp issue, and stamp collecting in general, a welcome image boost to the general public.

Royal Mail has stated that 120 million stamps will be issued in sheet form, presentation pack, and on a commemorative cover.

In addition to containing the stamps the presentation pack is a tribute to the princess written by Mike Barden and including a copy of a letter

from a 5-year-old child written after Diana's death. [Editor's note: ordering information appears in a box accompanying this article.] I feel that this figure of 24 million strips of five stamps will be far too few. A reprint ordinarily would be considered if a sellout occurred.

Because of the most unusual (Please turn to page 36)

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PRINTED with soy ink on recycled paper MAILED: January 15
PAID CIRCULATION: 64,367 TOTAL DISTRIBUTION: 65,660
POSTMASTER: Address changes to Box 29, Sidney, Ohio 45365

Stamp subject vote begins

Beginning Feb. 3, anyone willing to part with a 32¢ stamp will have 25 days to vote on the designs that will appear on the United States Celebrate the Century stamps marking the 1950s. Up to 15 votes can be cast from a pre-determined list of 30 subjects.

The winning design subjects will be announced about six weeks after voting is completed, according to the U.S. Postal Service, and the stamps themselves will go on sale in May 1999.

Over the course of the next two years, the Postal Service will issue a series of 150 stamps honoring people and events that were prominent during 1900-99. Every few months, a new pane of 15 stamps honoring a 10-year period will be issued.

Panes are the complete units of stamps sold at post offices. They are trimmed from larger press sheets.

The designs for the 75 stamps in the first five panes were selected by the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee, a group that regularly selects and recommends U.S. stamp designs.

The 1950s stamps are the first in the series to be selected by a public vote.

The first stamps in the series, marking the years 1900-09 and 1910-19, are being issued in Washington, D.C., on the same day the ballots are being distributed: Feb. 3. Ad-



The first Celebrate the Century stamp subject ballot.

ditional details of the first stamps in this series are described in a story on page 1.

Those who wish to vote on the 1950s stamp subjects must obtain an "Official Ballot" from any U.S. post office and return it in the mail with postage affixed.

Copies of the ballot are not allowed, though multiple ballots may be submitted.

The proposed stamp subjects for the 1950s are divided into five categories.

People and Events: Desegregation of Public Schools; Interstate Highway System; Suburbs Attract Families; The Cold War; The

Korean War; President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Arts and Entertainment: Rock 'N' Roll; *On The Waterfront*; *I Love Lucy*; Dr. Seuss' *The Cat in the Hat*; New York School; *Singin' in the Rain*; *West Side Story*.

Sports: Rocky Marciano, Undefeated; World Series Rivals; Stock Car Racing; Maureen "Little Mo" Connolly; The "Shot Heard 'Round the World."

Science and Technology: Victory Over Polio; Computers for Business; Commercial Jet Aircraft; Transistor Radio Created; U.S. Launches Satellites; Advances in Surgery.

Lifestyle: Teen Fashions; American Modern Furniture; Tail Fins and Chrome; Drive-In Movies; Hula Hoop Toys; Movies Go 3-D.

Voters can choose up to three subjects in each category. The ballot includes space for the voter's name and address, and asks five questions relating to stamp collecting:

- Do you collect stamps?
 - What is the size of your stamp collection?
 - Does any member of your family collect stamps?
 - Would you like to receive more information about stamps? and
 - Do you collect other items like dolls, sports cards, etc.?
- Ballots for the 1950s Celebrate the Century stamps must be postmarked no later than Feb. 28, 1998. ■

Scouting design shown early

By Michael Schreiber

Linn's readers had a surprise look at the design of the upcoming United States 32¢ Scouting stamp three weeks ago in the advertisement of cachetmaker Colorano of Huntington, N.Y.

The Scouting stamp is one of 15 stamps in the Celebrate the Century issue for the second decade of the 20th century. The Scouting stamp will be issued nationwide Feb. 3 along with 29 other Celebrate the Century stamps.

Colorano's ad, in the Jan. 5 issue, page 21, is pictured here in part.

The illustration shows a mock-up

of a stamp and a Feb. 3 first-day-of-issue cancel. The drawn perforations depicted in the ad barely come close to suggesting real perforations.

In a short interview with Linn's, Paul W. Schmid of Colorano said that he received the Scouting stamp design about two months ago from a source outside the U.S. Postal Service.

The stamp design Colorano pictured in its ad is basically identical to the design shown in this issue on page 16, in the black-and-white illustration for the stamps of the second decade of the century.

Colorano's ad also included a design for a cachet for the Gibson Girl stamp, a subject for the first decade in the Celebrate the Century series, but no stamp design was shown because the cacheted envelope for the Scouting stamp covered the stamp

corner of the Gibson Girl envelope.

Cachetmakers who produce different designs for multistamp issues have been working furiously in recent weeks to finish cachet designs for Celebrate the Century

first-day covers.

A cachet is a design related to a stamp that is printed on envelopes used for souvenir covers. First-day covers are the most common cacheted covers.

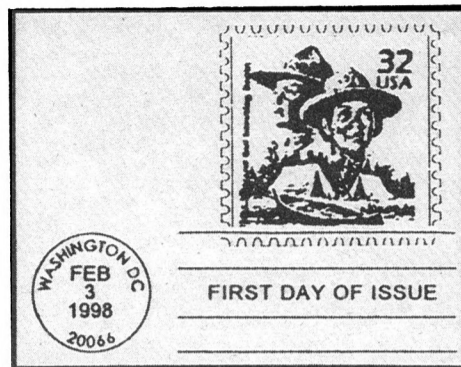
No cachetmaker seems to have received special treatment from the Postal Service regarding the Celebrate the Century stamp subjects or the designs.

In general, cachetmakers learned of the stamp subjects in the second week in December 1997 when the Postal Service announced the day-by-day design unveilings, as reported by the Associated Press.

In the months leading up to the December 1997 announcement of Celebrate the Century stamp subjects, the only subjects that became known through leaks were the teddy bear (1900s), the Panama Canal (1910s) and the Golden Gate Bridge (1930s).

The pane for 1911-20, as shown on page 16, does include a Panama Canal design (near the top, right), but the Golden Gate Bridge as a series subject is unconfirmed.

The Scouting stamp design is scheduled to be officially unveiled Feb. 2 at the Seattle Center in Seattle, Wash.



This mock-up for the 32¢ Scouting stamp and its Feb. 3 first-day-of-issue cancel was pictured in an advertisement in Linn's a month before the United States Postal Service is scheduled to unveil the design.

Hotel Forwarders

Several hotels carried letters out of the government mails as a service to their patrons. In the 1840's many hotels, primarily in the New England area, delivered mail both to and from the post office and occasionally to another town. Many used handstamps that included designations such as "Forwarded From" or similar. These are not just advertising handstamps as they provide evidence of a service performed by the hotel.



Richmond, Virginia City Hotel stencil marking

I currently have available a limited selection of hotel forwarder covers. Most of these markings are relatively scarce, the one shown above being unique, and much further work is needed to determine the extent of mail services provided, and the fees, if any, charged for those services.

Please advise if you would like to receive copies of anything in the field of independent mail covers. I also maintain an inventory of high quality, exhibit level material in the fields of United States and Confederate States postal history to 1900. Your inquiries are welcome.



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First stamps note 'Dawn of the Twentieth Century'

(Continued from page 1) trimmed off of them.

Each pane of 15 is pictured at the right, with the 1901-10 pane shown in color. The Postal Service provided the color image of the 1901-10 pane at *Linn's* request. The other image is from the paper edition of the *Postal Bulletin*.

Linn's pictured both panes as fuzzy black-and-white images in the Jan. 12 issue, page 14.

These images, made deliberately fuzzy by the Postal Service, were from the World Wide Web version of the Postal Service's fortnightly *Postal Bulletin*, a publication for postmasters and others interested in Postal Service matters.

The stamps for the first decade of the century were designed by Richard Waldrep, the designer of the Centennial Olympic Games (Athletes) stamps of 1996.

His World Series stamp design in the Celebrate the Century series bears the hallmarks of his Olympics stamps: close cropping and doubled edges to parts of the design that add a cut-out, three-dimensional quality.

This doubling effect appears somewhere in most of the designs unveiled through Jan. 14, but it is not in the Teddy Bear design or the Bellows Painting (Ashcan school).

The subjects of the 10 designs shown here are: immigrants arriving in America (at Ellis Island), the Ashcan school of art (showing George Bellows' painting *Stag at Sharkey's*), naturalist John Muir (with El Capitan and Half Dome), social reformer W.E.B. DuBois, the Model T Ford, the St. Louis World's Fair (with a Ferris wheel and children eating ice cream cones), the Wright Brothers' 1903 flight at Kitty Hawk, Frank Lloyd Wright's Robie House in Chicago, the teddy bear and the first baseball World Series.

The pane containing these 10 stamps and the five others also will picture in the lower selvage a photograph of the Wright Brothers and a Wright Flyer II biplane on the ground near Dayton, Ohio, the Wrights' hometown.

In the photograph (and on the pane), the Wright brothers stand beside a Wright Flyer II, the first airplane to fly a complete circle. Wilbur Wright piloted the circular flight Sept. 10, 1904.

This Wright Brothers selvage design enhances the pane as a collectible and encourages stamp buyers to save it as a unit.

So do the stamp-subject categories around the border and the disjointed, seemingly out-of-balance groupings of the stamps and their slanted arrangement. The pane is designed like an advertisement.

The stamp design titled "Immigrants Arrive" is based on a famous Lewis W. Hine photograph of an Italian family leaving Ellis Island for New York in 1905.

Immigration to the United



The pane of 15 stamps for the 1900s in the United States Celebrate the Century series.

States peaked in the 1901-10 decade, although a notable two-year pinnacle was reached in 1913-14.

The design was unveiled Jan. 5 in the Great Hall at Ellis Island, New York, N.Y.

The Ashcan School is the name given to a group of American painters who flourished in the first decade of the century. Founded by Robert Henri as "The Eight" in 1907, the group included Arthur Bowen Davies, William Glackens, Ernest Lawson, George Luks, Maurice Prendergast, Everett Shinn, John Sloan and Henri.

Bellows (1882-1925), from Columbus, Ohio, studied under Henri in New York City. The stamp pictures *Stag at Sharkey's* (1909), a painting based on prize fights Bellows witnessed at Tom Sharkey's, a club near Bellows' studio.

The famous painting is displayed at the Cleveland Museum of Art, where the stamp design was unveiled Jan. 6.

Most members of the school painted realistic scenes of city life, hence the "Ashcan" name.

John Muir (1838-1914), world explorer, naturalist, writer and conservationist, founded the Sierra Club in 1892. Based partly on his efforts, Congress passed the Yosemite National Park Bill in 1890.

The redwood grove near San Francisco, Calif., called Muir Woods was established in 1908 in Muir's honor. The 5¢ John Muir stamp of 1964 portrays Muir and redwoods.

The Celebrate the Century Muir stamp is based on a

1908 photo of Muir. The background of Yosemite National Park is from a 1970 photograph by Galen Rowell titled *Sunset After a Storm, Yosemite Valley, 1970*.

The Muir stamp design was unveiled Jan. 7 in Martinez, Calif.

The W.E.B. Du Bois stamp is based on a reference photograph from circa 1908, when Du Bois was teaching at Atlanta University (now Clark Atlanta University).

Du Bois, also the subject of the 29¢ Black Heritage series stamp of 1992, was a civil rights leader and writer. He was the first black to receive a graduate degree from Harvard University (1891).

In 1905, Du Bois organized the anti-segregation, anti-injustice Niagara Movement, a precursor to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. The NAACP first met in 1909.

Du Bois (1868-1963), who joined the Communist Party at age 93 and soon moved to Ghana, was a controversial stamp subject for some observers in 1992.

The 1998 stamp design was unveiled Jan. 8 at the W.E.B. Du Bois Library at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Mass.

The Model T Ford stamp is based primarily on a 1909 photo from the archives of the Ford Motor Co. Additional references were used for color and for details.

The stamp design was unveiled Jan. 9 at the Detroit International Auto Show, Detroit, Mich.

Henry Ford's Model T (the

"Tin Lizzie") was introduced in 1908 in Highland Park, Mich. In 1913, the Model T became the first automobile to be made on an assembly line, with one Model T made every 93 minutes.

The stamp showing a scene at the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair pictures the Ferris wheel originally built for the 1893 Chicago World's Fair.

The Chicago Ferris wheel was disassembled and moved to St. Louis but was scrapped after the 1904 fair.

The design also is based on a photograph of children eating ice cream cones at the 1904 fair. This fair is credited with popularizing the ice cream cone in America.

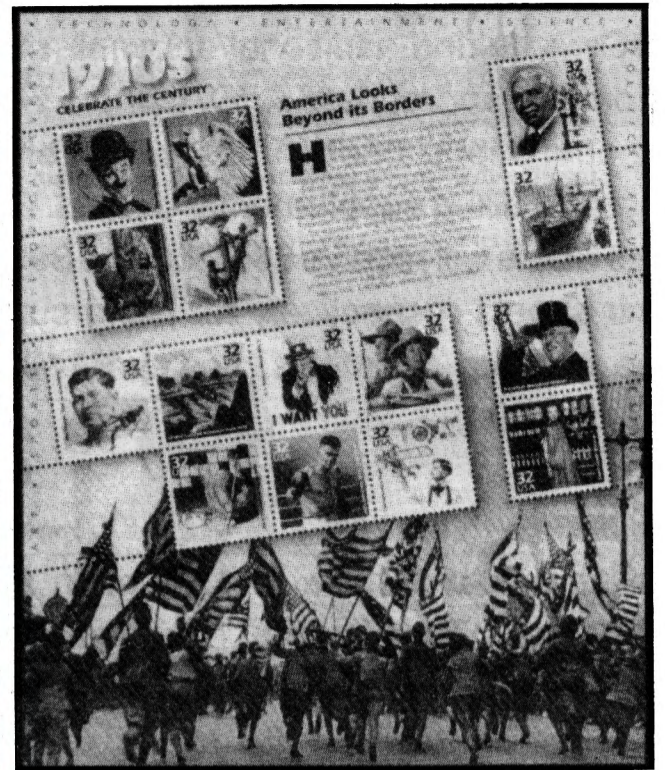
The stamp design was unveiled Jan. 10 at the Missouri Historical Museum in St. Louis.

The stamp's reverse reads: "The Louisiana Purchase Exposition of 1904 was also known as the St. Louis World's Fair. Americans were already enjoying ice cream, but the ice cream cone was popularized at the fair."

The Wright Brothers began their flight experiments by flying gliders at Kill Devil Hills, N.C., during 1900-02. During this period, they also tested various curved wings in a wind tunnel at their shop in Dayton, Ohio.

The reference photograph for the stamp depicting one of the Dec. 17, 1903, flights at Kitty Hawk, N.C., shows a Wright airplane with a broken elevator and Wilbur Wright at the controls.

The stamp design, how-



Pane of 15 stamps for events and people of the 1910s.

ever, shows Orville Wright at the controls, since he was the pilot for the historic flight, the first sustained, powered airplane flight. The design was unveiled Jan. 11 at the Wright Brothers Memorial at Kill Devil Hills.

The Robie House design is based on a 1992 photograph of the building taken from the sidewalk. The design was unveiled in Chicago at the house.

Frank Lloyd Wright (1867-1959) was the designer and architect for the Robie House, a house in what art historians call the prairie style. Wright built many prairie-style houses in and around Chicago.

Prairie-style houses have interior spaces that grow to the outdoors through porches and terraces, and the house itself is structured to blend with its environment.

The Teddy Bear stamp is from an original photograph by Ira Wexler of a bear in the collection of Dee Hock-emberly. This bear of the Ideal Toy Co. dates to 1905/06. Ideal, the first manufacturer of teddy bears in the United States, is a brand owned today by Tyco.

Children at the Bose Elementary School in Kenosha, Wis., and the Bluebonnet Elementary School in Austin, Texas, witnessed the unveiling of the design Jan. 13.

The stamp for the first baseball World Series (1903) is based on a photo of "Wildfire" Schulte. The design was unveiled at the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N.Y., Jan. 14.

Schulte was a lefty. The reference photo shows the follow-through of his swing, not the ready position.

The Postal Service did not reveal any design sources for the stamps for the Pure Food and Drug Act, the Gibson Girl, Crayola crayons, Theodore Roosevelt and the movie *The Great Train Robbery*.

The Pure Food and Drug Act of 1906 began federal regulation of food and drug preparation and their accurate labeling. The stamp design

shows part of a patent medicine advertisement for an elixir "Never Known to Fail," as the stamp says.

The Gibson Girl, the creation of illustrator Charles Dana Gibson, represented the ideal of femininity in the 1890s and the early 1900s.

Gibson often portrayed the Gibson girl in the outdoors. She was intelligent and self-assured.

Theodore Roosevelt, U.S. president during 1901-09, became president after President William McKinley died after being shot at the Pan-American Exposition.

Hallmarks of his administration include trust busting and conservation.

Wax crayons were in use in Europe in the 1700s. The Binney and Smith firm of Easton, Pa., first manufactured wax crayons in the United States in 1903, the familiar Crayola brand now owned by Hallmark.

The movie *The Great Train Robbery*, produced in 1903, was the first motion picture to narrate a story.

The selvage of the pane for the second decade is believed to picture U.S. forces in a victory parade after the end of World War I. The Postal Service would not confirm the subject or the source picture, demurring until the mood or the time is right.

The 15 stamps in the 1911-20 pane picture or represent the Federal Reserve, Woodrow Wilson, the Army art show, George Washington Carver, the Grand Canyon, construction toys, the Child Labor Act, boxer Jack Dempsey, the opening of the Panama Canal, the transcontinental telephone line, athlete Jim Thorpe, actor Charlie Chaplin, crossword puzzles, **scouting**, and World War I.

Except for the various images of this pane, the Postal Service has not released images of the individual designs to the public.

See page 8, however, for a story about the design of the **Scouting stamp**. ■