

The PhilateliKid

The newsletter for Stamp Collecting Clubs for Kids (SCCFK)

Collect Stamps (The Most Educational Hobby)

www.stampcollectingclubsforkids.org

December 1, 2023

In the May 2022 issue of *The PhilateliKid*, we began brief descriptions of various "Back of the Book" ("BOB") listings in the Scott Catalogues. In subsequent issues we looked at stamps which begin with the letter "B," "C," "CE," "CL," "CM," "CB," "CO," "E," "D," "F," "FA," "J," "K," "L," "LO," "O," "PR," "PN," "PS," "WS," "BK," "Q," "JQ," "QE," "CVP," "WX," "QI," "#X," "REA," "RV," "RY," and "-P." This month we will look at "UX"

Stamps Beginning with the prefix "UX"



BUGGIES IN AUTUMN: In all the Amish areas across the country, the Amish select land that has both fields and woodlands. These woodlands provide fuel for winter heat and lumber for buildings and furniture.

AMISH HERITAGE BOOK & VIDEO CLUB

Box 2660, Iowa City, IA 52244 - Your photo reproduced on postcards

Post Card

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

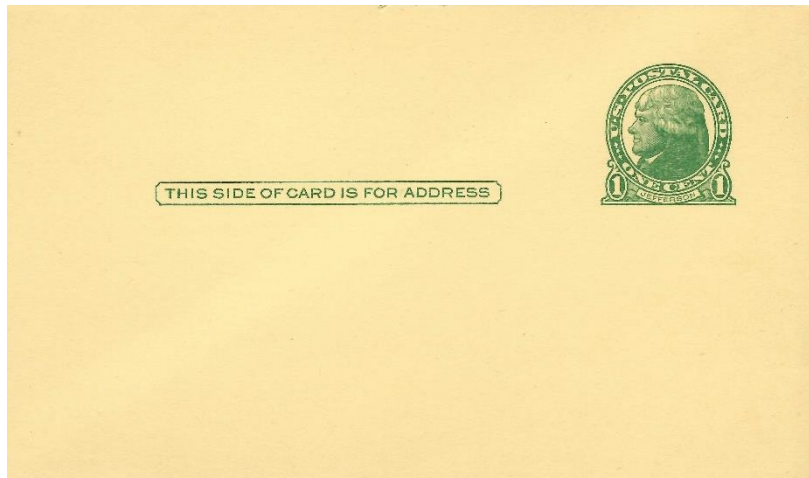
AMISH HEARTLAND

© John M. Zielinski

Stamps in the Scott Catalogue with the prefix "UX" are not stamps at all. They are a form of postal stationery known as Postal Cards. First, some definitions.

This is a postcard. It was printed by a private firm and is sold by many souvenir shops and other places that are not Post Offices. It does not have any franking, so it requires that a stamp be affixed that has the proper rate to pay for a postcard. The current rate for a postcard being mailed to a destination within the United States is 51¢. The USPS has never issued a stamp that has a face value of 51¢ printed on it, but there are stamps that have printed on them "Postcard Rate." If this postcard is mailed to a foreign destination, \$1.50 in postage must be affixed. This type of stationery is sold for whatever amount the store wishes to charge, sometimes 50 ¢ or more. Post cards are not listed in the Scott Catalogue.

< Reverse side for address & message



This is the obverse side of a Postal Card featuring the bust of Thomas Jefferson. (The reverse side is totally blank.) It is listed in the Scott Catalogue as UX 27. It has printed on it a franking of 1¢ which was the proper amount of postage required to mail a post card when it was sold by the Post Office in 1914. Postal Cards are sold in Post

Offices only. The cost of a Postal card until about 2011 was only the cost of the franking.

Christmas Stamps



The First Christmas Stamp

The first postage stamp to commemorate Christmas was issued by Canada on December 7, 1898. The stamp featured a map of the world with the British Empire countries and colonies highlighted in red. At the bottom of the map on the stamp was printed: **XMAS 1898**

Other countries began issuing stamps to commemorate Christmas, with the United



States being slow to join this trend. Our first ever Christmas stamp was issued on November 1, 1962. The stamp featured a green wreath with a red ribbon, with two burning tapers (candles) next to the wreath. At the bottom in white letters on a red background was:

Christmas 1962 At the upper left corner of the stamps were the denomination, "4¢," and "U.S." in white letters on a green background. When that stamp was issued, the cost of mailing a one ounce First Class letter was 4¢. Mailing Christmas cards to friends and business

associates was extremely common. 861,970,000 of that stamp were sold, at a time when the normal issue quantity of commemorative stamps was 120 million. The U.S. Postal Service (U.S.P.S.) has issued new Christmas stamp designs every year since 1962.



On November 2, 1965, the U.S.P.S issued a stamp featuring a winged Angel in flight holding a Trumpet, a drawing of a weather vane from 1840.

On November 1, 1966, the U.S.P.S issued for the first time a stamp featuring a Madonna and Child. Every year since then the U.S.P.S has issued a secular and/or (one or more) non-secular stamps commemorating Christmas.



There are two basic types of Christmas stamps. Stamps featuring a religious theme are called “secular” and stamps that do not feature a religious theme are called “non-secular.” By far the most common theme of secular stamps is the Madonna and Child. Common themes for non-secular Christmas stamps are images of Santa Claus, Christmas trees, wreaths, elves, reindeer, poinsettias, Christmas tree ornaments, toys, Christmas songs and stories, ginger bread cookies, wrapped gifts, and Winter scenes.

Cancellations related to Christmas

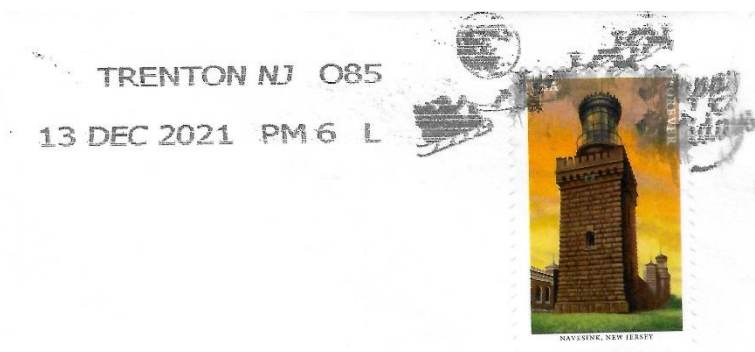
In addition to the stamps themselves, many collectors save interesting cancellations related to Christmas. A cancellation is a mark placed upon a stamp by the Post Office during the delivery process to make the stamp unable to be reused. Cancellations commonly are just a series of parallel wavy lines. A postmark includes the date and town and state that the Postal Service received the piece of mail, often within a circle. Some collectors attempt to collect postmarks dated December 25 of each year. That is very difficult because December 25 is a legal holiday and most postal facilities are not open on that date and hence few postmarks exist dated December 25.



Cancellations can contain slogans such as “Mail Early,” and “Use ZIP Codes.” Some cancellations contain pictorial features, such as Santa in a sleigh being pulled by team of reindeer.

Postmark Trenton, NJ December 13, 2021, and Christmas cancel of

Santa in sleigh pulled by reindeer, with full moon, and “Happy Holidays”





There exists a third type of collectibles for Christmas. That is a collection of stamps (on envelopes) cancelled in cities related to Christmas, such as Christmas, Indiana, and countries whose names contain "Christmas" such as Christmas Island. Stamps from

Christmas Island are collected just because the word Christmas is in the stamp, even though the stamp may not have anything to do with Christmas.

Holidays that are not Christmas that are commemorated on U.S. stamps

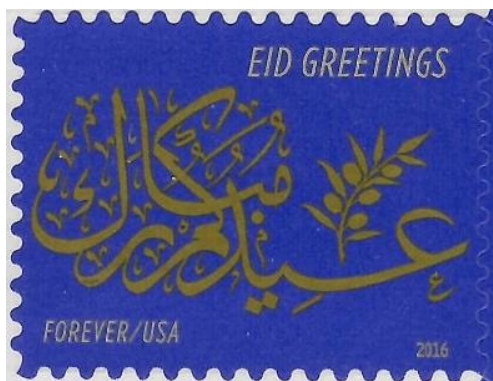


Several religious holidays, and several non-religious holidays, are celebrated by the issuance of stamps by the U.S.P.S. These include the Jewish holiday Hanukkah, the African American holiday Kwanzaa, the Moslem holiday EID, and the Hindu holiday Diwali.

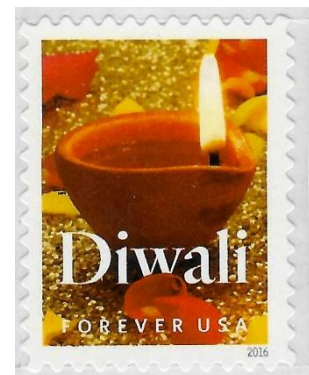


Scott 4433

Scott 5737



Scott 5092



Scott 5142

Some non-religious holidays are also commemorated such as the Chinese New Year, which is officially referred to as the Lunar New Year, Birthday, and Halloween, and Valentine's Day. (Valentine's Day stamps are called "Love stamps.")



Souvenir sheet – 2 sided self-adhesive – Scott 3895 issued by USPS in 2005 commemorating each of the 12 different names for Chinese New Years



Love stamp with four Hearts, Scott 5543, issued January 14, 2021

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website: www.stampcollectingclubsforkids.org or www.yummystampcollecting.org which redirects you to the same website.