

The PhilateliKid

The newsletter for Stamp Collecting Clubs for Kids (SCCFK)

Collect Stamps (The Most Educational Hobby)

www.stampcollectingclubsforkids.org

July 1, 2026

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," "BK," "C," "CB," "CBO," "CE," "CFLEU," "CL," "CLC," "CLCF," "CLEU," "CM," "CO," "CP," "CVP," "D," "E," "EP," "F," "FA," "J," "JQ," "K," "L," "LO," "LOX," "M," "MR," "NSC," "O," "OXF," "P," "PC," "PM," "PN," "PR," "PS," "Q," "QE," "QL," "R" (Part 1), "R" (Part 2), "RA," "RC," "RD," "RE," "REA," "REF," "RF," "RG," "RH," "RJ," "RK," "RL," "RN-D," "RO," "RS," "RV," "RX," "RY," "RZ," "S," "SPCVP," "TD," "U," "UC," "UX," "UXC," "UY," "UZ," "WS," "WX," "#X," and State, followed by a number, and also Canal Zone, Confederate States of America, Danish West Indies, Guam, Hawaii, Ryukyu, and United Nations. This month we will be looking at **Cuba**. All stamps illustrated are from the author's personal collection, unless otherwise noted

Stamps from Cuba.

Scott Catalogue lists at the back of the book of *Specialized United States Stamps & Covers* stamps used in Cuba. What is listed are stamps that were issued during the U.S. Administration after the Spanish – American War in 1899, and the subsequent issues of the Republic of Cuba under U.S. Military rule which lasted from January 1, 1899 to May 20, 1902. These stamps are listed using the Scott Catalogue numbers of the Cuban stamps, or, if a U.S. stamp is overprinted, the catalogue number of the U.S. stamp. Scott also lists 2 Special Delivery stamps, 4 Postage Due stamps, 18 envelopes, 2 Wrappers, 2 Postal Cards, and 18 Specimen stamps.



Scott 221

Scott 222

Scott 230

Also listed are approximately 102 different overprints of Cuban stamps issued in 1898 for use in the provincial capitol of Puerto Principe (now named Camaguey.) Scott lists catalogue values for only 37 of these, all but 5 of them having catalog values of over \$100.00. Many of these have expensive values listed for double overprints, inverted overprints, and vertical overprints.

For the Puerto Principe overprints Scott also notes: "Counterfeits are plentiful."

The following article was submitted by Michael Bronner, Union Kentucky, who, along with Robert W. Martin and Jason A. Martin were among the few remaining members of the Masonic Stamp Club of New York when it disbanded 10 years ago. The following is excerpted from an article authored by Christopher L. Murphy, and first appeared in *The Masonic Philatelist* in 2016. It has been edited to bring it up to current times, and has explanatory information added to make it easier to understand by youth and new stamp collectors.

Can you identify the following individuals and associate them with their careers and/or achievements? They are not connected, unless by accident:

Samuel Clemens (Mark Twain), Tyrus (Ty) Cobb, Eddie Rickenbacker, Duke Ellington, Al Jolson, Harry S Truman, Harpo Marx, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Charles Lindbergh, and Al Capp (née Alfred G. Caplin.)

Congratulations! You've probably identified most (if not all) of the above. Did you really identify Al Capp? (See bottom of page 4.)

Now, what did they ALL have in common? Yes, they're all males AND they are all among the many thousands of Freemasons who appear on US stamps.

Masonic symbol – the Square and Compass >>>

How do the Masons (“Masons” is short for “Freemasons,” which is a worldwide fraternity) dovetail with stamp collecting, anyway? Where did they come from, and what’s their history? Well, Freemasonry generally began in 1717 in Europe as guilds as artisans joined together to provide support for their endeavors. Larger cities and villages were the most prominent venues due to the proximity of membership of men influence. Gatherings were conducted through face-to face meetings, of course, since, unlike today, there was little technology to support communications.



The Masonic fraternity (also called “Masonry,” the “Masonic Order” or simply the “Craft”) loosely organized at that point, grew from those early years in popularity and influence in the United States as our nation expanded. By the mid’1950’s the fraternity in the United States had grown to more than four million members. Most new members learned about Freemasonry through word-of-mouth from friends and neighbors because advertising was traditionally not done. During this growth in membership in Freemasonry, stamp collecting also was rapidly growing, to an estimated 20 million collectors by the 1950’s.

The term “Masonic lodge” means a group of men (not a building.) Many people thought that Masonic lodges were secret, probably because membership in the United States usually was not publicly disclosed, especially because during the 1930’s and 1940’s in Nazi Germany, that government persecuted and murdered Freemasons, along with Jews, Gypsies, and mentally and physically disabled people. However, in the past 70 years, the “secrecy” of Freemasonry has mostly disappeared because of many popular books being written about the fraternity, and disclosure by many famous Americans, such as those listed above, that they were Masons.

Masonic stamp collecting has ridden on the coattails of the Masonic Order and rapidly grew in popularity from the 1930’s through the end of the twentieth century. As of 2026, Masonic membership in the United States has declined to approximately 800,000, and stamp collecting has at the same time declined in popularity.

By the year 2000 rapid increases in computer technology, especially social technology on the internet such as Facebook and TikTok, have shifted attendance away from fraternal organizations. Simultaneously, the habit of daily writing and mailing postcards and letters has completely disappeared, resulting in a huge reduction of the use of the Post Office for mail and the need for postage stamps for communication. The quarterly publication about stamp collecting related to Freemasonry, *The Masonic Philatelist* has gone the way of the dodo bird, and has now, along with thousands of other publications, become extinct, only to be found in archives of libraries (or more likely, reduced to digital storage.)

DEAD COUNTRIES

Beginning in October 2024, we illustrated stamps from “Dead Countries.” We looked at [Alaouites](#), [Allied Military Government of the United States and Great Britain – Free Territory of Trieste](#), [Basutoland](#), [Bavaria](#), [Belgian Congo](#), [British Central Africa](#), [British Honduras](#), [Cochin](#), [Confederate States of America](#), [Croatia](#), [Cyrenaica](#), [Czechoslovakia](#), [Dahomey](#), [Danish West Indies](#), [Dutch Indies](#), [Eastern Rumelia](#), [French Congo](#), [French Equatorial Africa](#), [Hawaii](#), [Latakia](#), [Middle Congo](#), [Newfoundland](#), [New South Wales](#), [Northern Rhodesia](#), [Nyasaland](#), [Papua and New Guinea](#), the [Peoples Republic of the Zaire](#), [Queensland](#), [Rhodesia](#), [Rhodesia and Nyasaland](#), [South Australia](#), [Southern Rhodesia](#), [Tasmania](#), [Victoria](#), [Western Australia](#), and [Zimbabwe Rhodesia](#). This month we will look at Natal.

Stamp collectors refer to countries that are no longer issuing their own stamps as “Dead Countries.” The land and people are still existing – but they are using stamps of a different country. This happens when a country splits up into smaller countries, a country changes its name, the type of government changes, a new country is created, and when a group of countries combine to form one country.

A **dominion** was a semi-independent, self-governing territory within the former British Empire. In contrast, the British **Commonwealth** (now known as the Commonwealth of Nations) is a modern, voluntary association of sovereign, independent countries—many of which are republics with no allegiance to the British Crown.

The **Union of South Africa** was created on May 10, 1910, as a British **Dominion**. The Union of South Africa commonly appeared on postage stamps abbreviated as “South Africa,” or “Suid Afrika” On Dec. 11, 1931, it became a **commonwealth** and then in 1961 became the **Republic of South Africa**, now commonly abbreviated on stamps as “RSA,” and is spoken as simply “**South Africa**.”

Today it is administered under nine provinces. The map at right shows the four British colonies that were united in 1910 to create the Union of South Africa. Those four colonies, **Transvaal**, **Orange Free State**, **Natal**, and **Cape** (Cape of Good Hope) became Provinces. To the northwest of Cape was a German colony, **South West Africa**, which came under the control of The Union of South Africa in 1915, but never was a province.

On the eve of the 1994 general election, South Africa's former homelands, known as Bantustans, were reintegrated into the country, and the four provinces were increased to nine. The borders of Natal and the Orange Free State were retained, while the Cape Province and Transvaal Province were divided into three provinces each, plus North West Province which straddles the border of and contains territory from both of these former provinces.

The Cape of Good Hope issued stamps from 1853 to 1910. Natal issued stamps from 1857 to 1910. Orange Free State issued stamps from 1868 to 1910. Transvaal issued stamps from 1869 to 1910. The name of Transvaal was first **South Africa Republic**, then **Transvaal**, then **The Transvaal**.

The Cape of Good Hope is the southernmost part of Africa. It separates the Atlantic Ocean the west from the Indian Ocean on the east. As you can see from the map above, it was largest part of the Union of South Africa, with its capitol at Cape Town.



The **Union of South Africa** was created on May 31, 1910. The stamps the Union of South Africa gave its name simply as “**South Africa**,” or “**Suid Afrika**” being issued both in English and Afrikaans, which is a language that evolved from the Dutch language. Here is an example of the English language translated into Afrikaans:

English: **I collect postage stamps from Africa.**

Scott numbers 104a and 104b>>

Afrikaans: **Ek versamel posseëls van Afrika.**



103a

simply “RSA.”



color 2 pence stamp at left, with both “Suid Afrika” and “South Africa.”)

As you can see from the two conjoined stamps at left, they were printed side by side. It issued stamps from 1910 until May 31, 1961 when it gained independence and changed **South Africa**. The stamps of often abbreviate its name to simply “RSA.”

Scott numbers 310a and

Stamps from South Africa and fun to collect. At right are Scott <<Scott 198 (Afrikaans) The Union of South Africa also both English and Afrikaans



its name to **Republic of South Africa** <<Scott numbers 103b and

310b >>

RSA are often very colorful and 310a (English) and Scott 310b featuring a large cut diamond. issued some stamps that had languages.(See the orange

Republic of South Africa (RSA)

The name of the current country in the south part of the continent of Africa is the Republic of South Africa, abbreviated RSA.

At right is a stamp issued by RSA.

Scott number 355 >>>

Diamonds from South Africa

The 1867 discovery of diamonds in the Cape Colony, South Africa resulted in world diamond production increasing more than tenfold in the following 10 years. Today South Africa maintains its position as a major diamond producer. In the 1870's and 1880's South Africa produced 95% of the world's diamonds.



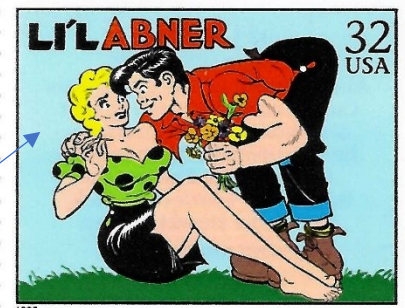
Large diamonds from South Africa include: The Cullinan Diamond weighed 3,106 carats, which is the largest rough diamond ever discovered. Discovered in 1905 at the Premier No. 2 mine, it remains the largest gem-quality rough diamond ever cut into nine major stones and 96 smaller brilliants. The largest is the 530.20-carat Cullinan I (**Great Star of Africa**), which is set in the Sovereign's Scepter, and the 317.40-carat Cullinan II (**Lesser Star of Africa**), which is set in the Imperial State Crown. Both reside in the British Crown Jewels at the Tower of London. The Excelsior diamond (108.94 carats) was discovered in 1893 at the Jagersfontein Mine. It was the largest diamond in the world before the Cullinan. It yielded 21 magnificent, polished diamonds. The Golden Jubilee (755.5 carats rough, 530.20 carats polished) was mined in 1985 at the Premier Mine, this yellow-brown diamond is the largest faceted, polished diamond in the world.

The largest piece of the Cullinan sits in the golden Sovereign's Scepter. At left is the top of the Sovereign's Scepter, which was used by Queen Elizabeth II at her coronation in 1953, and by King Charles III at his coronation in 2023.

Al Capp

Al Capp was born with the name Alfred G. Caplin. He was a cartoonist who created many comic strips, the most famous of which was called "Li'l Abner." Comic strips were drawings that usually featured humor, and were carried by newspapers, both domestically in the United States, and in many foreign countries. In his early years as a cartoonist, an editor suggested that Caplin shorten his name to preserve space, so he had his name legally changed to Al Capp. In 1995 the USPS commemorated comic strips by issuing a pane of stamps featuring 20 different 32¢ stamps, each stamp commemorating a different comic strip.

Scott number 3000q



Reverse side of Scott number 3000q

Each stamp in that pane of stamps has a message printed on its reverse side.

Trivia: L'il Abner Yokum lived in the fictional town of Dogpatch, Kentucky, along with his girlfriend, Daisy Mae Scragg, who later changed her name to Daisy Mae Yokum when she and L'il Abner got married. Daisy Mae was usually clothed in very short skirts. The author, Al, Capp, later took credit for inventing miniskirts.

LI'L ABNER
Al Capp (1909-1979)
Abner's town of Dogpatch was Capp's crossroads of the best and worst of the humanity he lampooned. His creations included the Shmoo, the Bald Iggle, Fearless Fosdick, and Sadie Hawkins' Day. The strip ran 1934-1977.
© Capp Enterprises, Inc.

Stamp Collecting Clubs for Kids is a 501(c)(3) organization. Donations are greatly appreciated and if \$10 or more you will be sent a written receipt. You also can donate via PayPal on our website: www.stampcollectingclubsforkids.org or www.yummystampcollecting.org which redirects you to the same website.