New Issues
U.S. & International stamps

U.S. – September 2024 through February 2025
International – July 2024 through November 2024

U.S. – September 2024

Kwanzaa Forever Stamp
September 25 | Pittsburgh, PA | PSA Pane of 20

The Postal Service issued its 10th stamp celebrating Kwanzaa in 2024. Observed from Dec. 26 to Jan. 1, the annual pan-African holiday brings together family, community and culture. The artwork for this colorful stamp is a digital collage depicting three figures: a male drummer and two female dancers. The art was inspired by a live performance witnessed by the artist, Ekua Holmes, during a Kwanzaa event. Ethel Kessler, an art director for USPS, designed the stamp.

U.S. – October 2024

Healthcare Community Forever Stamp
October 1 | Washington, DC | PSA Pane of 20

The USPS Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee (CSAC) tell us that they do not select negative subjects for commemoration, so during the covid pandemic they somehow never did figure out how to salute health care workers who made sacrifices, including those who died helping others (no doubt including members of the CSAC and their relatives), even though scores of nations around the world somehow were able to accomplish what seemed to be a simple feat.

Now, four years later, they have figured it out and will issue a generic "Thank You" Forever stamp. Per the USPS announcement, the issue was done "In conjunction with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services", which may indicate it would not have been issued had it been up to the CSAC.

U.S. – October 2024

Winter Whimsy Forever Stamps (4 designs)
October 10 | Park City, UT (no ceremony) | PSA Booklet of 20

Four new stamps in a booklet of 20 celebrate the winter season with lacy, symmetrical graphic forms inspired by snowflakes. Each stamp in the block of four includes a unique design in white against a background of a single color: navy blue, teal, tan or dark blue-green. Greg Breeding was the art director for the project. Bailey Sullivan designed and illustrated the stamps.

U.S. – January 2025

Lunar New Year: Year of the Snake Forever Stamp
January 14 | Boston, MA | PSA Pane of 20

The Lunar New Year starts January 29 and ends February 16, 2026.

This is the sixth stamp in the current Lunar New Year series, where each entry features a mask, calling to mind the decorated masks used in the dragon or lion dances often performed during Lunar New Year parades. For Year of the Snake, designer Camille Chew constructed a three-dimensional snake mask out of hand-printed paper, then cut, scored and folded it into shape. After the front was embellished with acrylic paint and additional paper elements, the back was covered with a layer of papier-mâché.

To mark this festive occasion, millions of people around the world host parades and parties, decorate with red and gold lanterns, set off firecrackers to ward off evil spirits, invite family and friends to share traditional foods to welcome the new year, write couplets, give gifts and clean their houses to celebrate a time of renewal.

Those born in the Year of the Snake are said to be quiet, wise and deep-thinking, making them proficient musicians, philosophers, writers and teachers. A snake year is sometimes referred to as a “little dragon year” because it follows the dragon on the zodiac.

U.S. – January 2025

Love Forever Stamp
January 17 | Kutztown, PA | PSA Pane of 20

This new Love stamp celebrates the universal experience of love with a work by artist Keith Haring (1958–1990). With a deceptively simple and now-iconic style, Haring's work is instantly recognizable. This stamp features Haring's 1985 Untitled drawing. Antonio Alcalá, an art director for USPS, believes that this drawing makes for an ideal new stamp in this popular series. "The non-specificity of the figures allows a variety of people to see themselves in this stamp," Alcalá says. "Partners getting married, celebrating an anniversary, siblings sending each other a heartfelt greeting, or even party planners setting a positive tone for their event."

The artist, rather than the theme, is the reason for the stamp's release site. Keith Haring was born in Reading, Pa., and grew up in Kutztown. Per Wikipedia, "Haring's popularity grew from his spontaneous drawings in New York City subways—chalk outlines of figures, dogs, and other stylized images on blank black advertising spaces. After gaining public recognition, he created colorful larger scale murals, many commissioned, and produced more than 50 public artworks between 1982 and 1989. In 1986, he opened the Pop Shop as an extension of his work."

U.S. – January 2025

Spiral Galaxy $10.10 Priority Mail
January 21 | Big Sky, MT | PSA pane of 4

Features an extremely high-definition image of a spiral galaxy 32 million light-years from Earth. The image, captured by NASA's James Webb Space Telescope, helps researchers update their models

Star Cluster $31.40 Express Mail
January 21 | Big Sky, MT | PSA pane of 4

Features a second image captured by NASA's James Webb Space Telescope, this stamp shows a star cluster approximately 1,000 light-years from Earth. Hidden within the cloud of celestial dust are floating brown dwarfs–objects too small to be stars but larger than most planets. Studying these brown dwarfs will help scientists explore how star-formation processes operate for very small masses.

U.S. – January 2025

1794 Compass Rose (Global 1 ounce) Stamp
January 24 | Peachtree Corners, GA (at the Southeastern Stamp Expo) | PSA Pane of 10

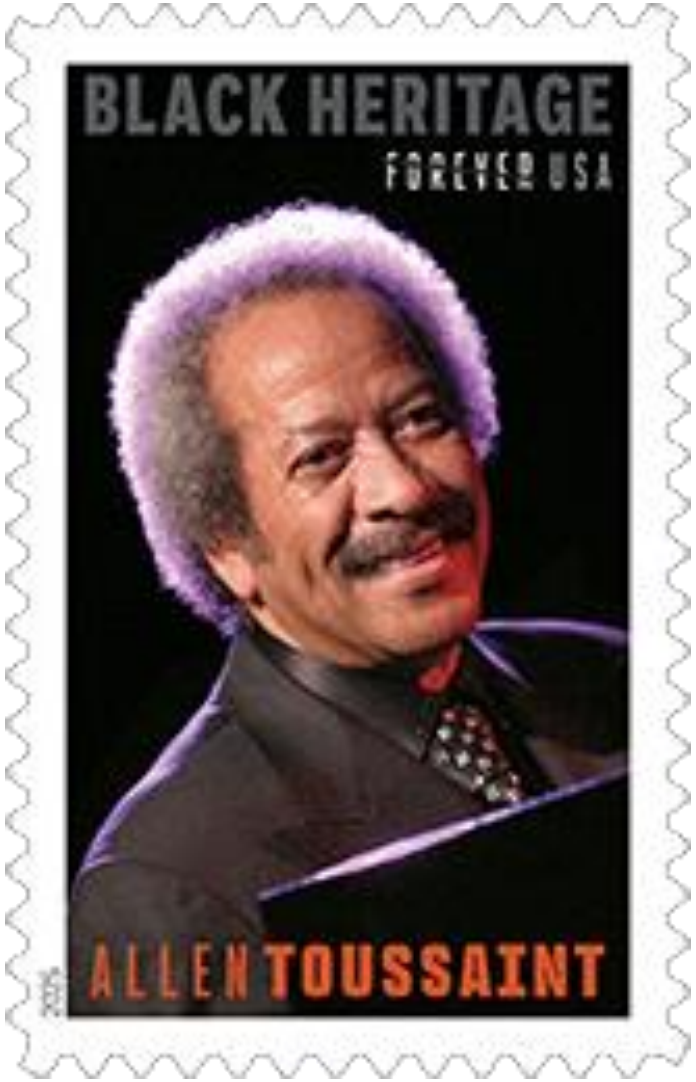
Useful for mailing a 1-ounce letter to any country in which First-Class Mail International service is available, this stamp carries with it a bit of history. The colorful compass rose was drawn in a school geography notebook by Lucia Wadsworth, the aunt of poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, when she was 10 years old. Greg Breeding, an art director for USPS, designed the stamp.

U.S. – January 2025

Black Heritage: Allen Toussaint Forever Stamp
January 30 | New Orleans, LA | PSA Pane of 20

The 48th stamp in the Black Heritage series celebrates this virtuoso pianist, singer, songwriter, composer, arranger, and producer responsible for scores of hits across multiple genres. New Orleanian Allen Toussaint may have done more than anyone else to shape the special blend of rhythm and blues for which the city is beloved, and to put it out to the wider world. Designed by Ethel Kessler, an art director for USPS, the stamp features a photograph taken by Bill Tompkins in New York City in 2007.

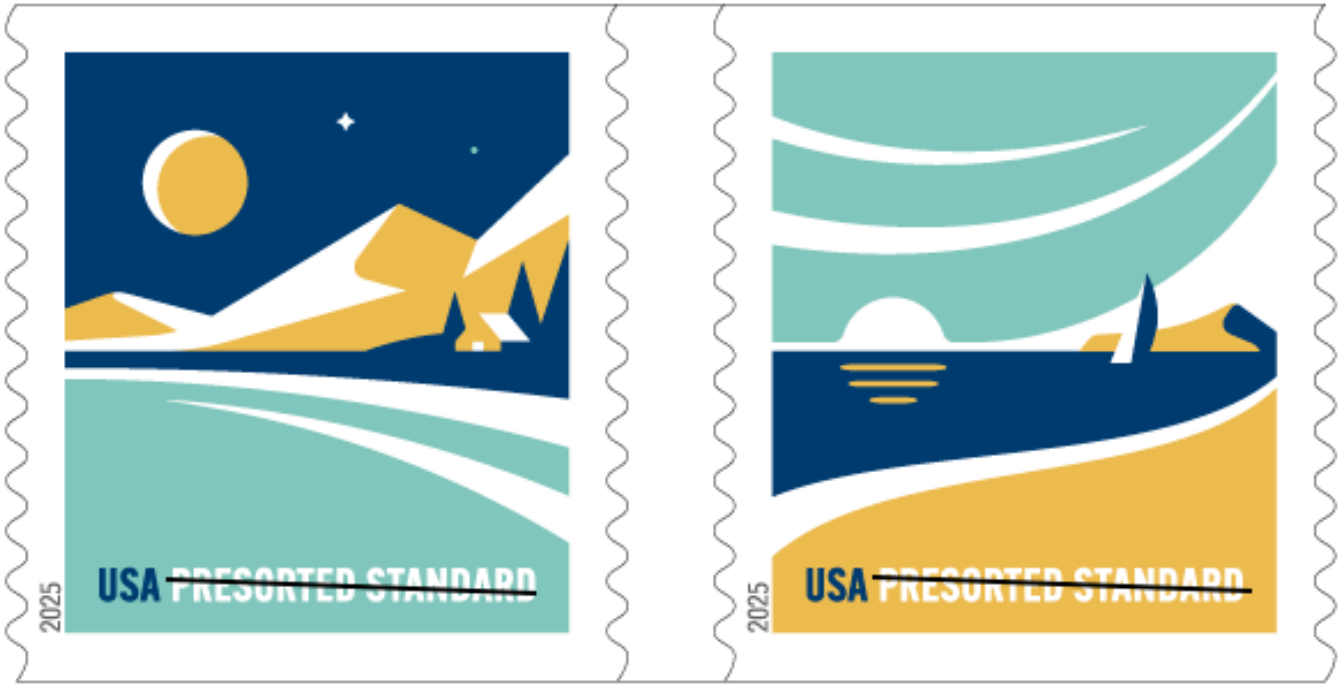
Per the USPS 2025 launch announcement, “In recent years, the Black Heritage series has celebrated a man one year and a woman the next,” which raises the question: Might we be getting a woman honoree later this year . . . and two honorees every year?



U.S. – February 2025

American Vistas Non-Denominated Presorted Standard Rate (10¢) (2 Designs)
February 21 | San Diego, CA | PSA coils of 3,000 and 10,000

These two stamps depicting stylized, minimalist scenes of mountains and a beach are for use on business mail. Mail with stamps affixed is thought to more likely be opened than mail with printed indicia. In similar fashion, the goal is to create designs that will not offend mail recipients; thus the “minimalist” designs. The stamps feature screen prints by DKNG Studios made from vector illustrations, and were designed by Greg Breeding, an art director for USPS.



U.S. – February 2025

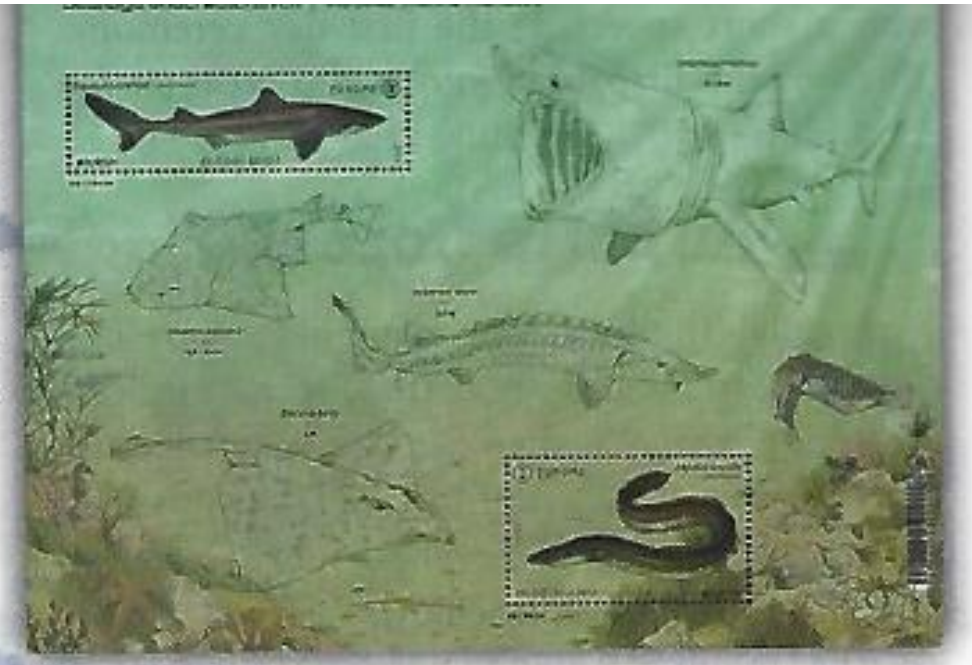
The Appalachian Trail Forever Stamps (15 Designs)
February 28 | Dawsonville, GA | PSA pane of 15 designs

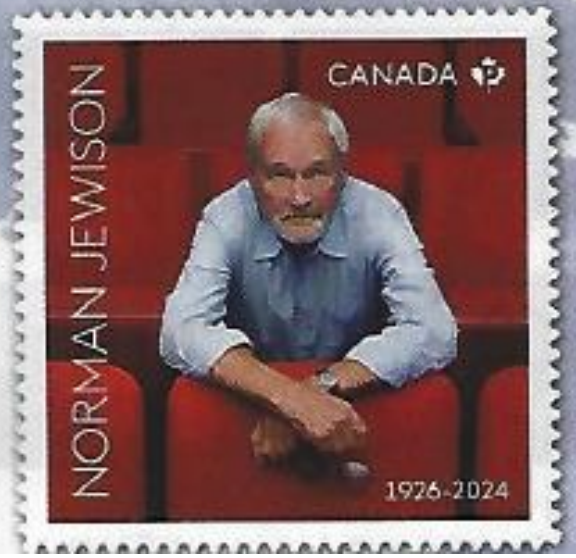
Covering almost 2,200 miles of footpath along one of Earth's most ancient mountain ranges, the century-old Appalachian National Scenic Trail is within easy reach of large metropolitan areas of the East Coast. The Appalachian Trail is maintained by a network of volunteer clubs, led by the nonprofit Appalachian Trail Conservancy. This pane of 15 stamps includes a photographic view from each of the 14 states along the Maine-to-Georgia trail with an additional stamp showing stretches of trail through dense forest. Antonio Alcalá, an art director for USPS, designed the stamps with images from various photographers.

Some International Issues – July – Nov. 2024

BELGIUM – Underwater Fauna and Flora

Belgium's Europa Underwater Fauna and Flora contribution for 2024 consists of a souvenir sheet containing two 3€ stamps depicting numerous denizens of the deep with one of those stamps in the upper left and another in the bottom right corner. The scene is a section of water near the bottom of the sea, with rays of sunlight piercing the depths over a basking shark. Of the seven creatures, identified by their Latin genus and species names, five are sketched and the other two shown in photographic detail with a spiney dogfish on the top stamp and a European eel on the bottom.





CANADA – Norman Jewison

Canada Post continues its tradition of featuring talented Canadians who have contributed to the entertainment industry, depicting movie director Norman Jewison (1926-2024) on a booklet of six stamps issued July 24. Jewison's films won numerous Academy Awards including five for *In the Heat of the Night* (1967), three for *Fiddler on the Roof* (1971) and three for *Moonstruck* (1987). Although he initially pursued acting, his success as a television director launched his transition to the big screen in the early 1960s, according to Canada Post. Designed by Russell Gibbs, the domestic rate Permanent stamp features a 2007 photo of Jewison sitting among the seats at the Canadian Film Centre, Toronto.

Some International Issues – July – Nov. 2024

GERMANY – Superheroes

Germany's Superheroes series continued August 1 with a domestic rate 0.85€ stamp in sheets of 10 featuring the Hulk. The image features Hulk in Action on a gray comic book background. Exposed to a massive dose of gamma radiation during a bomb test, genius nuclear physicist Dr. Bruce Banner turns into a monstrous green superhero when angered. Hulk's first appearance was in 1962 in the Marvel comic The *Incredible Hulk #1* and he continued to appear in numerous comic books and films, including those of the Walt Disney Company since 2009.

GUERNSEY – Sarnia Arts and Crafts 100th Anniversary

Guernsey's Sarnia Arts & Crafts Club is celebrating its 100th anniversary throughout the year with several activities and events. Issued on July 25, the set of four stamps was designed by Chloe Sarre in four denominations: 65p "Celebration" by Ann Hunt; £1.20 "Fermain Bay" by Louise Le Pelley; £2.08 "Rocquaine Bay" by Liz Potter; and £4.38, "New Pupil" by Nelli Begg. A community project, One Brushstroke, invites islanders "to add one brushstroke to a digital canvas, to create a piece of artwork and lasting legacy made by, and for, the people of Guernsey." In addition to offering members the opportunity to show and sell their work, there is a full program including demonstrations, workshops, and opportunities for local and visiting artists to try their hands at a variety of crafts and media.

JERSEY – Wetland Birds

Jersey Post issued a set of six and an accompanying souvenir sheet with the same six birds and additional wetland bird illustrations by Jersey artist Elvensø Illustration on August 6. The birds depicted include a northern shoveler, which was named after the shape of its bill; a western marsh harrier, known for hunting by flying low over fields and reedbeds; a tufted duck, a partially migratory diving duck; a northern lapwing, a large wader with a long wispy crest; a common snipe that prefers marshes, bogs and tundra; and a reed bunting, a small but sturdy bird with a seed eater bill.

Some International Issues – July – Nov. 2024

LATVIA – Eurasian Sparrowhawk

The Eurasian sparrowhawk specializes in woodland prey but also hunts in town and city gardens. Unusual for any bird species, the female is up to 25 percent larger than the male, one of the greatest size differences between the sexes, and results in the males hunting smaller avian prey and the female primarily hunting starlins and thrushes. Though the bird has come into conflict with humans for its hunting of racing pigeons and poultry, it remains marked as "least concerned" by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature. The stamp image shows a male sparrowhawk perched on a branch against a green background. It was issued July 5.

POLAND – 80th Anniversary of the Warsaw Uprising

Polish Post issued a 10-złoty souvenir sheet on August 6 to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the tragic Warsaw Uprising. Designed by Roch Stefaniak and based on an archival photograph by Sylwester Braun, the frame shows the insurgents at a shooting position in front of the ruined Church of the Holy Cross at Krakowskie Przedmieście. The insurgents, dressed in characteristic uniforms and helmets, are photographed against the background of buildings destroyed by bombing. During the 63-day uprising 16,000 insurgents were killed and some 15,000 taken prisoner by the occupying Germans. After the uprising, Germany carried out plans to annihilate Warsaw, resulting in the complete devastation of the city's infrastructure, the Old Town razed to the ground and 25 percent of the structures on the left bank in ruins.

SLOVENIA – XXXIII Summer Olympic Games

A pair of stamps was issued by Slovenia on July 7 to commemorate the Summer Olympics in Paris. Designed by Svetlana Milijašević, the sports climbing and road cycling stamps help commemorate the centenary of the first Olympic champion in Slovenian history, Leon Štukelj, who won two gold medals (for Yugoslavia) at the 1924 Paris Games, one gold medal and two bronze in Amsterdam in 1928, and a silver medal in 1936 in Berlin. Since competing in the Summer Games as an independent nation in 1992, Slovenia has won 31 medals, including gold medals this year in sport climbing and judo and a bronze in sailing. The largest national team in independent Slovenian history (90 athletes)

Some International Issues – July – Nov. 2024

THAILAND – World Postal Day

A World Postal Day commemorative postage stamp will be released on October 9 by Thailand with a 5.00-baht denomination. The horizontal design features colorful graphics of scattered envelopes to convey not only the Universal Postal Union's 150th anniversary, but respect for differences and communication between people with the message, "150 years of communication and empowering people around the world." The stamp recognizes the role played by the postal service from global business to the general public's daily lives. Designed by Lt. Col. Patpol Seoking, of Thailand Post, the stamp was issued in sheets of 10.

TRISTAN DA CUNHA – 200th Anniversary of the RNLI

The second part of a series celebrating the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) depicts rescue boats used on Tristan de Cunha over the years. Designed by Andrew Robinson and issued in a set of four on July 1, the paintings of the boats are shown on rough seas with a 19th century double-ended, open whaling boat; *Pequena*, a 30-foot self-propelled fiberglass and wood barge from South Africa; the launch *Atlantic Spray*, built in Tristan in 1982, a fiberglass and wood vessel with a 4-cylinder diesel engine; and *Atlantic Dawn*, a 26-foot tornado search and rescue boat powered by two Yamaha 200hp outboards that has assisted in numerous search and rescue and medical emergencies.

Some International Issues – July – Nov. 2024

AZERBAIJAN – UEFA Euro 2024

Azerbaijan did not qualify for UEFA Euro 2024 (a major soccer tournament), though it did participate in the qualifying rounds. Regardless, a souvenir sheet was issued to commemorate the games. Designed by Aydin Asgarov, the sheet with a single stamp features a player on a blue background striding after a ball with a colorful motif indicating the speed and complexity of a match. In June and July, top national teams from around Europe competed in Germany for the month-long tournament with Spain emerging victorious 2-1 over England in Berlin. Before a crowd of 65,600, Spain earned its record-breaking fourth UEFA European Championship.

CURAÇAO - Colorful Curaçao

Designed by Netherlands-born Martina Doevelaar and printed at BPost Stamps Printing Mechelen, Belgium, a new stamp series "pays homage to the vibrant and colorful architecture of Curaçao." Issued on August 20, the six stamps in different denominations, focus on carefully restored buildings that have regained their former glory. Doevelaar said, "Color is everything in Curaçao! Everywhere you look, it's colorful, bright, and cheerful. You can see this reflected in the architecture as well." Shown on the stamps are restored and repurposed public spaces in Pietermaai and Otrabanda with the commercial elements removed so as not to detract from the beauty of the architecture and to encourage people to "go in search of these buildings, and appreciate and cherish their beauty," concludes the artist.

Some International Issues – July – Nov. 2024

FRANCE – Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games

The translated inscription on a self-adhesive souvenir sheet issued by La Poste reads, "The Paris 2024 Games Cauldron lights up our hearts." Denominated 1.96€ for international postage, the stamp features the revolutionary flames of the Cauldron of the Paris 2024 Games created as a fuel-free flame, formed from water and light. Designer Mathieu Lehanneur's new device took the form of a ring of fire carried by a balloon that flew nightly over Paris skies throughout the games. The sheet was issued on August 9 to celebrate both the Games of the XXXIII Olympiad and the 17th Summer Paralympic Games.

GREENLAND – Definitive

Greenland's latest definitive series continues with the depiction of the country's coat of arms, based on a design by Kristoffer Gudbrand, created by Bertil Skov Jørgensen. The stamp issued on August 30 features a blue shield charged with an upright polar bear, first introduced in 1666 and adopted by the Landsting in 1989. The polar bear symbolizes the fauna of the island with the azure blue designating the surrounding Atlantic and Arctic oceans. The bear was originally depicted walking on all fours, but has been depicted rampant since 1819. In addition, heraldic tradition would have the bear raising its right forepaw, but the Greenlandic coat of arms depicts the bear raising its left forepaw according to the traditional Inuit belief that polar bears are left-pawed.

HUNGARY – 45th FIDE Chess Olympiad

The 45th FIDE Chess Olympiad, held in Budapest, Hungary, was commemorated with a single stamp issued by Magyar Posta on August 5. It was designed by Lounge Design Kft and produced by ANY Security Printing Company. The stamp celebrates the international team chess event with a stylized black, white, and gold chessboard pattern and logo. The event took place September 10 to 23 in Hungary for the first time since 1926. Both sections set team participation records with a total number of 1,884 participants from 195 nations, including 183 from 181 nations in the women's section. The SYMA Sports and Conference Centre was the playing venue, accreditation center, and site of the opening ceremonies and end of the torch relay that began in India. The International Chess Federation is known by its French acronym FIDE (Fédération Internationale des Échecs).

Some International Issues – July – Nov. 2024

ISLE OF MAN – 150th Anniversary of the UPU

Displaying a selection of Manx postal history, the Isle of Man Post Office commemorated the 150th anniversary of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) on August 30. Containing four stamps in a miniature sheet, the set is a testimony to international cooperation of postal services. The stamps feature images of a 1907 international reply coupon canceled on March 28, 1908, at the Bucks Road, Douglas Post Office; the first commemorative stamp on the 1924 British Empire Exhibition postcard published by the Isle of Man; a 6-pence King George VI Olympic Games air letter from 1948 with a Douglas, Isle of Man Universal Machine cancel; and a UPU 75th anniversary cover from 1949 with a cachet and a complete set of four stamps issued in October 1949 and canceled by the registered Douglas Isle of Man oval.

NETHERLANDS - Typically Dutch – Cats

The last of the series of five Typically Dutch stamp sheetlets was issued August 12. The multi-year series of six stamps per sheetlet began with images of cows, dogs, horses, and songbirds with the final sheetlet depicting cats and was dedicated to animals best known to us. The individual stamps have the value indication of 1 for mail up to and including 20 grams with a destination within the Netherlands. Created with the assistance of AI, the design features traditional motifs from Delft pottery.

Some International Issues – July – Nov. 2024

NEW ZEALAND – Mental Health Awareness Week

In support of Mental Health Awareness Week, September 23 to 29, this set issued by NZPost highlights the Five Ways to Wellbeing: Be Active, Give, Take Notice, Keep Learning, and Connect. The five values were available from September 4 and "designed with vibrant colors and balloon-inspired graphics" featuring one of the Mental Health Foundation's Five Ways of Wellbeing. "The Five Ways to Wellbeing aim to help people build resilience, boost their wellbeing and stay mentally well." A postcard with artwork of the set was included with every order in September to afford residents the opportunity to connect with friends and family. In addition to the five stamps, a miniature sheet and first day covers were also available.

ROSS DEPENDENCY – Mount Erebus Extremophiles

A set of four gummed stamps was issued September 4 by New Zealand's Ross Dependency. Printed 20 stamps to a sheet and designed by Helcia Berryman, the stamps feature Mount Erebus on Ross Island, the world's southernmost active volcano rising to an elevation of 12,447 feet (3,794 meters). The stamps feature a pilot gazing out at Erebus; a camera peering into the rugged outer crater; scientists "investigating microorganisms that have adapted to the volcano's unique geothermal environment; and a stamp issued in memory of Professor Craig Cary (1954-2024) who is shown as he "carefully installs a bacterial culturing and temperature array in a 2-meter-deep hole drilled in a high-temperature geothermal site."

SWITZERLAND – Landwasser Viaduct

The latest in the Swiss Attractions series was issued September 5 as a self-adhesive stamp in a booklet of 10 designed by Morgan Lover. The stamp shows a train crossing the Landwasser Viaduct over the Landwasser Valley. The viaduct was designed by Alexander Acatos and constructed between 1901 and 1902 by Müller & Zeerleder on behalf of the Rhaetian Railway. It stands 213 feet (65 meters) high, is 446 feet (136 meters) long, and since 2008 has been formally recognised by UNESCO as a signature structure of the Albula Railway, a World Heritage Site.. Purchasers can scan the "Swiss Attractions" stamps with the Post-App to win a luxury trip in Switzerland and other prizes.

Some International Issues – July – Nov. 2024

CANADA – Sarah McLachlan

Grammy and JUNO award-winning singer-songwriter Sarah McLachlan was honored with a single Permanent domestic rate stamp on September 18. McLachlan is known not only for her musical abilities, selling more than 40 million albums worldwide, but also for her philanthropic efforts. McLachlan was born in 1968 in Halifax, Nova Scotia, was adopted as an infant, and received classical training in guitar, piano and voice at an early age. She released her first studio album, *Touch* (1988), at age 20. Her second album, *Solace* (1991), went gold in Canada and she has since launched six more albums. McLachlan founded the exclusively female-fronted Lilith Fair concert tour in 1997, raising more than $7 million for charities. The stamp was designed by Jocelyne Saulnier and features a photo of McLachlan with a stylized version of her signature in the foreground. The background includes a detail from her hand silk-screened art print, *Blue Sunrays*.

FINLAND – Modern Hobbies

Finland issued a set of five different domestic no-value indicator stamp designs celebrating the growing popularity of newer hobbies. The stamps were issued on September 9 in a sheet of 10 designed by Klaus Welp. They include colorful scenes beginning with hiking in one of Finland's national parks with a fully outfitted man watching a sunrise over a lake; a woman participating in hobby, or stick, horsing as she goes over a hurdle; another woman scaling a climbing wall; two people exchanging postcards in what is known as Postcrossing, wherein people exchange postcards from random people around the world; and a man tossing a Frisbee-like object toward a basket in disc golf, a game with rules similar to golf.

Some International Issues – July – Nov. 2024

GREAT BRITAIN – King Charles III Definitive

Royal Mail introduced a new £2.80 definitive stamp for international letters up to 100 grams, along with a first day cover and presentation pack for the October 7 tariff change. The stamp features an effigy of King Charles III printed in slate blue with 25 self-adhesive stamps per sheet. The 2D barcode is separated from the main body of the stamp with a simulated perforation. Printed by Cartor Security Printers in gravure, the usual safety features are applied, such as an iridescent overprint of "Royal Mail" in microtext, phosphor bands as appropriate, and subtle perforation patterns to prevent counterfeiting.

ISLE OF MAN – Celtic Corvids

A selection of six Celtic Corvids by Manx artist Julia Ashby Smith was issued on September 30 featuring birds "steeped in Celtic mythology and Manx folklore." Each stamp, save one, depicts one of the birds against a stylized background with its Celtic name prominent in the main design. The set includes an 85p raven (known in a group as an unkindness); a £1.28 chough (a chatter); a £1.60 jackdaw (a clattering); a £2.31 rook (a parliament); a £2.31 crow and hooded crow or hoodie (known as a murder); and a £2.72 magpie (a mischief). Smith's designs "focus on the distinctive poses and personalities of these birds."

Some International Issues – July – Nov. 2024

LITHUANIA – Heritage Estates

The next in a series of Lithuanian Heritage Estates features a manor in the village of Čiobiškis, Širvintos district. Built in the 16th century, the manor is nestled in a valley at the confluence of the Musė and Nervis Rivers. The image on the €1,70 stamp was designed by A.E. Paslaitis, printed by Baltijas Banknote, Latvia, and issued on September 9. Over time, the building was owned by the Švikovski family and later the Pilsudski family, which began construction of brick manor house buildings in the 19th century. Lithuania took possession of the manor between the world wars and established a children's shelter that was converted to a boarding school after World War II, followed by a home for raising and caring for children after 1965. Since 2011, it has been used for conferences, meetings, and various festive and cultural events.

MONACO – Films Shot In Monaco

Originally titled *La Valse de Monte Carlo*, as shown on the €3,00 stamp, the 1953 movie, filmed in Monaco, was released under the title *Melba*. The stamp, released September 24, shows the poster as designed by A. Oussenko and marks the film debut of the Metropolitan Opera star Patrice Munsel. Directed by Lewis Milestone, *Melba* is a biopic about the famed soprano Nellie Melba, who had emigrated from Australia to study singing in Paris, where she was tutored under mezzo-soprano Mathilde Marchesi (played by Martita Hunt). Her debut in Brussels is a triumph, but her Australian suitor follows her to Monte-Carlo in an attempt to win her hand in marriage.

Some International Issues – July – Nov. 2024

NETHERLANDS – 100 Years of Children's Welfare Stamps

On October 7, PostNL released a sheet of five Children's Welfare stamps for domestic mail use. plus a €0.54 surcharge. This year's design features one large and four smaller stamps that commemorate the 100th anniversary of Children's Welfare stamps with a theme of resilience. The large stamp includes a QR code that allows the sender of a letter or card to send a personal video message to the recipient. PostNL has issued Children's Welfare stamps since 1924, by royal decree, to raise funds focused on the well-being of vulnerable children. According to PostNL, "The 2024 campaign theme of resilience is represented through five elements: a safe foundation, loving attention, being oneself, overcoming setbacks, and having opportunities. The circles in the background of each stamp represent a trampoline, the symbol of the resilience campaign."

NORWAY – 100th Anniversary of Railways

Two Norwegian railways celebrate the 100th anniversary of their official openings with commemorative stamps issued on September 20. Børge Bredenbekk designed the pair of 20g domestic rate stamps featuring the Rauma Railway, opened by King Haakon, and the opening of the Gråkallen Line in Trondheim at the same time. The only railway in Møre og Romsdal County, the Rauma Railway played in important role during World War II when it transported Norwegian and Allied troops into battle in 1940 and was later used to evacuated Norway's gold reserves in the face of German occupation. The Gråkallen Line became the world's northernmost tram line after Russia closed down its Arkhangelsk tram line in 2004.

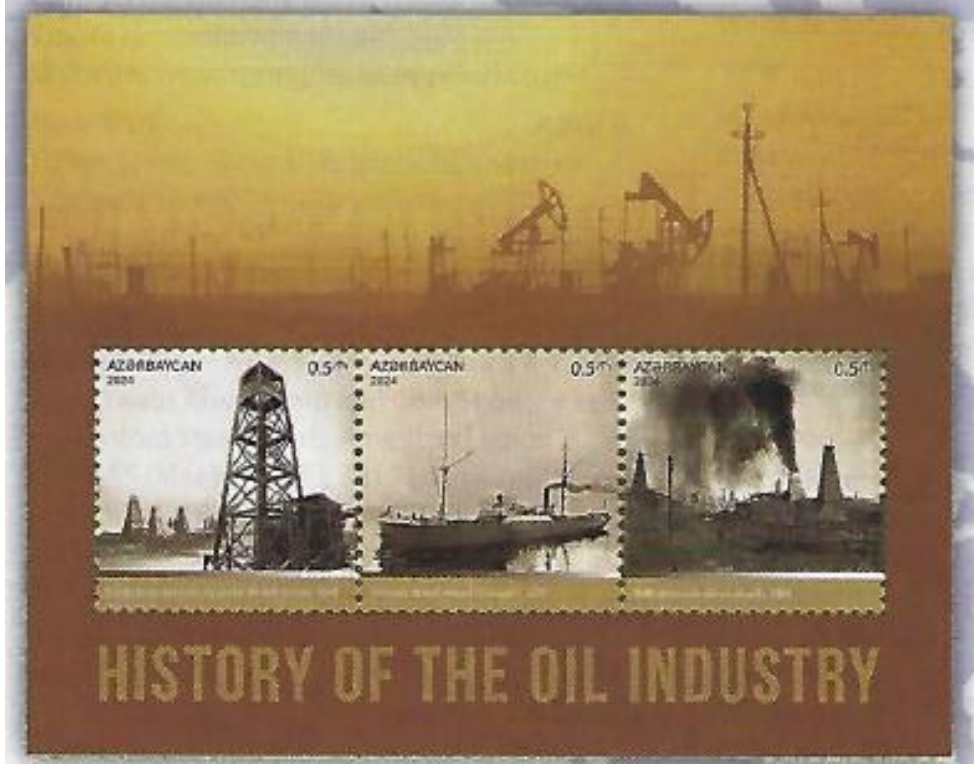
SLOVENIA - Wild Animals of Slovenia

The chamois (*Rupicapra rupicapra*), or Alpine chamois, is a species of goat-antelope native to the mountains of Europe, including Slovenia. A single A-denominated stamp, designed by Luka Seme, was issued September 27 by Slovenia The medium-sized ungulate is characterized by its curved horns, present on both genders. The animal shown on the stamp against a wintery mountainous background sports a long, thick, dark winter coat, while in summer the fur is short and yellow-brown or yellow-gray. Its powerful body permits it to move easily across rocky, steep terrain.

Some International Issues – July – Nov. 2024

AUSTRIA – 150th Anniversary of UPU

The Universal Postal Union (UPU) was established 150 years ago to regulate cross-border postal services with the original name of the General Postal Union. Austria chose to commemorate the occasion with a single €3.00 stamp on October 23 designed by Marion Füllerer. The organization was founded on October 9, 1874, in Switzerland's capital of Bern, where the UPU headquarters remain to this day. A specialized agency of the United Nations, the UPU is comprised of 192 member states. The illustrations on the stamp depict vehicles used in the carriage of mail over the ages and include a postal coach, bus, and train. The design was originally created by Heinrich Blechner for an unissued stamp commemorating the 75th anniversary of the Universal Postal Union.



AZERBAIJAN – History of the Oil Industry

Part of a series of stamps dealing with the history of the oil industry, this Azerbaijani souvenir sheet was issued on September 9. Designed by Orkhan Garayev using contemporary photographs, the three stamps on the sheet depict: the world's first mechanically drilled oil well in Baku, specifically in the Bibi-Heybat area in 1846 by Russian engineers under the commission of the Russian Empire; Zoroaster, the world's first modern oil tanker, built in 1877 with cylindrical iron tanks by Swedish engineer Ludvig Nobel in Gothenburg, Sweden; and an oil field photo commemorating Azerbaijan's holding of the world record in oil production in 1901. The oil boom transformed Baku into a major industrial and commercial hub, attracting workers and investors from around the world, noted Azerpost.

Some International Issues – July – Nov. 2024

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA – Birds

Four birds shown against their native foliage are featured on a set of stamps issued on November 1 in a sheetlet of eight. Designed by Ernesto Markota, the stamps are denominated 1,10 BAM (Bosnian mark). The horned lark nests in a hole in the ground in a cup-shaped nest made from vegetation. The white-throated dipper is unique among the passerine family as it can dive and swim underwater feeding primarily on small fish, crustaceans and insect larvae. The timid and lively gray wagtail is constantly on the move primarily by continuously lifting its tail. It nests by fast moving streams in a nest of thick grass from which it feeds on aquatic invertebrates and their larvae. Hiding in thick grass, the corn crake is seldom seen. It builds a simple nest in the tall grass and feeds on small frogs, snails, insects, spiders, and seeds.

CANADA – MuchMusic / MusiquePlus

Canada Post pays tribute to Canadian music and broadcast history with an issue of October 10 featuring two stamps celebrating specialty television channels MuchMusic, established in Toronto in 1984, and MusiquePlus, established in Montreal in 1986. The Permanent domestic rate stamps were released in a booklet of eight stamps, four of each design. According to the Canada Post website, "both stations played a critical role in the careers of Canadian performers and provided Canadians access to the burgeoning music video genre long before the advent of YouTube. The ground-breaking, interactive programming provided a platform for Canadian anglophone and francophone musicians." Designed by Michael Haddad, the bright, dynamic colors feature 1980s crowds outside the CHUM building in Toronto and the Montreal studio building.

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EGYPT – 150th Anniversary of Universal Postal Union

Egypt Post commemorated the UPU's 150th anniversary on October 8, which is known as World Post Day. Egypt is only one of numerous countries commemorating the event. According to Abdo Alwan, chairman of the Board of Directors of the Egyptian National Post Organization, "the issuance of this joint stamp came at the invitation of the International Bureau of the Universal Postal Union to all member countries of the Universal Postal Union to issue a unified commemorative postage stamp." The stamp features several multi-colored effigies of Hermes (Mercury) surrounding a globe and insured against counterfeiting. It is equipped with QR code technology "to create a rich interactive experience for the owners of these stamps."

FAROE ISLANDS – Christmas

In the Faroe Islands, Santa Claus is commonly referred to as "Jólamaðurin," which translates to "the Yule Man" or "the Christmas Man." This name, aligning with Scandinavian and Nordic influences, reflects the traditions of Christmas in the islands. A pair of stamps was issued on October 17, designed by Allan Davidsen, that show Jólamaðurin with two bins full of letters and more raining down on one stamp, while he waves to the viewer on the other. In 2016, Santa was given a complete makeover when it was decided that Santa's outfit "should reflect Faroese style, he should be lively, clumsy, mischievous with a crooked smile, and his name should be Julius," wrote Sasho Bjartsson, the Faroese producer, director, and actor who produced the musical *Julius in Likkudalur*.

GERMANY – Superheroes

Germany's Superheroes series continued October 10 with a domestic rate 0.85€ stamp in sheets of 10 featuring Black Widow. Designed by Thomas Steinacker and Jan-Niklas Kröger, the image features "Black Widow in Action" on a gray comic book background. A popular superhero from Marvel Comics, Black Widow, whose real name is Natasha Romanoff, was introduced in *Tales of Suspense* #52 in 1964, initially as a Russian spy and antagonist to Iron Man. Over time, she defected to the United States and became an ally of the Avengers, solidifying her role as a hero. She made her debut in the Marvel Cinematic Universe in *Iron Man 2* (2010) and eventually had her own film,

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GREAT BRITAIN – Christmas 2024

Royal Mail's annual Christmas issue was released in a set of five self-adhesive singles, a souvenir sheet, booklets, collector's pack, presentation pack, postcards, and first day covers featuring cathedrals on a festive evening designed by artist Judy Joel of Together Design London. All have a silhouette of King Charles III in the top right and denomination in the bottom left. Issued on November 5, the stamps in three denominations show St. Mary's Episcopal Cathedral in Edinburgh; Liverpool Cathedral; St. Patrick's Cathedral (Church of Ireland), Armagh (not shown); St. Deiniol's Cathedral, Bangor; and Westminster Cathedral in London. The five stamps and the image on the border (showing a different view of Liverpool Cathedral) all show groups of people in the foreground enjoying festivities such as carol singing, skating, building snowmen, or just chatting with friends.

LIECHTENSTEIN – Cultural Heritage

"Night Watchman's Horn" by Matthäus Schreiber (1861-1941) is part of the collection of cultural artifacts in Liechtenstein's municipality of Mauren. The simple image adapted for the stamp issued November 4 was designed by Isabella Hutter. The night watchman used the "piercing sound of his … horn to rouse residents and firefighters … in the event of a fire," the postal agency said. The horn was made by instrument makers Lippold Hamming in Markneukirchen, Saxony. It has a metal-covered funnel and wooden mouthpiece with a red and white cord worn around the upper body. In the early days, the watchman often sang or called out the time while performing his job.