

What is a Stamp? And Why Do We Collect Stamps?



Queen Victoria on World's First Stamp 1840

A postage stamp is a small piece of paper that is purchased and displayed on an item of mail as evidence of payment of postage.

- First stamp issued 1840 in the UK
- Within a few years more countries began producing stamps
- Now every one of the 196 countries issues stamps
- Stamps pay the transportation of letters, packages
- Governments use them to promote national identity
- The study of postage stamps and their use is referred to as *philately*

What is a Stamp? And Why Do We Collect Stamps?

- Various printing methods
- Post offices initially issued stamps that depicted the sovereign or national symbols
- Gradually the designs of stamps became colourful and depicted many other images than Kings or Queens
- Stamps are affixed to the top right corner of an envelope
- When handed in to the post office, the stamp is “cancelled”
- Cancels or “postmarks” show the date and place of the mailing
- You can collect cancelled “used” stamps or . . .
- Just buy them from the post office and keep them in “mint” condition



Canada's First Stamp 1851



Canadian Hockey Stamp 2014



Homer Simpson 2009

What is a Stamp? And Why Do We Collect Stamps?

Virtual
travel
around the
World and in
time



What is a Stamp? And Why Do We Collect Stamps?

Discover
cultures
and
History



Canadian Music Star



Egyptian History



Indian Pioneer Musician

What is a Stamp? And Why Do We Collect Stamps?

Each
Stamp is a
Miniature
Work of
art



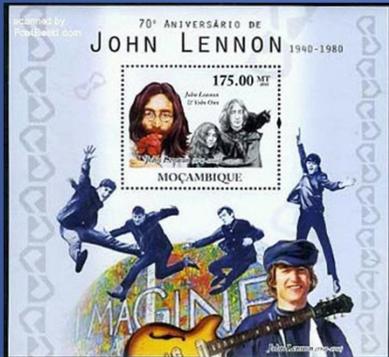
What is a Stamp? And Why Do We Collect Stamps?

Freedom to collect any country or topic



What is a Stamp? And Why Do We Collect Stamps?

FAMOUS STAMP COLLECTORS



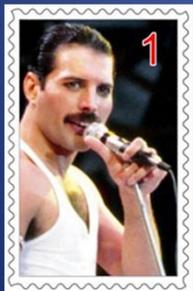
John Lennon



Queen Elizabeth II



Patrick Dempsey



Freddie Mercury



Maria Sharapova



Bela Lugosi



Amelia Earhart



Warren Buffet



Ronnie Wood

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FAMOUS STAMPS



British Guiana 1856



Canada 1929



U.S.A. 1993



U.S.A. 1918



Mauritius 1847

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Stamp Terminology

Admirals Nickname given to stamps of Canada 1912, New Zealand 1926 and Rhodesia 1913 portraying King George V wearing the uniform of an admiral.



Bilingual Stamps Issues printed in two languages such as those of South Africa / Suid Afrika

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Stamp Terminology

Cover An envelope or postal stationary item with or without adhesive postage stamps. Collected not only for the stamps but also for the postal markings. Before the use of envelopes people folded their letters and wrote the address on the outside or used a second piece of paper to "cover" their letter.



Errors Mistakes in the production of stamps such as inverted centers, inverted surcharges or overprints, missing text, wrong colors, papers. Errors are caused by people. See **Varieties**



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Stamp Terminology

Fiscal A revenue or postage stamp on a document or a cheque and cancelled with a handstamp or by pen



Mourning stamps Stamps issued as a tribute to a person who has just died. Such issues often have a black background or black border around them



Officials Postage stamps prepared for use by government departments. These can be in the form of special issues, special overprints or perforated initials. Canadian officials are overprinted G, OHMS or perforated with the letters OHMS



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Overprint Printing to suit a particular purpose added after the stamp has been printed. Stamps overprinted with a new value are referred to as surcharged stamps



Plate block Corner block of stamps with marginal inscriptions showing which plate was used in the printing of the stamp.



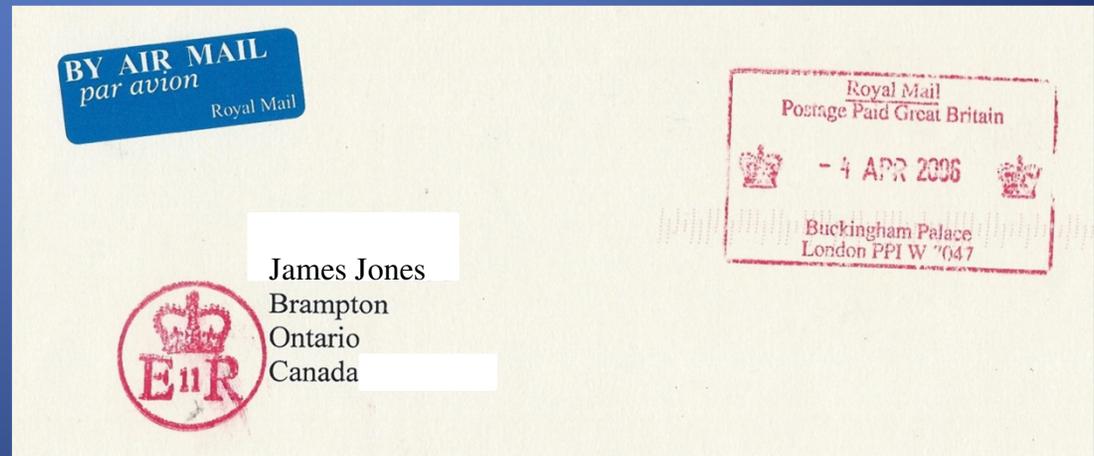
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Precancel Stamp cancelled before use. Precancels are generally sold by permit for use in bulk mailings

Royal Household Mail Everyone who writes to HM The Queen receives a reply. The Queen receives approximately 17,000 letters a month and a staff of eight Ladies in Waiting reply to each one. The Queen herself selects a small portion of those for personal reply. The Queen does not have to pay postage.



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Stamp Terminology

Semi Postals Stamps issued with two values. One to pay the postal charges the other to raise money for a predetermined cause. Sometimes called charity stamps.



Souvenir sheet A sheet containing one or more stamps along with a commemorative inscription.



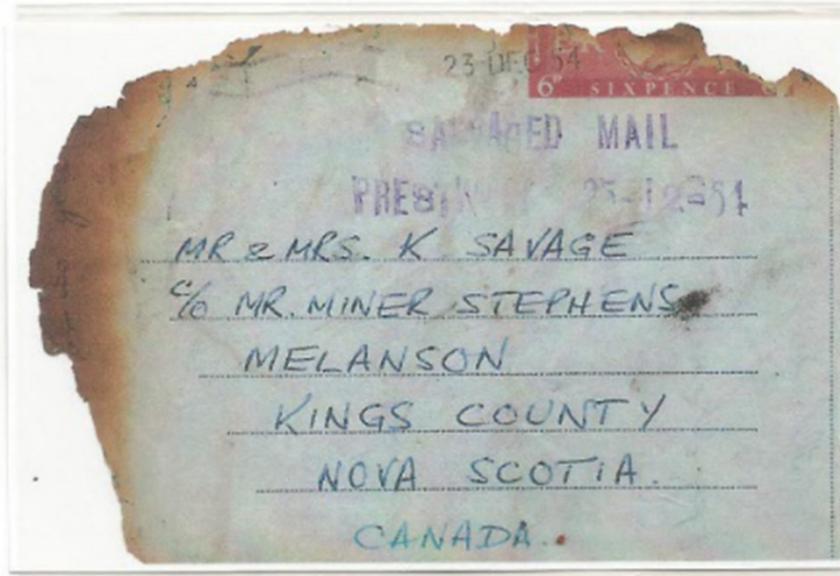
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Tongs Tweezer-like tools with a smooth gripping service used to handle stamps.



Wreck cover (Crash cover) An item of mail that has survived a catastrophe such as a plane crash or ship sinking while it was in transit. Postal authorities usually apply some form of marking to the item indicating that the item had been salvaged from a wreck.



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AMAZING STAMPS

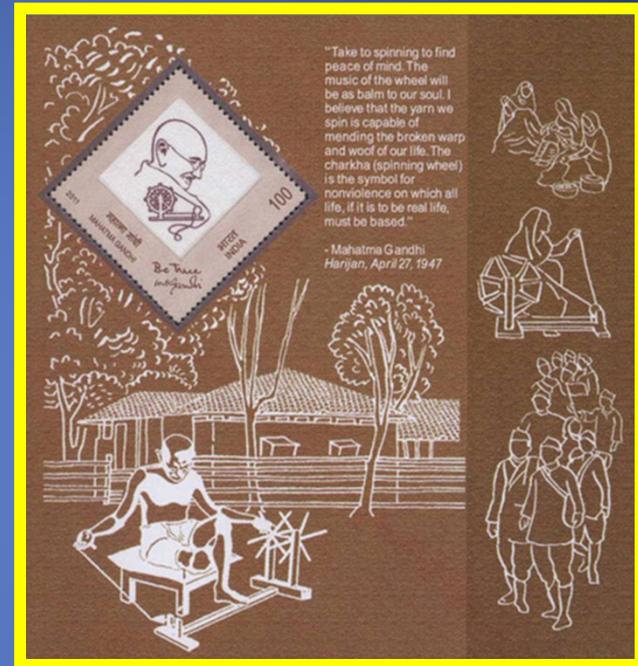


The 150th anniversary of New Zealand's first lighthouse was commemorated in January 2009 by stamps showing current lighthouses. Each stamp features a lighthouse beam that actually glows in the dark. When the special ink used to print the beam has been activated by a light source the beam can be seen in the dark.

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AMAZING Stamps

In 2011 India Post issued a stamp that was printed on khadi, which is an Indian hand spun and hand woven cloth. The stamp in the form of a souvenir sheet shows an image of Mahatma Gandhi sitting at a charkha (spinning wheel) as well as a quotation of his from 1947.



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AMAZING Stamps



Finland issued a set of six stamps in 2013 featuring characters from the game Angry Birds, created by a Finnish developer.

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AMAZING Stamps



Liberia has issued stamps commemorating cocoa, one of its leading exports. The sheet resembles an unwrapped bar of chocolate and has a quick response (QR) barcode. Scanning the QR code with a smart phone will open a document entitled “From Bean to Bar: The Making of Chocolate”.

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AN Invitation

Royal Philatelic Society of Canada

www.rpsc.org

- Receive six magazine issues per year of *The Canadian Philatelist*
- Buy or sell stamps on the RPSC Sales Circuit
- Obtain advice on collecting
- Win prizes in the youth quiz contest
- Receive one copy of *My First Stamp Album*
- Support for a school stamp club
- Access to an online library



What is a Stamp? And Why Do We Collect Stamps?

THANK YOU