This album created for free use in the public domain. American Philatelic Society ©2017 • www.stamps.org

2017 United States Postage Stamps

Lunar New Year: Rooster
January 5
The Chinese Lunar New Year is celebrated with family dinners, treats, fireworks and often gifts presented in bright red envelopes. The United States Postal Service (USPS) helped ring in the Year of the Rooster with the 10th stamp in the Celebrating Lunar New Year series. Depicted on the stamp is a colorful rooster pictured on a deep red envelope — the red symbolizes luck in Chinese culture, while the rooster is often used to ward off evil spirits. Those born under the sign of the rooster are said to be trustworthy, with a strong sense of timekeeping and responsibility.

Liliʻuokalani Gardens: Priority Mail
January 22
In 2008, the U.S. Postal Service began the American Landmarks Series of high value stamps for use on Priority and Express Mail parcels. The image on this 2017 stamp issue is from the Liliʻuokalani Park and Gardens located in Hilo on the island of Hawaii. This beautiful ocean-side park contains rock gardens, pagodas, bridges over koi ponds, statues, and even a Japanese teahouse. Also located within the park is an island called Moku Ola — at one time the site of a temple dedicated to healing. A stone tower located on the island is the remnant of an old footbridge that was destroyed by a tsunami. The issue coincided with the 100th anniversary of the gardens, which were dedicated in 1917 in honor of Hawaii’s Queen Liliʻuokalani.

U.S. Flag
January 27
Majestic. Patriotic. Graceful. These are just a few words that describe this traditional issue from the U.S. Postal Service. The Flag Act of 1777 proclaims that the U.S. flag should consist of 13 alternating red and white stripes — representing the original 13 states. Today, in addition to the 13 stripes, the flag carries 50 stars — one to represent each state in the Union. Jeffrey C. Williamson, the Postal Service's chief human resources officer and executive vice president who dedicated this stamp, noted “The elegant yet simple design of the stamp conveys the quiet dignity of Old Glory waving in the wind and calls to mind the values of liberty and justice the American flag represents.” The varied formats and printers for this issue result in numerous variations in the actual stamps.

Love Skywriting
January 7
Skywriting is created when a small aircraft releases a special smoke in patterns that form letters in the air. The USPS put love in the air when it added this Love Skywriting stamp to its series of romantic stamps. In a press release, the Postal Service said “The Love Skywriting stamp will add a sweet, romantic touch to letters and cards, not only on Valentine’s Day, but all year round.” The tradition of Love stamps began in 1973 with an issue featuring the pop art “LOVE” sculpture by Robert Indiana.

Gateway Arch: Express Mail
January 22
Another stamp issued as part of the American Landmarks Series was the Gateway Arch — a stamp issued for use on Priority Mail Express mail. At 630 feet tall, the Gateway Arch is the world’s tallest arch. Each leg of the steel structure is 54 feet across at the base, but the Arch narrows to 17 feet at the top. It is designed to sway as much as 18 inches; however, it takes a wind of at least 50-miles an hour to make the top sway ½ inches. Built as a memorial to President Thomas Jefferson and Westbound pioneers, the Gateway Arch was completed in 1965, and has been open to the public since 1967.

Seashells: Postcard Rate
January 28
People have made collections of seashells for many years. The shells depicted on these postcard-rate stamps are all native to North American waters. In the United States, the Queen Conch (also known as the pink conch) lives in the coral reefs or sea grass beds of the Caribbean Sea and Atlantic coasts of Florida. A queen conch can live up to 40 years and reach a length of up to 12 inches. The Alphabet Cone is found deep in the warm Atlantic waters from North Carolina to Florida and throughout the Caribbean Sea. Cone shells have a special hunting style — they have a tongue-like appendage used to sting and paralyze their prey. Pacific Calico Scallops vary in color from almost all white to a purple, brown, or dark orange. They often have colored spots or streaks on the outside of their shells. Pacific Calico Scallops can be found along the coast of Southern California. Zebra Nerite Snails are a freshwater snail that typically does not grow beyond one inch in size. They are an active eater making them a good choice to be kept in an aquarium.

With nearly 30,000 members, the 131-year-old American Philatelic Society is the largest, nonprofit society for stamp collectors in the free world. APS offers services and educational opportunities to broaden your enjoyment of the hobby and enhance your special collecting interests, whatever they may be. The APS is supported by membership dues, gifts, and the sale of its publications and services.
2017 United States Postage Stamps

Lunar New Year: Rooster
January 5

Love Skywriting
January 7

Lili‘uokalani Gardens
January 22

Gateway Arch
January 22

U.S. Flag
January 27

Seashells: Postcard Rate
January 28
Dorothy Height: Black Heritage  
February 1
The Black Heritage series was started in 1978 to honor African-Americans and the roles they have played in our nation's history. The 40th stamp in the series honors Dorothy Height (1912–2010) who spent a lifetime campaigning for women's and minority rights, including fights against illiteracy and under employment. Height began her career as a New York City welfare caseworker and went on to become president of the National Council of Negro Women, serving for 40 years. She was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1994 and the Congressional Gold Medal in 2004.

Patriotic Nonprofit  
February 10
A new version of the Patriotic stamp shows the bright “USA” lettering and red star. However, a wide blue border has been added and the “2016” date has been removed from the 2017 issue. “NONPROFIT ORG” continues to be printed across the bottom of the stamp. This stamp had a value of 5¢ when issued and was intended for use by authorized non-profit organizations for bulk mailings.

Oscar de la Renta  
February 16
Designer Oscar de la Renta (1932–2014) helped bring American fashion to the forefront of the world. He began his career by sketching clothing for newspapers. He quickly became a leading designer when one of his dresses appeared on the cover of Life magazine. De la Renta fashioned clothing for families of U.S. presidents, including Jacqueline Kennedy, Nancy Reagan, Hillary Clinton, and Laura Bush. The pane of eleven stamps features a portrait of the designer and 10 detailed images of some of his gown designs.
2017 United States Postage Stamps

Dorothy Height
February 1

Patriotic Nonprofit
February 10

Oscar de la Renta
February 16
2017 United States Postage Stamps

Uncle Sam’s Hat
February 18
Uncle Sam, with his tall hat, tailcoat, and striped pants, has been a symbol of the American Spirit since the 1800s. Eight small faces of varying colors, all wearing tall red, white, and blue Uncle Sam hats, appear on this forever stamp paying an additional ounce of first-class postage — 21 cents at the time of release. A USPS press release stated “The stamp features eight graphic top hats in Uncle Sam’s signature style, with red and white vertical stripes above a blue band with a white star and a gray brim. Beneath each hat is an oval shape representing a face, each in a different shade, meant to suggest the ethnic and racial diversity of the United States.”

John F. Kennedy
February 18
John F. Kennedy (1917–1963), the nation's 35th president, was a supporter of civil rights, desegregation of schools, federal funding for education, and medical care for the elderly. He promoted helping the poor in foreign countries which led to the creation of the Peace Corps. In his inaugural address, he stated “…ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country.” While often remembered for his high-profile presidency and tragic assassination, Kennedy was a decorated veteran who was awarded the Navy & Marine Corp Medals for heroism and the Purple Heart for injuries received in the line of duty. Kennedy was honored on the 100th anniversary of his birth with this first-class forever stamp.

Grapes
February 24
This 5¢ definitive stamp was originally issued in 2016 in a coil format. In 2017 it was reissued as a regular definitive in panes of 20. The stamp depicts two clusters of deep purple grapes growing on the vine. Grapes can be eaten fresh, dried to produce raisins, or crushed to make juice. The type of grape shown on this stamp can be found growing in the northern U.S. states.

Nebraska Statehood
March 1
The area that is now called the State of Nebraska was part of the Louisiana Purchase of 1803. The land was established as the Nebraska Territory by the Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854 and on March 1, 1867 the land became the 37th state in the Union.

This stamp honors the 150th anniversary of Nebraska’s statehood. The image on the stamp shows sandhill cranes flying above the Platte River. In the spring, sandhill cranes return to the Platte River where they rest and feed while on their annual migration from Mexico, Texas, and New Mexico to their breeding grounds in Canada and Alaska.

WPA Posters
March 7
In 1933, when Franklin D. Roosevelt became U.S. President, nearly 25% of the nation's people were unemployed. Roosevelt promised a “New Deal” for everyone — men and women from every ethnic background. Within months of taking office, he began launching new programs to make good on his promise. Federal Project Number One, part of the Work Projects Administration (WPA), employed more than 10,000 artists at $23 a week to create murals, sculptures, theater set designs, art centers, other works of art, and even silk-screened posters. The posters promoted such civic sites as airports, zoos and parks, health and safety, athletic programs and theater productions.

This pane of 10 stamp designs is based on the original posters created by artists employed by the Federal Project Number One.
2017 United States Postage Stamps

Uncle Sam's Hat
February 18

John F. Kennedy
February 18

Grapes
February 24

Nebraska Statehood
March 1

WPA Posters
March 7
Red Pears Definitive
March 23

Pears are one of the world’s oldest cultivated fruits. They are also one of the most popular fruits in the world — eaten poached, baked, or straight off the tree. This definitive stamp, which features two red pears on a white background, was originally issued in 2016, but was only available in coils. It has been reissued and is now available in panes of 20.

Mississippi Statehood
March 31

The first permanent settlement in the area now called the State of Mississippi was established in 1699. However, the Louisiana and the Mississippi Territories were not created until after the Louisiana Purchase of 1803. On Dec. 10, 1817, the western portion of the Mississippi Territory became the State of Mississippi, the 20th state of the Union.

Following the Civil War, a new genre of music was created in the Mississippi Delta region — “the blues music”. Often sung by the slaves working in the cotton fields, this music was a means of expression for the African-Americans that evolved into a distinctive cultural icon. This stamp honoring the 200th anniversary of Mississippi’s statehood stepped away from many traditional designs for such stamps by depicting the guitar, so indicative of the state’s musical style.

Robert Panara
Distinguished Americans
April 11

Robert Panara (1920–2014) was an influential teacher, a pioneer in the field of deaf studies and an award-winning poet who penned “On His Deafness” — the winner of the World of Poetry contest in 1988. Panara, a native of the Bronx, New York, became ill and deaf at the age of 10. He eventually earned a degree from Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C., where he taught for 20 years. He then taught another 20 years at the National Technical Institute for the Deaf.

Panara is honored on the 16th stamp in the Distinguished Americans series and is shown signing the word “respect”.

Delicioso
April 20

As the Spaniards moved into the Americas, they brought with them native foods and recipes that lead to the creation of new Latin American dishes. The USPS celebrates the influence of Central and South American, Mexican and Caribbean foods and flavors on American cuisine with the issuance of Delicioso stamps. Depicted on the stamps are sancocho (a soup or stew), empanadas (a meat-stuffed pastry), ceviche (a raw fish soup), chile relleno (a stuffed pepper), tamales (a dough wrapped and steamed in a corn husk), and flan (a sweet custard)

Green Succulent
April 28

Succulents are a group of plants with thickened, fleshy leaves that store water. Some varieties may be grown as indoor houseplants, while others are found outdoors; some stay green, while others are a colorful blue, red, or yellow; some are tall, while others grow close to the ground. The variety shown on this stamp is most often known as “hen and chicks.” This forever stamp sold for international rate of $1.15 when issued.

Celebration Boutonniere
Celebration Corsage
May 2

This celebration pairing — the domestic first-class Boutonniere forever stamp (issued in panes of 20) and the Corsage stamp — make up what have traditionally been known as “wedding stamps.” A corsage complements the beauty of a woman’s formal outfit. It may be pinned to the front of a dress, or worn on the shoulder or on the wrist. Most are made with fresh flowers, but some use silk plants so the corsage will last forever. The Corsage stamp was issued for use on 2-ounce envelopes often resulting from the RSVP and other wedding enclosures.

A boutonnière adds the finishing touch to a man’s formal wear. Traditionally, it should not be pinned to the lapel, but slide through a special buttonhole created specifically for that purpose. Boutonnières typically are made from fresh flowers and often match the lady’s corsage.
2017 United States Postage Stamps

Red Pears
March 23

Mississippi Statehood
March 31

Robert Panara
April 11

Delicioso
April 20

Green Succulent
April 28

Celebration Boutonniere
Celebration Corsage
May 2
2017 United States Postage Stamps

Strawberries
May 5

Strawberries are an established agricultural crop in every state in the United States. They are eaten fresh, frozen, dried, in jellies and jams, in pies, and more. A small blossom, some strawberries that have not yet ripened, and three bright, red, ripe strawberries surrounded by leaves, adorn this 3¢ stamp.

Henry David Thoreau
May 23

The bicentenary of Henry David Thoreau’s birth was celebrated with a first-class forever stamp that was issued at the Walden Pond State Reservation Center near Concord, Massachusetts.

Thoreau (1817–1862), a naturalist, writer and philosopher, often criticized materialism, questioned the individual’s role in society and pondered the role of humanity in nature. Thoreau spent two years (1845–1847) living simply in a one-room wilderness house while writing his book, Walden. Thoreau’s essays, journals and books offer a rich treasure trove for the thoughtful reader of any generation.

Total Solar Eclipse
June 20

This stamp – released to commemorate the total eclipse of the sun on August 21 – features special ink that changes depending on temperature. In its normal state, the ink is black. As it warms up, an image of the Moon is revealed. The 2017 eclipse could be seen in the United States from coast-to-coast, starting in the Pacific Northwest and ending on the Atlantic Seaboard in the Southeast. Cities and towns located along the “line of totality” organized viewing events, special postmarks and other collectable items centered around the stamps.

Have a Ball!
June 14

Unique in their shape and other features, the pane of sixteen stamps feature eight ball games, some derived from ancient times that continue to be played today. However, they are often more than a game — they bring people together to share the thrill of victory (or the agony of defeat). The US Postal Service issued this set of eight stamps with a special feature — they were all specially coated so that each stamp has the texture of the sports ball illustrated on that stamp. Shown are a football, volleyball, soccer ball, golf ball, baseball, basketball, tennis ball and kickball.
2017 United States Postage Stamps

Strawberries
May 5

Henry David Thoreau
May 23

Total Solar Eclipse
June 20

Have a Ball!
June 14
Andrew Wyeth
July 12
2017 United States Postage Stamps

Andrew Wyeth

June 12

American Philatelic Society, www.stamps.org
Disney Villains
July 15
These stamps were issued to honor Disney’s Ink and Paint Department, which was begun in 1923. Workers, most of them young women, were tasked with creating thousands of cels (transparent sheets on which objects are drawn or painted for traditional, hand-drawn animation) for the movies by tracing artists’ drawings and then hand coloring them. Sometimes, the women would toil as many as 85 hours a week to meet the demands of movie-release deadlines.

Ten of Disney Studios’ classic animated movie villains appear on these stamps that pay tribute to the women who painstakingly created the characters for the enjoyment of millions. The villains and the movies they appear in are Maleficent, Sleeping Beauty (1959), Cruella De Vil, One Hundred and One Dalmatians (1961), Ursula, The Little Mermaid (1989), Gaston, Beauty and the Beast (1991), and Scar, The Lion King (1994), the Evil Queen, Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs (1937), Honest John, Pinocchio (1940), Lady Tremaine, Cinderella (1950), the Queen of Hearts, Alice in Wonderland (1951), Captain Hook, Peter Pan (1953).

Sharks
July 26
Photographs of five sharks appear on the first U.S. stamps to feature the intriguing and oft-misunderstood sea creatures.

The mako shark can be found in both the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. It prefers warm water, but has been seen in the Canadian waters near Nova Scotia. One shark that was captured and tagged along the shoreline of California was located 1,322 miles across the Pacific Ocean just 37 days later!

The whale shark lives in the open ocean where the water temperature stays above 70°F. The largest known whale shark measured 41½ feet in length and weighed 47,000 pounds. Its mouth was almost 5 foot wide and contained between 300-350 rows of tiny teeth.

Thresher sharks also prefer the open ocean; however, they have also been known to swim in shallow waters near shorelines, especially in the Central and Western Pacific Ocean. They are a slender animal, with a very long tail that is used as a weapon to stun its prey.

Hammerhead sharks are named for the unusual shape of their heads — flattened and extended side-to-side into a “hammer” shape. They are found worldwide, typically along coastlines in warmer waters. Hammerheads swim in schools during the day, but prefer to hunt along at night.

The great white shark can be found swimming nearly anywhere in the world where the water temperature is above 54°F. One study followed a great white as it swam from South Africa to Australia and then back to South Africa — a distance of 12,000 miles in less than nine months. The great white shark is responsible for the largest number of reported and identified fatal unprovoked shark attacks on humans.

Protect Pollinators
August 3
Pollinators are animals, including bees, butterflies, birds, and more, that go from plant to plant in search of pollen or nectar to eat. Monarch butterflies, honeybees and flowers are featured on this set of stamps meant to increase awareness of plant pollinators. According to scientists, many pollinators are at risk due to environmental changes and disease. The monarch is depicted on the stamps showing a coneflower, a zinnia, and goldenrod. The honeybee is shown with golden ragwort and a New England aster. Pollination is not just necessary for flowers, but many of the fruits and vegetables we eat are also dependent on pollen being transferred between plants. Crop pollination by insects is believed to contribute over $15 billion of produce to the US market each year.
2017 United States Postage Stamps

Above:
Disney Villains
July 15

Left:
Sharks
July 26

Right:
Protect Pollinators
August 3
2017 United States Postage Stamps

Flowers from the Garden
August 16
Still-life oil paintings of garden flowers were the inspiration for the images on these stamps. One features red camellias and yellow forsythia, while another shows white peonies and pink tree peonies. A third stamp depicts an arrangement of white hydrangeas, white and pink roses, green hypericum berries, and purple lisianthus and the fourth shows blue hydrangeas. Any of these flowers may be found in a typical American garden.

The Snowy Day
October 4
Drawings from a beloved groundbreaking and award-winning children’s book — The Snowy Day (1962) — are featured on a set of four wintry stamps. The stamps showcase Ezra Jack Keats’ (1916–1983) story that won the prestigious 1963 Caldecott Award for illustrations. The Snowy Day was one of the first prominent 20th-century picture books centered on an Afro-American child. A reviewer in The New York Times called the book “a gentle story that tells its action eloquently in few words and in the frosty blues and other beautifully combined colors of outstanding illustrations.”

Each stamp features a different illustration of a boy named Peter exploring and playing in the snow in his urban neighborhood while wearing his iconic red snowsuit. The images include Peter forming a snowball; sliding down a mountain of snow; making a snow angel; and leaving footprints in the snow.

Father Theodore Hesburgh
September 1
The Rev. Theodore Hesburgh (1917–2015) served as president of Notre Dame University in Indiana for 35 years and is credited with raising the educational programs there to a high standard. He also served on the National Science Board, the U.S. Civil Rights Commission (where he became a spokesman for the Commission, known as a civil rights advocate), and on several boards of non-profit organizations. He received the Presidential Medal of Freedom and Congressional Gold Medal for his long and outstanding service to the United States.

Christmas Carols
October 5
The USPS issued four traditional Christmas stamps that illustrate beloved Christmastime songs: “Jingle Bells,” “Deck the Halls,” “Silent Night” and “Jolly Old Saint Nicholas.” Familiar lines from each song highlight the individual stamps. All four songs conveyed on the stamps came to life in the 1800s, with “Silent Night,” the oldest, dating to 1818. This traditional Carol is most often sung on Christmas eve, often at special “candlelight” services.

“Jingle Bells” was published as “One Horse Open Sleigh” in 1857, originally to be a Thanksgiving melody. Before the end of the century, the name was changed to “Jingle Bells” and it is now one of the most recognized Christmas Carols.

The history of “Jolly Old Saint Nicholas” is not clear. It may have been adapted from the poem “Lilly's Secret” written by Emily Huntington Miller (1833–1913). Others believe that Benjamin Hanby (1833–1867) wrote the song. Still others attribute the song to John McCaskey (1837–1935) stating that “Johnny” who wants a pair of skates in the song refers to his son John, who died as a child.

The tune for “Deck the Halls” was found in a Welsh musical manuscript dated in the late 1700s. The song is credited to be an adaptation of poem by John Ceiriog Hughes (1832–1887) with additional verses written by folk singers.
2017 United States Postage Stamps

Flowers from the Garden
August 16

Father Theodore Hesburgh
September 1

The Snowy Day
October 4

Christmas Carols
October 5
Museum of African American Culture
October 13
The stamp celebrates the first-year anniversary of the nation's newest museum in Washington, D.C., the National Museum of African American History and Culture. The stamp image is based on a photograph which features an image of the northwest corner of the museum, displaying the bronze-colored architecture.

The nearly 400,000-square foot museum has 37,000 objects in its collection. It is the nation's largest and most comprehensive cultural destination devoted exclusively to exploring, documenting and showcasing the African American story and its impact on American and world history.

History of Hockey
October 20
The designers of this tête-bêche pair – one stamp attached upside down to the other, in this case foot-to-foot – decided to show the history of the sport of hockey with simple mirror-like images. Two hockey players are shown decked out in their gear. The first stamp shows a player wearing a uniform and using equipment such as what is used in today's games. The second depicts a player wearing an old-fashioned uniform and using equipment from past years.

The stamps also helped celebrate the 100th anniversary of the National Hockey League.

Alzheimer’s Semipostal
November 30
This semipostal stamp, priced at 60¢ upon release, pays first-class domestic postage (49¢) and raises money (11¢ per stamp) to fight Alzheimer’s Disease. President Ronald Reagan designated November as National Alzheimer’s Disease Awareness Month in 1983, which now affects close to 6 million Americans.

The design on the stamp shows an older woman in profile with a caring hand on her shoulder with the suggestion of sunlight behind her and clouds in front of and below her.
2017 United States Postage Stamps

Museum of African American Culture
October 13

Alzheimer’s Semipostal
November 30

History of Hockey
October 20
2017 United States Postage Stamps
This album may not include every issue. Use the blank pages to add stamps to your album.

Stamps in this album are shown courtesy of the American Philatelic Society Reference Collection, created and sustained through the generosity of APS members.

Membership in the American Philatelic Society provides many benefits, including:

**Website** — Find dealers and stamp clubs, get new issue information, view online exhibits and much more.

**The American Philatelist** — The world’s premier stamp magazine written by our members for our members.

**Monthly E-Newsletter** — With hobby news and tips.

**APEX Expertizing Service** — Offers guaranteed opinions on the genuineness of all stamps by our committee of experts.

**Research Library** — Access to the largest public philatelic library — books, journals, archives, exhibits, government documents, and digital versions with mail and e-mail delivery service.

**APS Stamp Insurance Plan** — The best and most comprehensive coverage available — low cost for members and quality service, too.

**Education Programs** — Summer Seminar, On-the-Road Courses, and Internet-based courses — learning never ends, sign up today! Many publications are also available for purchase.

**Quick I.D.** — Helps identify that troubling stamp at a substantially lower cost than the formal certification process.

**Circuit Sales** — $6,000,000 inventory awaits your requests — mini-stamp stores delivered to your front door!

**Internet Sales** — Buy/Sell online — more than 300,000 items. New items added every business day!

**Youth Programs** — Young Stamp Collectors of America, All-Star Stamp Club program — support for the individual young collector and leaders of local youth clubs.

**Take advantage of fellow members expertise** — Use the Translation Service and the Committee for the Care and Preservation of Philatelic Material.

**Chapters & Affiliates** — Join local clubs or national organizations based on your collecting interests.

**Discounts** — APS members receive discounts on publications, Expertizing and Quick ID, exhibiting at APS shows, Affinity programs, and more.

Stay connected with the APS through our web and social media sites

www.stamps.org