A Supplement to the APS Love Album

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**Garden of Love**

It started as a single stamp — and not even a “love” stamp at that — but over the years, the Love series blossomed, yielding this garden filled with hearts.

Love may be a universal theme, but the first U.S. stamp to commemorate this basic human emotion didn’t appear until January 1973. The design was based on the iconic LOVE sculpture located in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, by Robert Indiana (born 1928).

Although the first LOVE stamp was very popular, the next LOVE stamp was not issued until 1982. Finally, in 1987, the postal announcement was made that “in recognition of the universal nature of the theme” a new LOVE stamp would continue to be issued annually.

The following year, the U.S. Postal Service began issuing two LOVE stamps each year — one for the standard one-ounce first class postage rate and the other for the two-ounce rate. The intent was to create complementary stamps that would pay the postage on wedding invitations and their enclosed RSVP envelopes.

This album supplements the “Love” album released by the American Philatelic Society in 2011/1982.

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**Garden of Love**

**Scott 4540a • 2011**

The 2011 Garden of Love issuance — ten different first-class stamps depicting a colorful mosaic of flora and fauna in a garden setting — is a continuation of the Love series, begun in 1973. Intended for use on Valentine’s Day, Mother’s Day, and Father’s Day cards, these stamps add beauty to any expression of love and affection.

The designs on these stamps depict an abstract garden of bright flowers, — pink, red, blue, orange, yellow-orange, and orange red — a butterfly, and a strawberry and doves, interlaced with vines that run from one stamp to another. Each prominent element of the design is in the shape of a heart. The deep blue background is reminiscent of a brilliant summer sky. The word “Love” sits atop each stamp.
Garden of Love

Scott 4540a • 2011
Love Ribbons
Scott 4626 • 2012
The USPS featured Love Ribbons on this stamp. Ribbons are used to adorn all types of gifts — floral arrangements, boxes of candy, birthday gift, holiday gifts, and more — all showing emotions of caring. The satin ribbons depicted here spell out the word “love” in an elegant script.

Sealed With Love
Scott 4741 • 2013
This Sealed with Love stamp expresses the joy and beauty of handwritten love letters from the Victorian era. The stamp art depicts an envelope fastened with an elegant wax seal — an invitation to send a love letter, a romantic gesture that never goes out of style.

The Victorians were ardent letter writers, often wishing to make their feelings known — and there was a proper way to use sealing wax. Although today red is the color most associated with passion, in the mid-1800s, blue was the color of love, with wax of various shades denoting the degree of emotion felt by the sender.

Cut Paper Heart
Scott TBD • 2014
This fanciful stamp takes its inspiration from the folk traditions of papercutting. Its illustration depicts a large white heart surrounded by pink swirls, with smaller hearts imbedded in the design. The hearts and swirls are contained within a red square that has “pinned” edges, as if cut with pinking shears. A white border frames the entire design.

The stamp art is reminiscent of liebesbriefe — ornately cut and painted love letters that are a form of scherenschnitte, the papercutting tradition brought to America by German immigrants.

Like the liebesbriefe, the Cut Paper Heart stamps are not just for use on Valentine’s Day, but say “love” all year round.
Love for All

Love Ribbons
Scott 4626 • 2012

Sealed With Love
Scott 4741 • 2013

Love is in the Air

Cut Paper Heart
Scott TBD • 2014
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American Philatelic Society, www.stamps.org

Often the centerpiece of a wedding reception, the cake has been a wedding tradition for many generations. These stamps show a three-tier wedding cake topped with white flowers, their green stems and leaves a delightful contrast to the cake's creamy white frosting. Pastry chef, Peter Brett, created and designed the cake.

First introduced in 2009 as part of the U.S. Postal Service's Weddings series, the two-ounce mailing rate may be used for oversized cards, but especially adds a touch of beauty and romance to wedding correspondence.

**Wedding Roses**
Scott 4520 • 2011
The Wedding Roses commemorative stamp features a photograph showing two white roses gently resting atop a piece of wedding correspondence. A white ribbon is visible in the background. An excellent choice for those wedding RSVPs.

**Wedding Cake**
Scott 4521 • 2011
Scott 4602 • 2012
Scott 4735 • 2013

Wedding Cake

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**Where Dreams Blossom**
April 11

As universal symbols of love and happiness, flowers are often the centerpiece of our most sacred ceremonies and cheerful occasions. With a splash of color and a beautiful bouquet, the Where Dreams Blossom stamp adds a fun and contemporary flair to all kinds of correspondence.

With a stylized bouquet of flowers similar to the design of the two-ounce Yes, I Do wedding stamp, Where Dreams Blossom is perfect for any occasion, including for use on save-the-date notices, response cards, and thank-you notes. It can also be used for cards and letters sent to celebrate other joyous moments and to deliver comfort and encouragement.

**Yes, I Do**
April 11

Yes, I Do. Though seemingly small, these three words hold enormous meaning, marking the beginning of two lives joined together in love. The Yes, I Do wedding stamp is a charming and romantic addition to the U.S. Postal Service's Wedding stamp series, adding a festive yet elegant flair to wedding correspondence.

With the words “Yes, I Do” nestled in a colorful bouquet of stylized flowers in the shape of a heart, this wedding stamp is sure to add a touch of beauty to wedding invitations.
Wedding

Wedding Roses
Scott 4520 • 2011

64¢ Wedding Cake
Scott 4521 • 2011

64¢ Wedding Cake
Scott 4602 • 2012

Wedding Cake
Scott 4735 • 2013

Where Dreams Blossom
April 11

Yes I Do
Wedding Series
April 11

American Philatelic Society, www.stamps.org

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More Love
More Love
More Love
More Love
This album does not include every issue related to the topic. Use the blank pages at the end of this album to add stamps related to Love.

Stamps in this album are shown courtesy the American Philatelic Society Reference Collection, created and sustained through the generosity of APS members. With 32,000 members in 110 countries, the 125-year-old 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 entirely by membership dues, gifts, and the sale of its publications and services.

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