

Lincoln Stamp Club

SOUVENIR SHEET
MARCH 2013
Monthly News of the
Lincoln Stamp Club

2013 OFFICERS

President:

Helen Marks ('13)

Vice President:

Ken Pruess ('13)

Secretary:

David Frye ('13)

Treasurer:

Ron Ecklund ('13)

Board Member:

Joel Johnson ('14)

Board Member:

Carl Marks ('13)

MEETINGS

The Club meets the
first and third Thurs-
days, 7:00–9:00 p.m.

LOCATION

St. Paul United
Methodist Church
1144 M St.
Lincoln, Neb.

CONTACT

E-mail:

questions@lincoln-
stampclub.org

Web:

www.lincolnstamp-
club.org

Mail:

PO Box 57434
Lincoln, NE
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AFFILIATION

The Club is an affili-
ate of the American
Philatelic Society:
APS #0799-064882.

History as a Mirror of Its Own Present

Stamp Subjects Reflect Contemporary Sensibilities

by David M. Frye

One way to gain insights into an historical period is to look beyond that time's events and to ask what the people and institutions of that time found significant in their own history.

The choices of the Post Office Department, and later the Postal Service, for subjects for commemorative stamps create a kind of record of the country's perceptions of its own history.

If we look back fifty years to 1963, we see what people and events and causes the nation honored with commemorative stamps. Here's a quick, color-coded summary of those subjects:

- **Carolina Charter Tercentenary**
- **Food for Peace—Freedom from Hunger**
- **West Virginia Statehood Centenary**
- **Battle of Gettysburg Centenary**
- **Emancipation Proclamation Centenary**
- **Alliance for Progress**
- **Cordell Hull, Secretary of State**
- **Eleanor Roosevelt, First Lady**
- **The Sciences**
- **Free City Mail Delivery Centenary**
- **Red Cross Centenary**
- **Christmas**
- **John James Audubon.**

The commemorative stamp program comprised thirteen different designs: **six centennials**, *two federal programs*, two recognitions of recently passed national figures, **one societal element**, *one holiday*, and **one cultural icon**.

What do these choices and their distribution among the different types of topics suggest about how our nation—as represented by the administration of President John F. Kennedy—viewed itself and its own history? Several items jump out immediately. First, six of thirteen subjects focused on history, marking five centennials and one tercentennial. Second, the deaths of prominent contemporary national figures were noteworthy, garnering two of thirteen stamps. Likewise, two Kennedy Administration policy initiatives earned their own commemorative



A 1963 John James Audubon commemorative issue on a 1964 air mail cover to Switzerland.

stamps. The Christmas stamp was the second issue to honor that holiday. The Audubon stamp turned 1961's Frederic Remington Centenary into the first issue in an ongoing series honoring American artists as cultural icons.

If one groups the subjects—placing together figures and policies in the category of civic life, and societal elements, holidays, and cultural icons in the category of culture—these choices reflect attention in the following proportions:

- **History:** six, 46 percent
- **Civic Life:** four, 31 percent
- **Culture:** three, 23 percent.

One could assign commemoratives to other general topics and group those topics into different categories, but the general idea still holds. This selection of subjects and the distribution of types of subjects provide a glimpse into the understanding our nation had of itself at the time.

Intriguing questions then arise. If one made similar studies of different years, what would those results show? How does the distribution among the broadest categories—history, civic life, and culture—change over time? What other categories emerge? What does the weight given to various categories say about an era's perceptions of its own priorities? Questions!

Meetings: Business, St. Benedict

The Club meets at a central location:
St. Paul United Methodist Church
1144 M St., Lincoln, Neb.

Go south on 11th Street, then turn left into the church's parking garage between N and M Streets. Take the elevator to the *main* floor. Street parking is available too.

- **Business Meeting**, Thurs., Mar. 7, 2013, 7–8:30 p.m.
- **Program:** *St. Benedict of Nursia:*

Did You Know? Nebraska is the only state to have had two different official Postal Service abbreviations. **NB** became **NE** in 1969 at the request of Canada's postal authorities to avoid being mistaken for New Brunswick.

His Life and Legacy, David Frye,
Thurs., Mar. 21, 2013, 7–8:30 p.m.

- **Coming Up:** April 4, 18; May 2, 16; June 6, 20, July 18. **No meeting on July 4 in honor of Independence Day.**
- **Programs:** Visit with one of the Club's leaders to secure your spot on the schedule to give a program during the coming year.

WANTED

Items for Monthly Exchanges

If you would like to include items in the monthly exchanges, send your descriptions and prices to questions@lincolnstampclub.org by **March 25 for the April 4, 2013, Exchange.**

Info about more significant items, which might require members to research ahead of time, should be sent by **March 25 for the May 2 Exchange.**

Forms for your items are available online:

- www.lincolnstampclub.org/downloads/SmallExchangeSheets.pdf
- www.lincolnstampclub.org/downloads/ExchangeSheet.pdf

USPS New Releases: March and April '13

March 1: *Bank Swallow*; single 46¢ stamped env.; various formats; Sacramento, Calif.

March 7: *Modern Art in America*; twelve forever (46¢) comm.; New York, N.Y.

March 8: *Golden Deer*; single forever postal card and double reply postal

card.; Middleburg, Va.

March 19: *Patriotic Star*; single 46¢ defin. coil; 3k and 10k; San Francisco, Calif.

April 3: *La Florida*; four forever (46¢) comm.; St. Augustine, Fla.

April 11: *Where Dreams Blossom*; single forever (46¢) special; New York, N.Y.

April 11: *Yes I Do*; single 66¢ 2-oz.

1st-class letter rate; San Francisco, Calif.

On the Web:

- www.beyondtheperf.com/2013-preview/
- store.usps.com/



LINCOLN STAMP CLUB · 2013 INDEX



... all persons
held as slaves ...
shall be then,
thereforward,
and forever
free ... "

EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION · JANUARY 1863–2013

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LINCOLN STAMP CLUB