

American History Told By Stamps.

The development of America is revealed in her postage stamps. Our first stamps were put on sale in New York on July 1, 1843. Since that time many but gradual changes and improvements have been made in them. It was during the 90's that the practice of recording history on stamps was begun. The post office department dedicated in 1893 to Columbus and his discovery of America the first series of such stamps. Now 12 series of commemorative stamps have been issued. The Columbus stamps told the story of the discovery of the country in a sort of piecemeal way. Each denomination pictured a part of his memorable voyage.

The second commemorative issue to make its appearance was in honor of the Trans-Mississippi and International exposition. It depicted various western scenes and events, such as Marquette on the Mississippi, farming, Indians hunting buffalo, the covered wagon migration, range cattle in a storm and the Mississippi river bridge. A few years after this issue came the Pan-American series signaling the exposition at Buffalo and our connection with Latin America. This series all bore pictures of transportation agencies.

In 1904 came the Louisiana Purchase exposition series which consisted chiefly of portraits of the persons connected with the purchase of that territory. The 1907 series was the next in line. It showed scenes as far back as the settlement of Virginia, and told the story of John Smith and Pocahontas and the founding of Jamestown.

Two series of commemorative stamps appeared in 1909. One was a two-cent stamp bearing the portrait of William H. Stewart who conducted the negotiations for the purchase of Alaska from Russia. The second was a two-cent stamp also. It contained a view of the Hudson palisades in the background and in the foreground Henry Hudson's Half Moon was sailing up the river while the Clermont was going down, with Indians in canoes bobbing between. This series commemorated the discovery of the Hudson river and the centennial of its first navigation by steam.

The series for 1912-13 marked the opening of the Panama canal and celebrated the discovery of the Pacific Ocean. The series containing a figure of Liberty victorious against a background of the flags of America, France, England, Italy and Belgium on the three-cent stamp commemorated the successful outcome of the World War. The recent Pilgrim Tercentenary issue of three different stamps was illustrated by the Mayflower, the landing of the Pilgrims and the signing of the compact.

The two latest issues are dated 1924 and 1925. The first recognizes the Huguenot-Walloon Tercentenary. This series consisted of one-cent stamps with the "New Netherland," the Walloon ship, on it, and a two-cent stamp depicting their landing at Albany, N. Y., and a five-cent stamp containing the Ribault Memorial monument at Mayport, Fla. The 1925 series is the Lexington-Concord issue. It depicts Washington at Cambridge taking command of the American army, the Birth of Liberty, representing the battle of Lexington and Concord, and the Minute Men.—Exchange.

Lincoln Slighted in 1858 on Train of McClellan Road.

Lincoln first came into touch with George B. McClellan in 1858, says J. H. Galbraith in "The Columbus Dispatch." The year before that, McClellan had resigned from the army and was made chief engineer of the Illinois Central Railroad, with offices in Cincinnati.

That railroad was intensely favorable to the election of Douglas to the Senate and in the debates of 1858, furnished Douglas with special trains and every service possible. Lincoln could get no favors. On one occasion the conductor of a crowded train on which Lincoln was traveling refused to permit the tired candidate to enter a vacant parlor car attached to the train, though he was personally friendly to Mr. Lincoln. Evidently, he had his orders.

Probably nothing was further from the minds of Lincoln and McClellan then than that six years later they were to be rival candidates for the Presidency. At the outbreak of the war, McClellan was called to Harrisburg, Pa., by Governor Curtin, who wished to have him take command of a Pennsylvania regiment, McClellan being a native of Pennsylvania. En route to that conference, McClellan happened to stop in Columbus to confer with Governor Dennison, and the Governor tendered him the command of an Ohio regiment, which he accepted.

Colonel A. K. McClure, in his "Lincoln and Men of War times," attributes to this chance stop at Columbus the cause of McClellan's unfortunate war career. He went into the West Virginia campaign, the really insignificant engagements of which were magnified into important ones, and so, when it was found that a new head of the army was needed, he seemed to be the man of the hour, and he was called to responsibilities for which he was really not prepared.

Colonel McClure believed that if he had gone into the war at the head of a Pennsylvania regiment he would have made of it a very efficient organization and with it won success and honor which would have slowly prepared him for higher commands to come to him when he was really fitted for them. It is evident that Lincoln in his relations with McClellan, however, did not remember of the treatment which he received from the Illinois Central under his management in the campaign of the debates with Douglas.



A Valentine

I always thought, before, a valentine Was paper-lace, held with a gory heart. A rotund Cupid, with his gilded dart, A sugared message: "Dear one, I am thine!" I pictured some coquetish Columbine, Who snared poor Punchinello, with high art, Till he—great clumsy lout—could not depart. And for his clowning, could but weep and pine!

But now—I know, O little love of mine, Why men would hide them back of paper-lace And rosy garlands, where pale ribands twine! I, too, am dumb, when gazing on thy face— And glad enough to say, "Dear, I am thine"— In any fashion, by the good Saint's grace. —THEDA KENYON in Everybody's Magazine.



Valentines, 1926

St. Valentine has thrown away his golden lyre. He has bought himself a saxophone and shaved his long whiskers. He has the latest Valentino haircut and it is whispered by the chubby little cupids that ornament his letters that he is learning the latest jazz steps. None of his friends of ten or twenty years ago would recognize him now, for he has turned over the traces and made himself anew a la 1926.

Even his little love missives have changed. No more of the slushy, mushy, long-drawn messages for St. Valentine. He says what he wishes to say now in short, snappy sentences. What used to be "Dearest love, I am waiting and pining for thee beneath the rose bush," is now, "Lemme know quick, kid, can I be your valentine?" All the newest, jazziest phrases of the age the old saint utilizes for his messages this year and we'll say that he is certainly up to the minute. The stores are filled with all kinds of valentines, for, after all, what holiday is there so fraught with kind feeling as St. Valentine's day, February 14. The same old-fashioned, straight-from-the-heart sentiment that characterized the Valentine days of the past still exist, but it is wrapped in new-fangled packages.

All the love and friendship and tenderness is still there, but it is dressed in modern raiment. The 1925 youth is probably as strong for his girl as was the Beat Brummell of 1900, but he does not send her a valentine saying: "I fain would have thee, fair lady love, whose raven tresses have captured my heart, say thou wilt be my valentine and give me joy divine." Instead he would send her one of 1926 valentines like the dice valentine or another equally new variety. The dice valentine is a red card bearing a verse and fashioned with little pockets in which repose two dice. The dice are printed on all sides with little scripts such as "you've knocked me cold," "I love you," "say yes," or "you've vamped me sure."

The hordes of 1926 valentines abound with modern jingles and snappy verses. The cross-word puzzle valentine is making quite a hit. It consists of a huge cross-word puzzle of heart-shaped blank spaces, which when solved reads vertically or horizontally, "I love you, kid," or some message of regard.

Dripped Sentiment
What messages these valentines of grandmother's time used to tell! No wooing was complete without them. They fairly dripped sentiment! They are valuable now, these tokens of a bygone period. Collecting them is a fad and they are eagerly sought. Unique specimens command fancy prices and some sorts are in as keen demand as Mauritius stamps are among confirmed philatelists.

Air Transport
More than 28,000,000 miles have been flown in Europe and the United States to January 1, 1925, in regular scheduled air service, and in six years more than 51,000,000 pounds have been carried by aircraft over established routes, writes J. Parker Van Zandt of the Department of Commerce in the Journal of the Society of Automotive Engineers. A careful analysis of this experience will give us the facts that we so much need regarding the air traffic program, continues Mr. Van Zandt, who made a special trip to Europe during the summer of 1924 to investigate the commercial air services there.

Aristocratic Ranchers
The life of a Canadian farmer makes appeal to Lord Edward Montague, nineteen-year-old son of the duke of Manchester, and he has gone to Lord Rodney's ranch in Saskatchewan. He found there the Duc de Namours, nephew of the king of the Belgians, who went out some time ago as a pup, accompanied by a nephew of the earl of Derby.



ODD PENALTIES FOR LAPSE FROM GRACE

Ridicule Once Held Effective Punishment.

The "drunkard's cloak" as a punishment was the system once adopted by the magistrates of Newcastle-Upon-Tyne in order to cure drunken persons, and as the "cloak" consisted of a barrel with holes for the head and hands, the delinquent, who was forced to parade the streets wearing it, would attract considerable attention to his 'apsee.

Similarly the stocks, once used so extensively for the punishment of petty offenders, were so arranged that the culprits generally received more ridicule than sympathy, and probably our forefathers considered that publicity was likely to discourage wrongdoing. In 1376 a petition was presented Edward III requesting that stocks should be established in every village, and, later on, each parish was so provided. These relics of a bygone punishment are still seen by the way-side.

The whipping post was sometimes an accompaniment of the stocks; occasionally the whipping was done "at the cart's tail." Titus Oates, for instance, was ordered to be whipped from Aldgate to Newgate, and, two days later, from Newgate to Tyburn.

Our ancestors were severe on the woman scold, and the punishment meted out to her was drastic. One known as the brank was a sugar-loaf-shaped fixture for the head, constructed of iron hoops, with a cross at the top. A flat piece of iron projected inwards, which was placed on the woman's tongue. She was then led about the streets wearing this unique head dress.

The duckling stool was built and used in this wise. A post was erected in a pond, and a beam, working on a swivel, was affixed thereto. A chair was then fastened to the beam, and the refractory woman was placed in the chair. She was then swung over the pond and immersed in the water, the operation being repeated "as often as the virulence of the distemper required." This punishment is also said to have been inflicted upon brewers and bakers who violated the laws.

The pillory was another instrument of punishment where the offender was exposed to public view. It generally consisted of a wooden frame or screen, raised from the ground, and with holes for the head and arms of the person condemned to stand therein.

But of all these wayside spectacles surely the gibbet would be the most revolting. It might be regarded as a "comforting sight to the relations and friends of the deceased" to see that justice had been done and the murderer's body suspended by the roadside, but it would be a ghastly sight for other people.

France Preserves Relics

France has taken steps to protect the prehistoric art of the cave man from damage by vandals. Dr. C. E. Resser, geologist of the United States National museum, who has recently returned from the Dordogne cave region of southern France, reports that the government now requires that the caves be locked to prevent unauthorized visits of sightseers who have formerly frequently written or carved their names and initials on the paintings and drawings made probably 20,000 years ago by primitive artists as part of religious rites. In the principal cave man shrine containing colored animal pictures, the low, narrow galleries in which the cave artist worked by the dim light of his lamp, electric lights have now been placed to avoid the damage from the smoking candles.

Few Women in Poorhouses

There are more men in poorhouses than women, about two to one, but the women are harder to handle than the men, says the superintendent of one. "Give a man a stick to whittle and a seat in the sun and he'll be satisfied, but a woman never gets fully reconciled to charity. Our most troublesome inmates are the old bachelors and the most difficult to manage. They mean well, some of them are fine old fellows, but they have a different view of life than a man who has had a wife and children. They just simply haven't got the idea of teamwork." Correct. It takes teamwork to make a home.—Capper's Weekly.

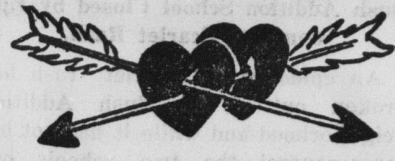
Old and New Customs

One of the characteristics of the old-fashioned valentine was the secrecy with which it was invested. The sender was most unwilling to hang his heart upon his sleeve, for there were altogether too many daws waiting for a chance to pick at it. The valentine was carefully wrapped and was intended for the eyes of the recipient, and nobody else.

But investors today who spend a dime or a quarter on a valentine don't care a tinker's commission whether anyone sees them or not. Their missives go openly through the mails and Dan Cupid may yell his message all along the route.

Of course, there is much less reason for keeping the messages under cover than there used to be. Not only are the vulgar "comics" a thing forgotten, but the "coo-coo," "love-dovey," "dew-you," "heart-part" sentimental effusion has also disappeared.

Valentines
John Archie Jones, a dandy youth of twenty-one or there, spent dollars for a valentine To send his lady fair; But when he saw the maiden next She gave no hint or sign Of all the dear and loving words That filled that valentine. Now Jimmie Hicks, a little boy Just turned five, they say, Spent one lone nickel on a card To send to Dolly Gray; And that same eve, so neighbors tell, This four-year-old young miss Right out where all could see and hear Gave Jimmie Hicks a kiss. —KATHERINE EDELMAN.



Her Valentine



By THOMAS A. CLARK, Dean of Men, University of Illinois. The envelope, all beautifully embossed in flowers and butterflies and chubby round cupids, was lying on my desk when, at the ringing of the last bell, I slipped into my seat in the fourth-grade room. She had already come in, and her little curly brown head was just showing above the top of her geography, but in spite of the fact that she seemed so interested in study I felt that she was watching me.

The package was not sealed, so under cover of the desk I drew out the valentine. It was crinkly and lacy and very beautiful in my eyes, and I felt a thrill of happiness as I held it in my hand. Within there were verses, and they breathed of tenderness and love. On one corner, lest I should be in doubt as to the identity of the sender, were printed the initials "M. B."

All morning I was happy as I stole shy glances into the envelope and read the printed words; in the evening I was happier still as I walked home with her; and I am happy today at the memory of it all.

We are strangely restrained and unappreciative and unsentimental, most of us. If we love anyone it takes a tragedy or a cataclysm to get a statement out of us. We expect our friends or the members of our family to guess how we feel without our saying so. "Don't you like my dinner?" a housewife asked her husband. "Well, did I kick?" was his tender, appreciative response. One learns to know that things are satisfactory if no one makes objection. I saw a man, married for ten years, taking a bunch of violets home to his wife on Valentine day, and it gave me a sensation, it was so unusual.

Does anyone ever tell the minister when he preaches a good sermon? When someone helps you, or gives you courage, or stimulates you to effort, do you let him know, or do you take for granted that he will understand? Have you ever told mother what a void there would be in the world if she were gone? If anyone these days loves his teacher, as we were instructed to do, does he ever say so? I imagine not; all of these things would seem too sentimental.

It is so much easier to send flowers to the funeral, or to subscribe to the memorial fund than to write the note of appreciation, or to utter the word of love, or to give expression to thanks when those who have served us and sacrificed for us and made our lives joyful are themselves still alive. We don't often send the valentine.

I found the little paper lace affair with its verses in my desk the other day, treasured through all the vicissitudes that have come to me since I was ten:

"If you love me As I love you No knife can cut Our love in two." It gave me pleasure all day to think of it.



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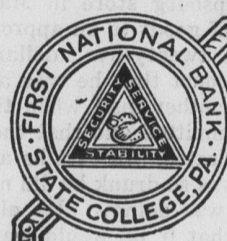
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