

# The United States of America



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE  
OFFICIAL COMMEMORATIVE STAMP  
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

**T**he United States of America, in honor of its Bicentennial, has issued a special set of stamps recalling one of the most significant events in the history of the world—the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

An official issue of the United States Postal Service, the set of four 13-cent stamps was postmarked in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania at the post office of first issue and bears the official First Day of Issue cancellation—July 4,

1976, the 200th anniversary of the declaration of American independence. The stamps depict John Trumbull's famous painting "The Declaration of Independence, 4 July 1776 at Philadelphia." The painting focuses on the committee formed to draft the Declaration—John Adams, Robert Livingston, Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin and Roger Sherman—as they present the document to John Hancock, who was the president of the Second Continental Congress.





First Day  
Covers

First Day  
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Covers

FIRST DAY COVER ALBUM

AMERICAN  
PUBLICATIONS

FIRST DAY COVER ALBUM

AMERICAN  
PUBLICATIONS

FIRST DAY COVER ALBUM

AMERICAN  
PUBLICATIONS



**POSTAL COMMEMORATIVE SOCIETY**



**U.S. FIRST DAY COVERS  
& SPECIAL COVERS**

**UPTON SHELLEY LYBARGER**



Arkansas

*Mockingbird & Apple Blossom*



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE





**Alabama**  
*Yellowhammer & Camellia*

Alabama  
USA 20c



**Alaska**  
*Willow Ptarmigan & Forget-Me-Not*

Alaska  
USA 20c



# flora & fauna

OF THE WORLD

ROMANIA • FIRST DAY COVER



WHITE EGRET • *Egretta alba*



PRIMA ZI A EMISIEI  
BUCURESTI 25 MARTIE 1970  
OSTA ROMANA  
PALAZI

# flora & fauna

OF THE WORLD

ROMANIA  
White Egret — *Egretta alba*

The Egret's beautiful nuptial plumage — a splendid cape of white plumes flowing on its back, lower foreneck and head — transforms the lovely bird into a stunningly regal creature during the breeding season. So beautiful are these plumes that people of high rank in Oriental countries have vied for them since earliest times. Called *aigrettes*, the exquisite plumes are taken from the Egret, set with jewels and worn as marks of honor. Through the ages, desire for the fashionable *aigrettes* has spread to other countries. At one time, there became such a demand by the millinery trade for the elaborate plumes that, in 1903, plume hunters were offered \$32 an ounce for them. Since the plumes begin to grow just before the breeding season in January, and are shed soon after the season is over, plume hunters once destroyed thousands of these splendid birds each summer — often leaving newly-hatched birds

completely helpless. In the first decade of the twentieth century, the Egret population plummeted to an all-time low. Only because various countries initiated protection laws for these birds, have they made a gradual recovery, now boasting large populations nearly worldwide. In Romania, the White Egret, *Egretta alba*, lives along the thousand-mile Danube Delta — a great flood plain region. The bird migrates to the south in autumn, and returns in the springtime.



OFFICIAL FIRST DAY OF ISSUE



Hans Hofmann  
ABSTRACT EXPRESSIONISTS



Hans Hofmann

44 USA

FIRST DAY OF ISSUE



## HANS HOFMANN Abstract Expressionists

As celebrated a teacher as he was a painter, Hans Hofmann (1880–1966) mentored thousands of students — including Frank Stella, Helen Frankenthaler and Ray Eames. Hofmann was also a pioneering color theorist who invented a technique he called “push and pull,” whereby abstract shapes create the illusion of depth on a flat canvas.

Hans Hofmann was born in Weissenburg, Bavaria. As an art student in Munich, he attracted the attention of a wealthy art patron and department-store owner who in 1904 sent him to Paris. There, Hofmann developed a friendship with Robert and Sonia Delaunay, whose style of “organic cubism” emphasized color over form. Their work inspired his own exuberantly colorful paintings.

After several years in Paris, Hofmann returned to Munich and began teaching. The Hans Hofmann School of Fine Arts he established in 1915 became quite successful over the following decade. In the early 1930’s, Hofmann was invited to teach summer sessions at the University of California at Berkeley. With artistic censorship on the rise in his native

Germany, he decided not to return. Instead, he settled in New York and opened an art school in Manhattan.

Throughout his long career, Hofmann found his dual role of artist-teacher somewhat contradictory. “When I paint, I improvise...I deny theory and method and rely only on empathy and feeling,” Hofmann once explained. “In teaching, it is just the opposite, I must account for every line, shape and color. One is forced to explain the inexplicable.”

It wasn’t until he was 78 years old that Hofmann retired from teaching and devoted himself fully to his own art, and he was by then a leader of the abstract expressionist movement. Hofmann created *The Golden Wall* (1961), featured on this stamp, during this highly prolific period — which lasted until his death at the age of 85.

The 44¢ U.S. stamp honoring Hans Hofmann is part of the 10-stamp Abstract Expressionists issue. The stamps were designed by Ethel Kessler of Bethesda, Maryland. First Day of Issue was March 11, 2010, at the Albright-Knox Art Gallery in Buffalo, New York.



OFFICIAL  
FIRST DAY  
OF ISSUE



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

*Recreational  
Sports*  
BOWLING



## RECREATIONAL SPORTS Bowling

Despite little press attention, bowling thrives as one of America's most popular recreational sports. It is estimated that some 79 million Americans bowl every year.

A form of the sport has been traced to articles found in the tomb of an Egyptian child buried in 5200 B.C. Bowling at pins originated in 3rd century Germany, not as a sport but as a religious ritual. Even much later, the link between the church and bowling remained. Religious leader Martin Luther was an avid bowler who is credited with standardizing the game of ninepins.

Bowling was introduced to America by early Dutch and English settlers. By the mid-1800s, the game in the form of ninepins was extremely popular. It moved indoors to wooden lanes everywhere from New York to Milwaukee. But some states outlawed bowling because it attracted gamblers. According to legend, an entrepreneur trying to circumvent the ban on ninepins added an extra pin and changed the set-up from a diamond to a triangle. The game of tenpins has since become the bowling norm.

A governing body for the sport finally came into being in 1895, when the American Bowling Congress was established. Rules and equipment were standardized, and competitions were organized. The first ABC tournament, held in 1901, attracted 41 teams. At the Golden Jubilee Tournament held in 1953, 8,180 teams were entered. During that time, two other governing bodies, the Women's International Bowling Congress and the American Junior Bowling Congress, were also formed.

The lifeblood of bowling is competitive league play, in which millions participate. However, one of the great joys of the sport is that virtually anyone can bowl. It is a simple game requiring no more strength than is needed to lift and swing the ball. The key to success is a good, consistent delivery. There is even the possibility of achieving perfection. Every bowler dreams of scoring 300 points, which is a "perfect" game.

The 32c U.S. stamp picturing the recreational sport of bowling was designed by Don Weller of Park City, Utah.





U. S. SPACE ACHIEVEMENT COMMEMORATIVE

Cancelled at Houston, Texas, August 2, 1971



FIRST DAY  
OF ISSUE

NEIL ARMSTRONG  
"THAT'S ONE SMALL STEP  
FOR A MAN -  
ONE GIANT LEAP FOR MANKIND"



US 8c  
UNITED STATES IN SPACE... A DECADE OF ACHIEVEMENT  
1971  
FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

DECADE OF  
**SPACE**  
ACHIEVEMENTS  
1961-1971



NASA



ALAN B. SHEPARD, JR.  
FIRST MAN IN SPACE ON THE MERCURY REDSTONE II

Mr. Upton Shelley Lybarger  
3838 Hampshire Boulevard  
Fort Worth, Texas 76103

# Franklin D. Roosevelt

## Memorial Stamp Issue



**FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT**  
Jan. 30, 1882 - April 12, 1945



## FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

Franklin Roosevelt occupied the White House for more than 12 years — longer than any President in American history. His decision to run for a third term and then a fourth defied the precedent established by George Washington, to the consternation of traditionalists both within and without the government. To his critics, Roosevelt's disregard for tradition was just another example of his disrespect for "the American way." To his advocates, his willingness to continue in office was evidence of Roosevelt's dedication to the nation and its problems.

During his first term, Roosevelt was mostly occupied with domestic problems. In his second term, he became concerned about world events that seemed to foreshadow war in both Europe and Asia. He mobilized the nation's industry to support America's friends in the battle against the Axis nations. As Roosevelt campaigned for a third term in 1940, the war was going badly for the Allies, but he promised to try to keep the U.S. out of the conflict.

The attack on Pearl Harbor thrust Roosevelt into the role of

Commander-in-Chief. It was in that role that he spent the rest of his life. He was in frequent contact with his generals and his admirals in far-off theaters of operations. In his other role, as America's chief of state, he met with Allied leaders to plan the conduct of the war and the peace that would follow victory.

Roosevelt's last diplomatic effort came just two days after his fourth inauguration. He traveled to Yalta, in southern Russia, to meet with Josef Stalin and Winston Churchill. The three leaders discussed the final assault on Germany and the organization of the United Nations that was to meet in San Francisco that summer. On his return, Roosevelt gave Congress a report on the meetings before retiring to his cottage at Warm Springs, Georgia for a rest. He died there on April 12, 1945, less than a month before V-E Day.

The 3¢ Franklin D. Roosevelt stamp, part of the Roosevelt Memorial Series, was designed by V.S. McCloskey, Jr. First Day of Issue was June 27, 1945, in Washington, D.C.



**BURMA ROAD, 117-MILE  
LIFELINE TO CHINA**



PHOENIX, AZ  
SEP 3  
1991  
85026



BURMA ROAD, 117-MILE LIFELINE TO CHINA  
FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

**ROOSEVELT CALLS FOR  
AMERICA'S FIRST  
PEACETIME DRAFT**



PHOENIX, AZ  
SEP 3  
1991  
85026



America's first peacetime draft, 1940  
FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

*Commemorating*  
**UNITED NATIONS**  
*Day*



1945  
1954



FUTURE MEMBERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS

• • FIRST DAY OF ISSUE



FIRST DAY  
OF  
ISSUE

*Commemorating*  
**UNITED NATIONS**  
*Day*



1945  
1954



FUTURE MEMBERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS

• • FIRST DAY OF ISSUE



FIRST DAY  
OF  
ISSUE





## BARN SWALLOW

Barn swallows are found throughout the United States. After wintering in Central and South America, they travel as far north as Alaska and Canada, a migration of up to 10,000 miles. They generally travel in large flocks, flying by day and spending the nights in woods and marshlands.

With its wide wing span, the barn swallow looks larger than its actual seven inches in flight. Its body is slim and streamlined, and both the male and female have similar coloring. Their back feathers are steel-blue shading to black, and their chin, breast, and bottom are chestnut brown and buff. The tail is slender and deeply forked. Each tail feather, except the central pair, has a white spot on its inner surface.

The barn swallow's long pointed wings give it a graceful appearance when it is flying. However, it has weak legs and shows a shuffling gait when walking on the ground. The voice of both sexes is a pleasant, quick "kvik-kvik-vit-vit" clicking sound, with a harsh "keet" of alarm when there is danger to the nest.

Barn swallows arrive in the United States in early spring and depart for warmer climates in September or October. On summer days, they can be seen darting close to the ground around barns and houses, seemingly playing "tag" with friends. By the late afternoon, their play becomes serious as they seek to capture flying insects for food. They are particularly fond of mosquitoes and spiders.

The barn swallow nest is a sturdy cup crafted of clay and mud pellets intermixed with straw, and lined with grasses and feathers. The male gathers the materials and the female does the actual building. Nests can be found in the rafters of barns, on the protected beams of bridges, in caves, or along cliffs.

The female lays two or three clutches of four to five eggs each year. Barn swallow eggs are white, sometimes with small brown or lilac spots. Both parents incubate them, and they hatch in 15 days. Young birds remain in the nest for about three weeks. At the end of that time, they are ready to fly, in time to join the migration south in the fall.

*Official First Day of Issue*

**Barn  
Swallow**



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

**American Wildlife**  
Commemorative Series of 1987





**DELAWARE**  
 "First State" — "The Diamond State"



Peach Blossom

Official  
 First Day  
 of Issue



BICENTENNIAL ERA 1776-1976

FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

State  
 Flags  
 of America

Series of 1976



**PENNSYLVANIA**  
 "Second State" — "The Keystone State"



Mountain Laurel

Official  
 First Day  
 of Issue



BICENTENNIAL ERA 1776-1976

FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

State  
 Flags  
 of America

Series of 1976