

# Linn's Stamp NEWS

World's Largest Weekly Stamp News and Marketplace



## Take a hike with new issues worldwide

Along to the United States Postal Service from New Guinea and several European nations.

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## Entertaining events at Napex stamp show

Linn's Washington Correspondent Bill Mullins reports on his visit to the recent Napex show.

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## Varieties abound with China's Coiling Dragons

Also columnist Michael Rogers continues his review of the 1996-1997 series from China.

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## Press sheets planned for all U.S. commemoratives

By Jay Niglike

The United States Postal Service revealed in June that it will begin offering uncut press sheets for all commemorative stamps "in the future."

A form letter signed by Customer Services, Stamp Fulfillment Services, was sent in June to customers who purchased uncut press sheets previously from Stamp Fulfillment Services, the U.S. Postal Service's mail-order division based in Kansas City, Mo.

"In the past, only certain stamp issues offered a press sheet available for purchase," the letter states. "Beginning in June 2012, we will offer press sheets for all commemorative stamp issues. There will be a limited print run for press sheets and the limit of 5 per customer will no longer be in effect. Orders will be honored on a first come, first serve basis."

The letter continued by promot-



A true change in policy by the U.S. Postal Service will make uncut press sheets for all commemorative stamps. The 6 Henry Commemorative is the latest Sept. 11, 2001, the USPS starting order program, where customers receive payment information in advance so new press sheets will be sent automatically.

"By emailing us this SOI you are guaranteed to receive the press sheets of your choice," the letter adds.

The letter concludes with the statement, "We hope you are pleased with the new availability of press sheets and look forward

to serving you soon."

In response to a question from Linn's about the formation of the new policy, USPS spokesman Mark Saunders stated: "After consulting with the CSAC [Customer Services Advisory Committee] members who are big stamp collectors, we determined that the main market for press sheets are dealers and large volume philatelic collectors."

"So we decided to not make any announcements to the philatelic community, but just do it. Our SPS team went ahead and notified its customers about our plans to do press sheets for the rest of the year."

Linn's asked USPS stamp services for a list of which stamp issues this year will be offered as uncut press sheets, and if the upcoming press sheets will be produced without die cuts in the sheet.

## Canada commemorates Medicare, Tommy Douglas

By Jay Niglike and Michael Baadke

Canada is celebrating its national health insurance program with a new commemorative (67c) memorial stamp honoring a prominent founder of the program, Scottish-born Canadian politician Tommy Douglas.

The new domestic letter-size stamp was issued June 29 in

pairs of 15 with water-activated adhesive.

The stamp featured here as a Canada Post publicity image features a black and white photograph of Thomas by Royal Family, courtesy of the Douglas-Caldwell Foundation.

Derwyn Goodall designed the stamp, which is illustrated by James Turner.

The stamp design includes symbols of health care: a stethoscope, a scalpel, a microscope, a pill, a syringe, and a heart. The design also features the letters "C" and "H" for "Canada Health" and "Health Canada." The design also features the letters "M" and "C" for "Medicare" and "Canada." The design also features the letters "T" and "D" for "Tommy Douglas" and "Douglas-Caldwell Foundation."

The stamp marks the 50th anniversary of the



Canada Post issued its noncommemorative (67c) Tommy Douglas memorial stamp on June 29. It often depicts the late father of Medicare in Canada.

design of Canada Post's 1962 Medical Care Insurance Act. An inscription reading up the left side of the stamp states "The Birth of Medicare" in English and French.

Canada Post notes that Douglas, through his own personal

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## WASHINGTON WATCH BY BILL McALLISTER

# Quickie event for Scouting stamp with no first-day ceremony program

I didn't go to the first day ceremony for the new Celebrate Scouting forever stamp, marking the Girl Scouts centennial, on the National Mall on June 9.

I had been cautioned by several postal officials that the big "Rock the Mall" 100th Birthday bash the scouts were planning had allotted only two minutes for the new stamp's introduction.

That turned out to be wrong. The Girl Scout organization actually gave about 3 minutes and 15 seconds for the stamp, according to the YouTube video of the event posted by the United States Postal Service.

There was no first-day ceremony program produced and the only stamps available to the 200,000 Girl Scouts who came to the mall were sold by postal clerks in a "Rock Alley Tent."

A spokeswoman said sales of the stamp were brisk at the first-



The stage at the Rock the Mall birthday bash for the Girl Scouts centennial anniversary.

day site.

"The stamps nearly sold out," said USPS spokeswoman Zy Richardson. She indicated that approximately 30,000 stamps were sold, with total revenue from stamps and products at around \$18,000.

About the lack of a ceremony program, Richardson stated "The decision to not produce ceremony programs was made once we learned of time constraints on the Girl Scouts' Rock The Mall agenda, which limited our participation to only a single Postal Service speaker to dedicate the stamp

## GREECE

Year	Value	Description
1980	100	100
1981	100	100
1982	100	100
1983	100	100
1984	100	100
1985	100	100
1986	100	100
1987	100	100
1988	100	100
1989	100	100
1990	100	100
1991	100	100
1992	100	100
1993	100	100
1994	100	100
1995	100	100
1996	100	100
1997	100	100
1998	100	100
1999	100	100
2000	100	100
2001	100	100
2002	100	100
2003	100	100
2004	100	100
2005	100	100
2006	100	100
2007	100	100
2008	100	100
2009	100	100
2010	100	100
2011	100	100
2012	100	100

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### Stamp Man

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within a two-minute window, and, thus, did not provide enough content to warrant printing programs."

Stamp sales took place far from the stage near the Washington Monument where the stamp was unveiled with a song written to the tune of "Take Me Out to the Ball Game."

"Let us show you the scouting stamp. Let us show you today," the song went. "... You're now 100 years old, so here's your scouting stamp."

Images of the stamp were flashed on big television screens around the Washington Monument where the Girl Scouts were encamped for a day of singing and celebrating.

But the stamp's release was just about as fast as you could sing the little stamp ditty — and then it was over.

Two postal officials, former Girl Scouts, were invited to the stage to lead the singing, but they weren't given time to urge the Scouts to buy and use the new stamp.

Having attended the release of the Boy Scout's centennial stamp at Camp A.P. Hill, Va., on July 26,

2010, I had expected more.

The Boy Scouts literally had made their stamp's release the centerpiece of the first day of a National Jamboree that attracted 30,000 Scouts to the Army post.

There was a formal ceremony, traditional first-day programs and long lines of Scouts at the Jamboree's post office anxious to get the new 44¢ commemorative and first-day cancellations.

While the Girl Scouts had a logo for their "Rock the Mall" event in the shape of a stamp, their new forever Celebrate Scouting stamp got little notice during the event.

Down in Marion County, Fla., the members of Girl Scout Troops 125 and 281 held their own celebration for the new stamp at the main Ocala post office.

With the help of the Gen. Francis Marion Stamp Club, the scouts had created a pictorial postmark for the issue date and a cacheted envelope that showed a wagon loaded with Girl Scout cookies.

"This is a big deal for collectors," Christy Czarzasty, secretary to the postmaster, told a writer for *Ocala Star Banner* who covered the event. ■

## Zillions of Stamps

**SELECTED FOREIGN FROM STATESIDE**

COUNTRY	DESCRIPTION	PRICE	STATUS
Australia	5c	\$1.50	10
Canada	1c	\$1.50	10
France	2c	\$1.50	10
Germany	4c	\$1.50	10
Great Britain	1c	\$1.50	10
India	1c	\$1.50	10
Japan	1c	\$1.50	10
South Africa	1c	\$1.50	10
Spain	1c	\$1.50	10
Sweden	1c	\$1.50	10
Switzerland	1c	\$1.50	10
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