

Stamps Tell of Women's Progress

1945

AL/1418

9/01/1418

lot 2

Written for *The Christian Science Monitor*

Stamps are more than mere pieces of paper used for postage. They are a means of portraying the history and accomplishments of our growing nation. Even in the beginning our country was not entirely a man's land, and Queen Isabella's role in Columbus's voyage to America was commemorated in 1893 by stamps on which she appeared—the first honoring a woman. These stamps were in the Columbus series which also included one with the figure of an Indian woman holding her child, and another with America represented by an Indian woman and also the figure of Liberty.

Only six women have been honored in head form. Martha Washington was the first, and was commemorated on the eight-cent issue of 1902. Since then, her head has appeared on the four-cent stamp of 1922 and the cent-and-a-half issue of 1938.

Pocahontas Portrayed

The second woman portrayed on a stamp was Pocahontas, the Indian girl who saved Capt. John Smith's life. She appears on the five-cent issue of 1907. If the name of Pocahontas were not below the picture, one would hardly guess who she was, for she is not wearing an Indian costume, but fashionable clothes of her day.

The third time a woman's head appeared on a stamp was August 26, 1936. A three-cent stamp was issued in commemoration of the ratification of the woman suffrage amendment and bore the head of Susan B. Anthony, pioneer of the movement for women's rights.

In 1940, an issue of stamps was printed commemorating famous Americans; authors, poets, educators, and scientists were honored. Here we find Louisa M. Alcott among the authors; Frances Willard with the educators; and Jane Addams, founder of Hull House, with the scientists.

Share Honors

Other women have appeared on our stamps, but not as central figures. The two cent Arbor Day Stamp of 1932 pictures a little girl holding a young tree for a boy to plant. The three cent Mother's Day Stamp of 1934 is a reproduction of Whistler's beautiful picture of his mother. A Red Cross nurse

is shown on the two cent American Red Cross commemorative stamp of 1931. There are allegorical figures of women on the Victory Stamp of 1919 and the current five dollar stamp. A five cent stamp issued in 1937, commemorated the birth of Virginia Dare, the first white child to be born in America. This stamp shows Eleanor Dare holding her baby; Virginia Ananias Dare is standing behind the mother. Then there is the 1940 Pan-American Union Commemorative stamp—a beautiful one, picturing three women who symbolize North, South and Central America.

Molly Pitcher of Revolutionary fame was commemorated in 1926 with a surcharge of the two cent carmine Washington stamp.

E. M. V.

Editor's Note: At the time of the meeting of the International Woman's Suffrage Association in Istanbul, Turkey, in 1935, the Turkish Government issued a series of stamps honoring distinguished women of the various countries participating, Carrie Chapman Catt and the late Jane Addams among them. Mrs. Catt's portrait was originally chosen as the design for the stamp of the highest denomination, but when proof sheets were submitted for final official approval, a change was found necessary. The head of the country's ruler, Kemal Ataturk, replaced Mrs. Catt's on the stamp of top value and hers appeared on that of the lowest denomination.

Latest Stamp Will Honor The American Woman

AL/1418

9/01/418

2028

A Thursday Column

CSu. 21. u. 60.

A 4-cent stamp honoring "The American Woman" will be placed on sale June 2, 1960, at Washington, D.C., in conjunction with a conference on national and international topics under the sponsorship of the Women's Bureau, Department of Labor. The design was prepared by Robert Sivard, Chief of the Exhibits Division, United States Information Agency.

Postmaster General Arthur E. Summerfield expressed the hope that the stamp will, "through design and purpose, pay great tribute to American women who

higher niche, indicative of "Arts and Industry" are a caduceus representing roughly a half-million nurses, women doctors, and medical researchers, the masks of the drama and a violin, a microscope denoting women in science and a large plant building recognizing women in industry and related positions held by women.

Collectors desiring first-day cancellations of the 4-cent American Woman commemorative stamp may send addressed envelopes, together with remittance to cover the cost of the stamps to be affixed, to the Postmaster, Washington 13, D.C.



Stamp to be placed on sale at Washington, D.C., June 2, 1960.

give so much to the social, economic, and spiritual life of our nation as wives and mothers and in the business and professional world.

"The accomplishments of women of the United States are not only of interest to our country but to the women of all nations who are achieving more acceptance in the social, economic, and political life of their countries.

"There are more than 63 million adult women in the United States, and more than 25 million of them are mothers of children of preschool and school age. The more than 22 million working women make up more than a third of all workers in the country."

In the center of the stamp design, against a plain background,



This recently released United Arab Republic stamp of 4 mills reveals a hanging lamp and the traditional geometric design found in Moslem architecture.

is a sketch of a mother and a young girl with an open book before them, symbolizing women in the home.

Five niches appear at the sides and bottom — three of which denote contributions of women to the nation. To the left, in the upper portion, is a niche designated as "Civic Affairs," featuring a building symbolizing women's participation at all levels of government, and a gavel indicative of women's voluntary organizations. There are an estimated 20 million women affiliated with 600 organizations.

In the lower left, in another niche, denoting "Education," are an academic cap, a hanging diploma and books — recognizing in part the 1¼ million teachers, the principals, and others in this sphere.

In the upper right, in the

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A Thursday Column

Est. 21.6.60.

AL/1418
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United States of America



Issued 1938



FRANCES E. WILLARD
(presented by Mrs How-Martyn,
15 May 1940)



Issued 1940



Issued 1955
(presented by [unclear] Dock)



Issued 1936



Martha Washington
(received on "Equal Rights", 14 Feb, 1939)



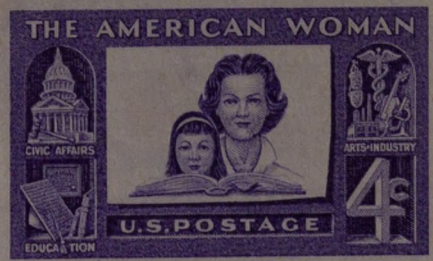
Issued 1940
LOUISA MAY ALCOTT
(presented by Mrs How-Martyn, 1940)



1948



Virginia Dare,
1st white baby
born in America,
with her parents
Ananias + Eleanor
Dare. 1937



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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Commemorative Issues



1948

1948



1966



1948



1948



1962



1963



1952

EARN LEARN
JOIN WOMEN
ARMED SERVICES NOW



1952



1963



1957



AL/1418

9/01/1418 (407)

UNITED STATES POSTAGE

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE

421

421

For Miss Dowe -

FIRST DAY

of ISSUE



ELIZABETH CADY STANTON

FOUNDER OF WOMAN'S
RIGHTS MOVEMENT

Commemorating

100 YEARS OF
PROGRESS BY
THE WOMEN
OF AMERICA

Art Craft



AL/1418

9/01/1418 (5 of 7)

FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

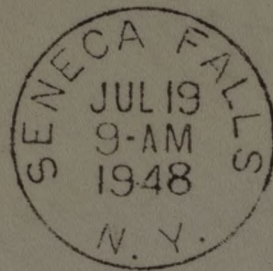


ELIZABETH CADY STANTON

"DECLARATION of SENTIMENTS" ADOPTED at SENECA FALLS N.Y.

100 YEARS OF PROGRESS
BY THE WOMEN OF AMERICA

Smarterolt



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

Mrs. Anna-Manus -Jacobi
12 East 87 Street
New York 28, N.Y.

AL/1418

9/01/1418 (6 of 7)

Forrest Library
17 Wilfred Street
London S.W.1.

10/1/1418
10/1/1418
10/1/1418

We sent you

1936-1940



Adelaide

Johnson

Two hundred and twenty five millions
- 225 000 000 -
of the above picture of my marble portrait
Issued by the Government - are - with their
message - now making their way over the world,

"Only stamp from the work of a living artist"

Studios
230 Maryland Ave N.E., Washington D.C.

AL/1418

a/01/1418 (707)