



Cresthaven Stamp Club Newsletter

April 2024

April brings a profusion of spring flowers, along with longer and warmer days. For the correspondents among us, it is “National Card and Letter Writing” month. It is also “National Poetry” month.



SCOTT 2046

Don't be fooled on the 1st, “April Fool's Day”; but, celebrate “Volunteer Recognition Day” on the 20th, a reminder for all club members to recognize the volunteer efforts of their club leadership; April 22nd is “Earth Day”, a day to celebrate and support environmental protection; and, finally, we remember the “Sultan of Swat” on April 27th, “Babe Ruth Day”.

Regards,
Michael Swope

In This Issue
Volume 11, Number 4

Page 2 – News
Page 3 – John Muir Stamp, Pat Hensley
Page 4 – Dominica, Scott #55 – What Is It?, Dan Maddalino
Page 7 – Diplomat Stamp Shop, Michael Rogers
Page 8 – Casey Jones, Michael Swope



Chapter Affiliate #923
Membership Affiliate #81338

Meetings: 1:00 p.m.
2nd & 4th Tuesdays
Barkley Clubhouse
2605 Barkley Drive
West Palm Beach
Florida, 33415
cresthavenstamp.club



2023 APS Star Route Award

President: Richard Kaye
V-Pres: Kelley McDougall
Secretary: Pat Hensley
Treasurer: Harry Clifford
Liaison: Dan Maddalino
dmaddalino@aol.com
Editor: Michael Swope
mswope@ameritech.net

Cresthaven Stamp Club News



April 2024



Begin a New Adventure...with Stamps

In its March 5, 2024 On-Line Newsletter, the American Philatelic Society urged stamp collectors to join the APS.

"Spring is a time for change, for fresh starts, and for new adventures...with stamps!

Whether you're just beginning your philatelic journey or branching out into exciting new territory, an APS membership can help you on your way."

The Cresthaven Stamp Club recommends our members consider joining the APS.

Our 2024 "Member Philatelic Talks" kicked off on February 27th with a great power-point, "*Upon the Collapse of Europe*" by Richard Kania. His discussion on the rapidly changing political and cultural landscape in Europe during and after WWI was highlighted by a show of beautiful stamps of the time. Thank you, Richard!

Popularly received by club members on March 12th, was Dan Maddalino's 2024 Sarasota National Stamp Exhibition award-winning single-frame display "*Covers and Cards Tell the Story of the National Woman's Relief Corps.*" Congratulations Dan!

Future presentations include: a review of "*Dominica #55 What is it?*"; "*Handmade Provisionals of St. Vincent 1916-1917*"; and, "*The Bahamas 1917 Special Delivery Scam.*" Plus, more to come this summer. BE THERE!!

Our club has landed back at the Barkley Clubhouse, 2605 Barkley Drive, West Palm Beach, Florida, 33415 for its' permanent home. After a change in Barkley association's leadership, the Men's Club was re-authorized to sponsor the Cresthaven Stamp Club. We are grateful to Barkley association and its Men's Club for allowing us to meet in their facilities. A tradition since 1970, continues!

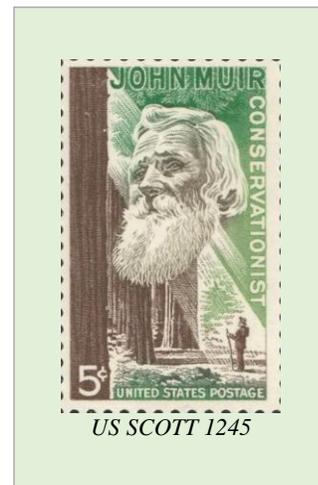
©2024 Cresthaven Stamp Club. Material is offered for educational purposes. Guest Authors assume no liability for error or omission in content. Material may have been produced under the "Fair Use" clause and may be similarly reproduced.

John Muir Stamp

Pat Hensley

The 5¢ US Scott #1245 postage stamp featuring John Muir was issued in Martinez, California on April 29, 1964. It shows a close-up of Muir and also, him hiking in a redwood forest. He was America's most famous and influential naturalist and conservationist. He felt it was important for people to experience and protect our natural heritage.

John Muir wore many hats in his lifetime. He was a farmer, inventor, shepherd, naturalist, explorer, writer and conservationist. Born in Scotland on April 21, 1838, his family moved to the United States in 1849. As he grew, his love for the natural world increased. He liked to carve practical objects out of wood and even made clocks that kept the correct time. After attending the University of Wisconsin, he left to travel the United States and Canada.



While working at a carriage parts shop in Indianapolis, Muir experienced an injury to his eye. That event changed his life and when he regained sight, he decided to explore nature even more. He walked from Indianapolis to the Gulf of Mexico and sailed to Cuba, Panama, and then up the West Coast before making California his home.

His time in California's Sierra Nevada and Yosemite made a huge impact on him. Muir's reputation became well-known to individuals such as Asa Gray and Ralph Waldo Emerson who came to visit him. Muir's articles began his career as a writer.

When Muir learned about the devastation of mountain meadows and forests, he decided to help stop it. Due to his efforts, along with Century magazine's associate editor, Congress created Yosemite National Park. Muir also was involved in helping Sequoia, Mount Rainier, Petrified Forest, and Grand Canyon National Parks get created. Some call Muir "Father of our National Park System."

The Sierra Club was founded in 1892 by Muir and his supporters. He was president of the Sierra Club until his 1914 death in Los Angeles. He published, "Our National Parks", in 1901 that caught President Theodore Roosevelt's eye. In 1903, President Roosevelt came to visit Muir and together they talked about Roosevelt's conservation programs.

The John Muir National Historic Site in Martinez, California was established in 1964. Site features include his 14-room mansion and 325 acres of wood and grasslands.

References:

<https://www.mysticstamp.com/1245-1964-5c-john-muir/>

<https://www.nps.gov/jomu/index.htm>

https://vault.sierraclub.org/john_muir_exhibit/life/muir_biography.aspx

Dominica, Scott #55 - What Is It?

Dan Maddalino

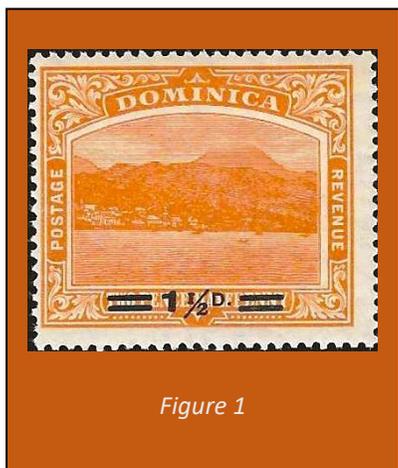


Figure 1

Collectors of the British Empire, specifically British West Indies, will have this orange Dominica postage stamp in their albums. It was assigned Scott Number 55¹ (Figure 1). This stamp is found near the beginning of the list of Dominica postage stamps and is the only one listed under the year date 1920. When Scott #55 was issued, Dominica was a British administered colony with Presidency of the Leeward Islands (1883-1940)² to its north. This island also lays southeast of Puerto Rico, a United States Territory at that time³. Most collectors, once acquiring this stamp, they will place it in their album under the date 1920 and move on. For others, they linger a little longer and think, “something just feels off”.

Let’s examine the stamp: The header proclaims it is from Dominica and the central illustration⁴ shows the colonial capital Roseau⁵. Beneath the overprint the value reads “TWO PENCE HALF PENNY”. The overprint reads “===1½^D.===”. Obviously, a new postal value for this orange-colored stamp. But what about its color? True, it is orange, but no other 2½d Dominica postage stamp prior to 1920 was ever orange. And, when was it issued prior to having been reduced to its new 1½d value? Flipping through the catalogue it appears to be the first ever Dominica postage stamp printed in orange ink. Looking over pre-1920 stamps, we find it a bit strange that an orange 2½d stamp doesn’t appear in the listings. Dominica 2½d postage stamps were red brown (1879, 1884), ultramarine (1889, 1908), ultramarine & black (1903, 1907), and bright blue (1918)⁶. No orange. But there it is in the catalogue! Do we have an orange 2½d postage stamp joining the bright blue 2½d stamp just issued in 1918 (Figure 2)? No, of course not. Hence, this appears to be a postage stamp that was never issued before being revalued and added to the catalogue. Sticking with the Scott catalogue, there is a later 1½d valued orange postage stamp listed as Scott #58 (Figure 3) under the date title 1921. However, Scott #58 was issued to satisfy a new 1½d letter rate effective a year later, in February 1922⁷.

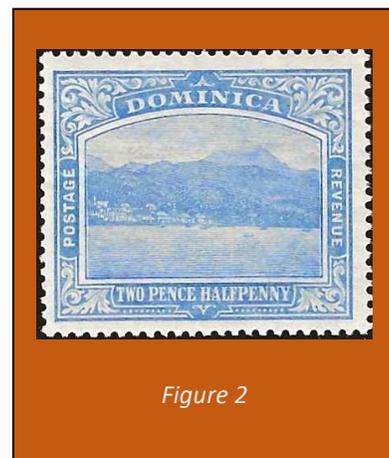


Figure 2

We are left with an orange 2½d postage stamp that was never issued but, revalued downward in 1920 for a postal rate that did not exist! In fact, this orange stamp in Figure 1 was never issued as a regular postage stamp! It was issued as a revenue war tax stamp and miscatalogued! Revenue stamps were not valid for regular postage. War Tax stamps were revenue stamps. How do we know it was not issued as a regular postage stamp? Read on.

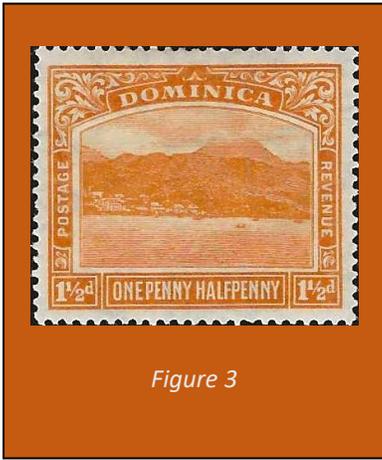


Figure 3

The Dominica World War I postal war tax of ½d on letters was imposed in early 1916 and required **two stamps** be used: a 1d stamp for the postage and a ½d revenue stamp for the payment of the war tax. This was very inconvenient for postal patrons, due to stamp shortages and, they complained frequently and loudly to the British Administrator. In 1918, the island postmaster found a way to solve this problem. He requested a new revenue stamp that encompassed both the ½d tax and 1d letter rate together⁸. This concept was used by Jamaica and Ceylon to address the same postal patron pushback in their colonies.

A “rush” requisition from Dominica for this new stamp was answered by De La Rue, pointing out a problem. Dominica never had a 1½d postage rate and therefore does not have a 1½d print plate on hand. A new and expensive plate would need to be created. This would have added weeks, maybe months, to the production timeline. Dominica cried to the Crown Agents that this was too expensive and not fast enough. Crown Agents told De La Rue to cut costs and time by using an existing 2½d print plate, in a new color (orange), and immediately overprint these stamps WAR TAX with a new value of 1½d, both in red⁹ (Figure 4). Orange was selected because this color was used by other colonies to alert the postal employees of a new war tax revenue stamp. Thus, in January 1919 Scott #MR5 (a revenue stamp) was created¹⁰ (Figure 4). Continuing forward through the catalogue pages until the very end of the listings for Dominica there is a grouping of five revenue stamps under the title “War Tax Stamps”. Actually, there are eight war tax stamps with several additional overprint varieties. But, as they say, that’s a story for another time. The last war tax stamp on this list (erroneously listed as MR5) is the revalued orange 1919 “WAR TAX” stamp! This brings us back to Figure 1.

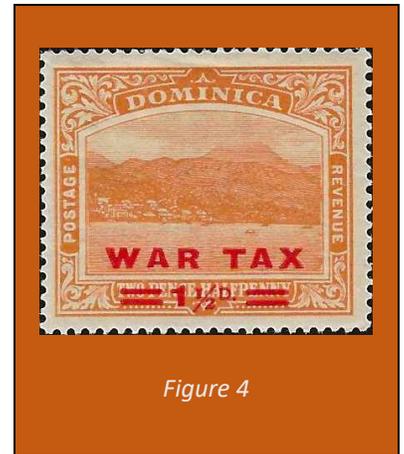


Figure 4

World War I hostilities ended on November 11, 1918. By 1920, residents of Dominica were tired of paying a War Tax when no war was raging. The colonial administrators needed the tax to continue until their post-war economy stabilized. To calm the colony, it was announced that new postage rates would soon be coming, and the 1½d stamp was going to play a role in the new rates schedule. But these new rates would not take effect until February 1, 1922¹¹. This orange tax stamp was to continue collecting taxes until that date. Still, the public fumed against the continued payment of the tax. The solution was to remove the words “WAR TAX” from the printing plate and reprint the stamp. That old “Out of sight – Out of mind” trick seemed to work as the complaints subsided. This resulted in the creation of the Scott #55 postage stamp shown in Figure 1. The postal patrons were now using a single stamp to mail letters (Figure 5), unaware they were still paying the tax.

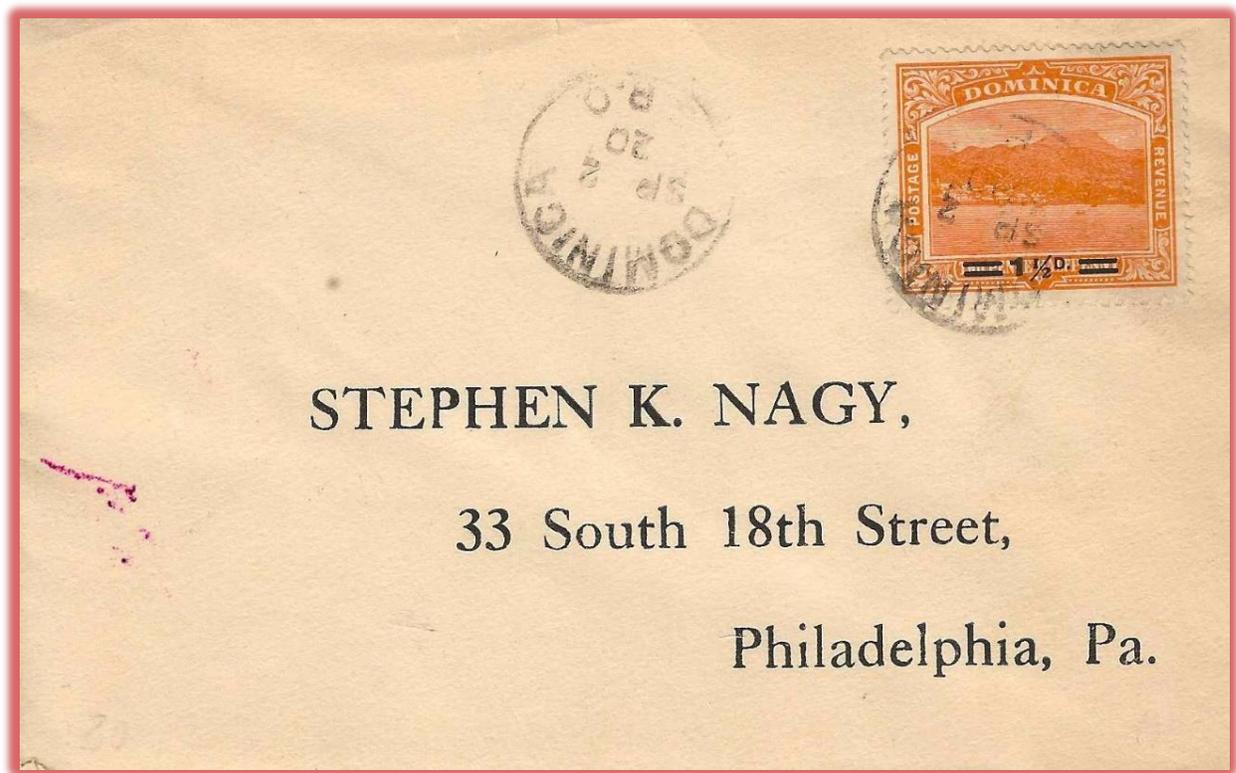


Figure 5

It is clear that Dominica Scott #55 is out of position. It should be listed as the last War Tax stamp from this British colony¹². However, regardless of other conclusions – find adventure in collecting the stamps from the BRITISH EMPIRE!

NOTES

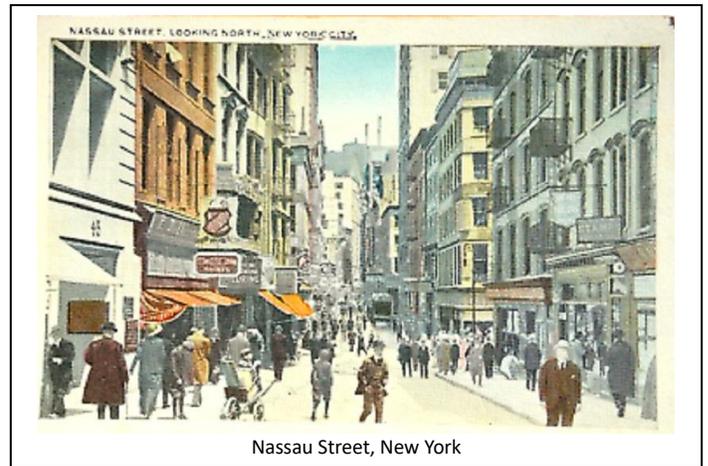
1. Houseman, Donna (Ed.); *Scott 2018 Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue, Volume 2B (2017)*, Amos Media, Sidney, Ohio. p. 191
2. [britannica.com/place/dominica](https://www.britannica.com/place/dominica) Accessed February 9, 2024
3. [worldatlas.com/maps/dominica](https://www.worldatlas.com/maps/dominica) Accessed February 9, 2024
4. This design is officially titled "Dominica from the Sea". See reference 5, p. 80
5. Toeg, E.V.; *Dominica; Postal History, Stamps, Postal Stationery to 1935, Volume I (1994)*, The British West Indies Study Circle. Hurtz, England. p. 80
6. Houseman, 2017, p. 191
7. Davis, John G. M.; *War Tax Stamps of the British Empire First World War (2009)*, Royal Philatelic Society London, London, England, p. 185
8. *Ibid*, p. 189
9. Toeg. 1994, p. 128
10. Housman, 2017. p. 234
11. *Dominica rescinded its war tax laws effective January 31, 1922*. Davis 2009. p. 185
12. All stamps and cover are from the collection of the author.

Diplomat Stamp Shop

Michael Rogers

I'll never forget the phone call. A woman with a European accent was asking me to help her rid a house-full of stamps in Manhattan, and she acted like I knew her. But when I went to her home and saw the picture of Richard on the fireplace mantle, it all fell into place. She was Anne Marie, the widow of Richard Mayer, who had owned the Diplomat Stamp Shop in Manhattan, on the ground floor of the Diplomat Hotel.

Before I went to college in 1967, New York City's philatelic world was energetic with a great many businesses being stamp shops. After my thirteenth birthday, I travelled the fabled Nassau Street shops; the library at 42nd and Fifth Avenue which had a collection of United States stamps in glass wall panels; and other stamp stores. Some of the stores banished me – too many questions, too little money.



But then, I came upon the Diplomat Stamp shop, which was operated by twin brothers, Richard and Albert Mayer. I must have appeared dejected because they inquired why I looked so. I told them about being banished and they responded with a job offer! Well, sort of – Help with stamps on Saturdays; no pay, at least not in cash, but do you know what? How thrilling it was to have found my mentors. In between sorting, I had the chance to ask anything that came to mind.

I came most Saturdays until age 17, when my father figured out, I was “working” without pay. I had to quit. Fast forward several years and I am a stamp dealer, manning a booth at a New York ASDA show. Richard Mayer, now gray hair and stooped shoulders, came by. We embraced. I don't believe he could have been any prouder of me.

When Anne Marie called me, I went to her Central Park West brownstone, where, when the Diplomat closed, the entire stock of philatelic material had been stored. I shipped sixty cartons, weighing forty pounds, to my home. Some went to auction, most to inventory. My rule was if I was unfamiliar with the value of an item, I'd place it in my auction to give the family top money, otherwise, I purchased it for my shop. Anne Marie's phone call brought home memories of kind folks who made me the better for it. Glad I could be helpful for her.

Reference:

Reprinted in part from the American Stamp Dealer & Collector, Reminiscences, April, 2017

Casey Jones

Michael Swope



John “Casey” Jones was born in rural southeast Missouri on March 14, 1863. His family moved to Cayce, Kentucky, where Jones acquired the nickname “Cayce”, but he spelled it “Casey”.

Jones went to work for the Mobile & Ohio Railroad and worked his way up in the company from brakeman to fireman, and then engineer. He transferred to the Illinois Central Railroad as a locomotive engineer and on April 30, 1900, his passenger train collided with a stalled freight train near Vaughan, Mississippi, killing him instantly.

Shown above is an Art Craft cacheted first day of issue cover with the violet-brown, Scott #993, 3¢, Railroad Engineers Issue, in honor of the Railroad Engineers of America. It was cancelled on April 29, 1950, at Jackson, Tennessee.

Note the signature on the lower left corner. D. D. Crocker, a former Gulf, Mobile & Ohio railroad engineer, along with Charles Keenan, founded the American Topical Association’s “Casey Jones Railroad Unit” at these same first day ceremonies in Jackson, Tennessee. Crocker was also instrumental in the establishment of the Casey Jones Museum in Jackson.

Ref: Cover from Author’s collection
Caseyjones.com