

The PhilateliKid

The newsletter for Stamp Collecting Clubs for Kids (SCCFK)

Collect Stamps (The Most Educational Hobby)

www.stampcollectingclubsforkids.org

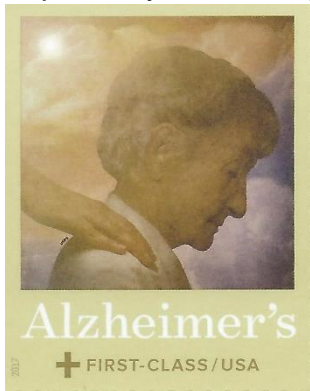
January 1, 2018

Semi-Postal Stamps

A very high percentage of Americans today have not mailed a first class letter, other than to pay a bill, in a very long time. An informal survey I recently did revealed to me that a very, very high percentage (almost 100 percent) of grade school children have NEVER mailed a letter. They, of course, know virtually nothing about stamps. Many have never seen a letter collection box, even though there supposedly are over 100,000 still in use in America today. Many have never been to a post office to buy postage. The basic understanding of the U. S. mail is that it is a way to receive parcels shipped from on-line vendors. Most people do not know what USPS stands for.

So, it is not a surprise at all to find that virtually NOBODY knows what a semi-postal stamp is. In addition to all the above reasons for a total lack of knowledge about stamps, the United States was a very “Johnny-come-lately” in the semi-postal area. France issued its first semi-postal stamp in 1914, and so far has issued over 740 semi-postal stamps, according to Scott’s Catalogue. Germany issued its first semi-postal stamps in 1919, and according to Scotts Catalogue so far has issued over 1,070. Canada did not issue a semi-postal stamp until 1974, and through 2014 has issued 21.

The United States, issued its first semi-postal stamp in 1998 and has issued a total of 5 (five) different semi postal stamps. They were for Breast Cancer Research (Scott B1); Heroes of 2001 (Scott B2); Stop Family Violence (Scott B3); Save Vanishing Species (Scott B4); and now Alzheimers (Scott B6.)



Note: Scott B5 was also for Breast Cancer Research and is almost identical to Scott B1 but with the date “2014” at the bottom.

The most recently issued semi-postal stamp features the profile of a person with a hand resting on the person’s shoulder. The word “Alzheimer’s” appears on the stamp, along with “+First Class/USA.” Stamp collectors, and maybe a few other people, know that the “+” plus sign indicates that the cost of the stamp is actually MORE than the cost of a one ounce first class postage stamp. In the case of this stamp, the first class rate at time of issue was 49¢, but the stamp was sold by the USPS for 60¢, meaning there was an extra amount of 11¢ that was collected that was for charitable purposes. So, a portion of the cost was for postage, and a portion was for charity. Hence the term “semi-postal.”

Alzheimer’s Disease (“Alzheimers,” or “AD”) is a progressive disease that destroys memory and other brain functions. It is believed to be the cause of about 2/3rds of all Dementia cases. Memory is first

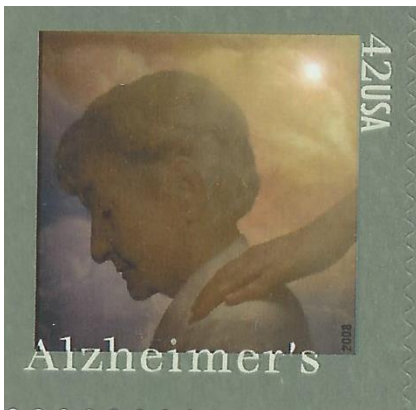
affected, but gradually bodily functions are affected and the disease leads to death. The life expectancy from the time Alzheimer's is diagnosed ranges from 3 to 9 years.

The word "Alzheimer's" is the last name of the doctor who first identified the disease and reported it in 1906. He was a psychiatrist named Dr. Alois Alzheimer. The older a person is, the more likely is the change that he or she will develop Alzheimer's. In the United States, statistics indicate that Alzheimer prevalence was estimated to be 1.6% in 2000 both overall and in the 65–74 age group, with the rate increasing to 19% in the 75–84 group and to 42% in the greater than 84 group.

Dementia is a disease where the brain function is diminishing. Although there are many causes of dementia, such as strokes or disease, by far the largest percentage of dementia cases are a result of Alzheimers.

The cause of Alzheimer's disease is poorly understood. About 70% of the risk is believed to be genetic with many genes usually involved. Other risk factors include a history of head injuries, depression, or hypertension.

In the United States, over 5 million people age 65 or older are estimated to have Alzheimers. It is a disease that took the life of former President Ronald Regan, and the lives of country music artist Glen Campbell and actress Rita Hayworth.



The USPS has announced an initial printing of the Alzheimers stamp to be 500 million stamps, which is a very large printing. Most commemorative stamps today have a total printing of under 100 million stamps. The design of the semi-postal stamp is the same design as was on the 42¢ stamp issued in 2008, except the person is now facing to the right instead of to the left.

42¢ stamp from 2008 – Scott 4358 - Not a semi-postal

What do you think? Thoughtful comments are welcomed and will be published, so please feel free to write! (150 words or less, please.) Mail it to Robert W. Martin, P.O. Box 1809, Kihei, Hawaii 96753-1809. It should be written as if the reader knows nothing about your topic, so beginners can understand it.

Visit our website at www.stampcollectingclubsforkids.org or www.yummystampcollecting.org for a full color version of this issue.

Stamp Collecting Clubs for Kids is a 501 (c) (3) organization. Donations are needed and are greatly appreciated and if \$10 or more are provided written receipts. You also can donate via PayPal on our website.

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