

The PhilateliKid

The newsletter for Stamp Collecting Clubs for Kids (SCCFK)

Collect Stamps (The Most Educational Hobby)

www.stampcollectingclubsforkids.org February 1, 2022

Edmonia Lewis

On January 26, 2022, the USPS issued a stamp for the Black Heritage series portraying Mary Edmonia Lewis, known as "Wildfire" (July 4, 1844 – September 17, 1907). She was an American sculptor, of mixed African-American and Mississauga Ojibwe Native American heritage. During the period of slavery in America, she was born free in Upstate New York. In her early 20's she began to gain prominence in the United States. By 1900 she remained the only Black woman artist who had participated in and been recognized to any extent by the American artistic mainstream. Her statue *Cleopatra* took Edmonia 4 years to complete. It was shown at the Philadelphia Centennial Exposition in 1876. There were 500 statues on display and critics proclaimed *Cleopatra* to be the best. Like many people who did not know the exact date of their birth, she gave July 4 as her birthday, but she also gave several different years as her year of birth, and may have never known the month. Her work is known for themes relating to Black people and indigenous peoples of the Americas into Neoclassical-style sculpture.



B1111

The portrait of Edmonia, chosen for this stamp was made by Black American artist **Alexander Bostic**, from a photograph made of her when she was in her early 20's in Boston, Massachusetts, by early American photographer Augustus Marshall. Featured here is the stamp with a plate number, called by stamp collectors a "plate number single."

Plate Number Singles (PNS for short) are particularly difficult to collect. The first problem is just to get a pane of the stamps, because many post offices do not sell all of the modern stamps being issued by the USPS. Once you have bought a pane of the stamps, you will immediately note that they are all self-adhesive stamps, sold on a backing paper. Once the backing paper is removed, the stamp will adhere to almost

anything, so collectors must collect it but NOT removed from the backing paper. The easiest way to collect a single stamp is to remove all the stamps surrounding it (and then use them for postage) and then carefully use scissors to cut around the stamp. If a collector attempts to remove just the single stamp by tearing the backing paper, that sometimes is successful. However, the stamp will have a small amount of the adhesive right around the edges, which can migrate to your album, and make the stamp stuck onto the album page. It can also result in two album pages getting stuck together. The use of scissors reduces, but does not eliminate this problem. Be sure to store your albums that contain self-adhesive stamps upright, and never stack albums on top of each other.

Topical Collecting

A lot of stamp collectors today collect by **topic**. A topic can be anything you want it to be. For example, popular topics are certain animals such as dogs, cats, bees, horses, pigs, lizards, and snakes. Sports are popular, such as baseball, soccer, and Olympic games. Santa Claus is popular. One could collect only stamps depicting children. To be extreme, a collector could collect only round stamps featuring brunette women holding up their left hand, not the right, and wearing a purple blouse and blue skirt, with only one foot on the ground, standing in front of a skyscraper with a taxicab in the background. That would be a difficult topic to collect because, I do not know if even one stamp has ever been issued that would meet all those criteria. One topic can flow into another. For example Horses could flow into Cowboys on Horses, which could flow into Cowboys which could flow into Cowboy Hats which could flow into Hats which could flow into Easter Hats, which could flow into Easter Island, which could flow into Prince Edward Island, which could flow into King Edward VII, which could flow into Princes, Princesses, Kings and Queens, which could flow into Queen of Hearts, Alice's



Adventures In Wonderland, Cartoons....

Here is a recent group of stamps featuring Western Wear issued in booklet form. This interesting topic can easily flow into a whole bunch of

other topics. To name just a couple: Western movies, actors who wore these clothes.

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www.stampcollectingclubsforkids.org or www.yummystampcollecting.org which redirects you to the same website.

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