

Christmas Seals

by
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Prepared For LCPA

In the beginning....

It is the late 1800's around the world.

Tuberculosis or TB for short, the "White Plague", is the ~~most feared disease in the world~~. It's victims include the poet Keats, the musical genius Chopin, and the great American novelist Robert Louis Stevenson. People everywhere marshal resources in every possible way to fight the menace, including stamps starting in 1897 to fund the battle.

In Denmark in 1904 a man named Einar Holboell has some stamp-like seals printed. He does it at Christmas to raise money to fight the killer disease as well as share the Christmas spirit, by providing a seal for gifts during the "Season of Giving".



World's 1st Christmas Seal
Denmark, 1904



1st Stamp to Fund Tuberculosis
New South Wales Semi-Postal
1897

Meanwhile, in the USA...

In 1871 a young doctor in New York State named Edward Trudeau is diagnosed with TB. He retires to a quiet upstate cottage to spend his final days.

Much to his surprise he recovers. He becomes convinced tuberculosis can be cured by rest, fresh air, and a healthy diet. He founds the first hospital specializing in tuberculosis patient recovery in 1884. These are now called sanatoriums.

One of these is a small shack on the Brandywine River in Delaware.

Now it is 1907...

- The hospital in Delaware faces closure unless \$300 can be raised.
- A doctor, Joseph Wales, contacts his cousin, Emily Bissell, an American Red Cross fund raiser.
- Emily knows about Denmark (and later Sweden and Iceland). She sketches the first US Christmas Seal design, borrows \$40 from friends, and has the first 50,000 seals printed.
- The seals go on sale for 1¢ each at the local post office.
- The seals attract the attention of people such as Teddy Roosevelt, who publicizes them. Seals sell out in hours. Over \$3000 is raised for the hospital.
- Annual Christmas Seals issues began,
and continued until now.



*First U.S.
Christmas Seal 1907*



*Designed and Promoted
By Emily Bissell*



Emily Bissell
Crusader Against Tuberculosis

USA 15c

FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

United States National Christmas Seals



1907 type one



1907 type two



1908



1909



1910



1911



1912



1913



1914



1915



1916



1917

Christmas Seal Philately

- Sources of US National Issues
 - 1907-19 American Red Cross
 - 1920-68 National Tuberculosis Association
 - 1969-72 Ntl Tub. & Resp. Disease Assoc.
 - 1973-date American Lung Association
- Most have the 2 pronged 'Lorraine' cross
(for Sir Godfrey of Lorraine)
- Principal guide is 'Green's Catalog of TB Seals of the World', not Scott catalog (though some seals have #'s)
- 34 printers, 7 unions through 2005
- Early sheets 1 design, 10x10 arrays

Scott Numbering of Seals

(1907-1979 only)

1. 1 Scott #/all seal designs in a year
2. multiple #'s for different perforation schemes for same year of design
3. multiple designs in a sheet referred to as 'block of x' starting in 1954
4. for 1935-1953 multiple designs in a year covered only by descriptive text after which Scott asserts 'there is no national issue', ceases assigning #'s

Scott assigns # WX1-WX267 based on these groundrules, pictures only the individual yearly common seal designs

United States National Christmas Seals



1946 portrait block

United States National Christmas Seals



1939 slogan block

YOUR 1980 CHRISTMAS SEALS reproduce paintings of holiday fun and favorite decorations created by American school children in a project sponsored by the American Lung Association and the National Art Education Association.

AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION
A Christmas Seal Project

AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION



INDIANA 1980

AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION



OREGON 1980

AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION



CALIFORNIA 1980

AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION



MAINE 1980

AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION



MISSISSIPPI 1980

AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION



SOUTH CAROLINA 1980

AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION



VERMONT 1980

AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION



WASHINGTON 1980

AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION



FLORIDA 1980

AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION



UTAH 1980

AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION



NEW HAMPSHIRE 1980

AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION



MINNESOTA 1980

AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION



MASSACHUSETTS 1980

AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION



GEORGIA 1980

AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION



MARYLAND 1980

AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION



MONTANA 1980

AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION



ARKANSAS 1980

AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION



OKLAHOMA 1980

AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION



ARIZONA 1980

AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION



PUERTO RICO 1980

AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION



GUAM 1980

AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION



NEW YORK 1980

AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION



WASHINGTON, D.C. 1980

AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION



IOWA 1980

AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION



VIRGIN ISLANDS 1980

AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION



SOUTH DAKOTA 1980

AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION



HAWAII 1980

AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION



MISSOURI 1980

AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION



OHIO 1980

AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION



PENNSYLVANIA 1980

AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION



IDAHO 1980

AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION



KENTUCKY 1980

AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION



VIRGINIA 1980

AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION



NEW JERSEY 1980

AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION



ALABAMA 1980

AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION



CONNECTICUT 1980

AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION



WISCONSIN 1980

AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION



NORTH CAROLINA 1980

AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION



DELAWARE 1980

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NORTH DAKOTA 1980

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TENNESSEE 1980

AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION



Christmas Seals are a Collector's Bonanza

- ~~Only pre-1923 seals have any cost, pre-1917 seals worth over \$1 in great shape~~
- Many varieties, variations, themes
 - Portrait Seals (famous TB fighters)
1938, 1946
 - Slogan Seals (advice & warnings about TB)
1935-40
- Milk caps, milk collars, buttons, pins, bookmarks, posters, etc. exist to collect
- 'Tied-ons' are even more valuable
(connected to a piece by a cancellation)
- Other options are other countries, diseases, or causes
- Absent: legal strictures, process disciplines (errors, partials for sale)

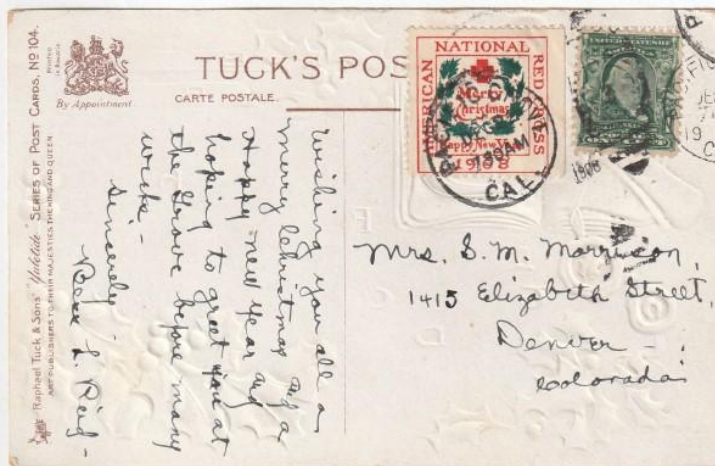
Official Stamp status, discipline missing (a +/-)



Bling beyond seals



Seals 'tied' to covers



Worldwide series exist like Canada (bilingual) and Mexico



Eventually almost everyone catches the 'gravy train'



2025.... All good things must come to an end?

- email: The decline of the letter/card and personal mail
- The greatest fear of a national charity: Decline of or cure for the malady (over 80% in SE Asia, Africa, western Pacific), vaccine, testable w/treatments, isolation
- Competitor problems take attention (Covid)>>99x>>(flu)>>99x>>(TB)

| | collection | years |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| Xmas seals | Singles,sheets from 1932-2024 | 1907-2024 complete |
| Father Flanagan | Range of bling | 1949-2016 |
| Easter seals | Singles, sheets | 1953-present |

■ But not yet (as of 9/15/2025)



Visit our website at Lung.org and at christmasseals.org

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My Collection

- ~~Complete sheets 1932-2024~~
- Associated pins, buttons, gift tags, memorabilia
- Individual examples 1907-1931
- Multi-year sets for Canada, Mexico. Canada bilingual.
- Historic seals from other countries, places
- Exhaustive sets of Easter seals, boys town, type sets of others

Some Contacts

■ Clubs

- Christmas Seal & Charity Stamp Society
<http://cscss.home.att.net/>
since 1931, dues \$15/yr, \$7.50 after 7/1
- Christmas Philatelic Club
<http://www.hwcn.org/link/cpc>
\$15/yr, pub is 'The Yule Log'

■ Sources

- eBay-search 'Cinderella's' under stamps or just general search on 'Christmas Seals'
- Good Dealer is John Denune in Ohio @
<http://www.christmasseals.org>
- eBay Store: Christmas Seals
kept by a good CA dealer