

ALBANY INSTITUTE OF HISTORY & ART

A Guide to the Skinner Stamp Collection

Collection Summary

Collection Title: Skinner Stamp Collection

Call Number: BW 457

Creator: Mrs. Chrissie Skinner

Inclusive Dates: 1893-1968

Bulk Dates: 1930-1945

Abstract: Collection contains stamps from the United States, various parts of the British Empire, the Netherlands as well as a few other nations. The collection consists primarily of albums, some with handwritten notes on the history behind certain stamps.

Quantity: 17 linear inches.

Administrative Information

Custodial History: Unknown

Preferred Citation: Skinner Stamp Collection, BW 457. Albany Institute of History & Art Library, New York.

Acquisition Information:

Accession #: Unknown

Accession Date: Unknown

Processing Information:

Processed by Rachel Dworkin; completed in January 2005.

Mrs. Skinner originally stored her stamp collection in 3 ring binders interleaved with glassine paper. The pages of certain albums in poor condition were removed and sleeved, loose material was reattached with wheat paste, and the binders were discarded.

Restrictions

Restrictions on Access: None.

Restrictions on Use: Permission to publish material must be obtained in writing prior to publication from the Chief Librarian & Archivist, Albany Institute of History & Art, 125 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY 12210.

Index Term

Persons: American presidents, from George Washington to Franklin Roosevelt
Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands
Queen Victoria of Great Britain
King Edward VII of Great Britain
King George V of Great Britain
King Edward VIII of Great Britain
King George VI of Great Britain
Alfred E. Smith
Thomas Edison
John Ericsson

Organizations: United States Postal Service
Christmas Seal and Charity Stamp Society
The Red Cross
Pioneer Philatelic Phalanx

Subjects: Great Britain – Colonies – History; Netherlands – Colonies – History;
Netherlands – Kings and rulers; Postage Stamps; Presidents – United States – Biography;
Royal households – Great Britain; Stamp Collecting; United States – History; United
States – History – Revolution, 1775-1783; World War, 1939-1945 – Propaganda.

Places: Holland; Great Britain; Australia; Indonesia; Suriname; Curacao;
Newfoundland; New Zealand; South Africa; Western Samoa (Samoa); Southern
Rhodesia (Zimbabwe); Bermuda; British Solomon Islands; Texas; Wisconsin; Michigan;
Kentucky; Utah.

Document Types postage stamps; stamp albums; commemorative first day envelopes;
revenue stamps/seals; newspaper clippings; membership cards; post cards; cruise tickets.

Titles: The Stamp Collector

Biography of Chrissie Skinner

Chrissie R. Skinner was the daughter of Wilhelm C.A. (1819-1890) and Johanna M.M. Rehlauer (1828-1906), a family of Dutch origin. Very little is known about her life. At some point prior to 1926, she married George Joyce Skinner of 310 Western Avenue in Albany. In 1932, George died and Chrissie never remarried. By 1943, she had left the

home she had shared with the late Mr. Skinner and taken up residence at 33 North Main Avenue. Mrs. Skinner was active in the community. She was a member of the First Lutheran Church in Albany and was involved in their Sunday School. She was also a card carrying member of both the Christmas Seal and Charity Stamp Society, and the Red Cross.

Mrs. Skinner was an avid stamp collector from at least the 1920s onward. She subscribed to several philatelic publications including Linn's Weekly Stamp News and The Stamp Collector. She was a lifetime member of the Pioneer Philatelic Phalanx, founded in 1936, and served, from 1936 to 1942, as the first president of the Women's Seal and Stamp Club of Albany. Based on her collection, Mrs. Skinner was primarily interested in American, British Commonwealth and Dutch stamps. Most of the albums in the collection were assembled during the 1940s, although the stamps themselves range in date from the early 1890s through the 1940s. The date of Mrs. Skinner's death is unknown, although the records of the Women's Seal and Stamp Club of Albany indicate she was deceased as of 1980. The last stamp in the collection dates from the late 1960s.

Scope and Contents of the Collection

The Skinner Stamp collection consists of commemorative first day envelopes, post cards, and bound stamp albums. The bulk of the stamps are from the U.S., Holland and the various countries and colonies that made up the British Commonwealth in the 1930s and '40s. The majority of the stamps are from this period, although they range in date from 1893 to 1968. The collection is divided into two series: Envelopes and Postcards; and Stamp Albums.

Series I, Envelopes and Postcards, contains decorated and stamped envelopes celebrating famous Americans, certain events and airmail, post cards with the stamps attached, and a few loose clippings. All of these stamps are American and range in date from 1926 to 1958. One of the post cards has a stamp issued only within the Panama Canal Zone dating from 1930. The commemorative envelopes, especially the one from 1926 which was mailed from the International Philatelic Exhibition, offer an interesting glimpse into the history of stamp collecting. Moreover, the particularly decorative nature of these envelopes indicates a certain relationship between American culture and the subjects celebrated in the stamps, especially considering that very few stamps are issued in such a manner.

Series II, Stamp Albums, includes 11 albums; 7 of stamps from the United States; 3 of stamps from Great Britain and its colonies; and 1 of stamps from the Netherlands and its colonies. The albums of American stamps are, for the most part, themed around history or historical figures and often feature handwritten notes on the subjects of the stamps. The American collection also contains several points of interest including envelopes from WWII featuring war propaganda, and special use stamps such as parcel postage and turn of the century revenue seals for documents, playing cards and narcotics. The bulk of the British collection focuses on the royal family as they appear on stamps from England, its colonies, and members of the British Commonwealth. Several colonies and former colonies, namely Australia, Newfoundland, New Zealand, Bermuda and the British Solomon Islands, are highlighted in particular with handwritten notes on their histories and a more diverse collection of stamps. The Dutch album features stamps celebrating the royal family of the Netherlands as well as other of the nation's historical

figures. Also included are stamps and handwritten histories of several of Holland's colonies.

Organization of the Collection

The Skinner Stamp Collection is divided into two series; Envelopes and Postcards; and Stamp Albums. All envelopes and post cards are arranged in chronological order. The albums are in order based on the numbers given to them by Mrs. Skinner. The pages of albums number 1 and 4, due to the poor condition of their bindings, have been removed to folders with the original pagination maintained. Loose material has been removed from several albums and placed in folders. These albums and the corresponding folders are indicated in the detailed description of the collection.

Related Material

- MG 21, Albany Institute Philatelic Collection. Contains stamps and information about stamps and stamp collecting.
- BC 256, The W.L.L. Pelts Collection of Albany Postal History, 1702-1969. This collection contains a number of rare stamps and other postage related oddities.
- VF (Subject) Postage-Stamps. Contains articles and booklets on the history of stamps in general and several stamps in particular.
- VF (Subject) Postage-Stamps – Collectors and Collecting – New York – Albany. Includes articles about stamps and stamp collecting and a program from a meeting of a local philatelic society of which Mrs. Skinner was a founding member.

Other Finding Aids

A list of the first four albums and a brief summary of their contents can be found in Folder 13.

Detailed Description of the Collection

The following section contains a detailed listing of the materials in the collection.

Series # I. Envelopes and Postcards

Box #	Folder #	Title / Description
1	1	Battle of White Plains, first day envelope, Oct. 18, 1926
1	2	Famous American Authors, first day envelopes, Jan-Feb 1940 <i>Complete series of five.</i>
1	3	Famous American Poets, first day envelopes, Feb 1940 <i>Complete series of five.</i>
1	4	Famous American Educators, first day envelopes, March-April 1940. <i>Complete series of five.</i>

1	5	Famous American Scientists, first day envelopes, April 1940. <i>Complete series of five.</i>
1	6	Famous American Composers, first day envelopes, May-June 1940. <i>Complete series of five.</i>
1	7	Famous American Artists, first day envelopes, Sept 1940. <i>Complete series of five.</i>
1	8	Famous American Inventors, first day envelopes, Oct. 1940. <i>Complete series of five.</i>
1	9	Regular Airmail, first day envelopes, 1941. <i>Complete series of six.</i>
1	10	Brussels Universal and International Exhibition, first day envelope, April 17, 1958.
1	11	Post Cards <i>contains three items from 1930, 1939, 1944 including a stamp issued within the Panama canal zone.</i>
1	12	Loose Material <i>several items of unknown origin including a press clipping, several images, two note cards and some stamps.</i>

Series II. Stamp Albums

Box #	Folder #	Title / Description
1	13	Album #1, United States. <i>This album contains the Overrun Countries Issue from 1943-44. Due to the poor condition of the original album, all of the pages have been removed and sleeved. The pages are in their original order. The original album was contained in a plane, black imitation, leather spring clip, 11 x 8 ½ inch binder.</i> Album #2, Netherlands and Colonies. <i>This album contains Dutch stamps ranging from the late 1890's to the 1940 with a focus on the Dutch Royal Family and famous historical figures. It also includes stamps from and handwritten histories of the Dutch East Indies, Suriname, and Curacao, as well as a number of Dutch post cards. Loose material from this album can be found in F-14.</i> Album # 3, United States. <i>This album contains the Presidential Issue of 1938 along with handwritten biographies of each of the presidents. Loose material from this album can be found in F-15.</i>
1	16	Album # 4, British Empire. <i>This album primarily contains stamps from British colonies including India, Australia, New Zealand, Burma, Hong Kong, various Caribbean and African holdings concerning the Royal Family and ranging in date from the 1935 to 1947. Also included are unrelated stamps from Belgium, France, Nicaragua and Romania. Due to the poor condition of the original album, the pages have been removed and sleeved. The pages are in their original order, although the 50 or so blank pages at the end have not been retained. The</i>

original album was contained in a blue cardboard binder covered in a hand-sewn gray cloth. The pages were secured by three plastic posts with screw down caps.

Album # 6, United States. This album contains the Presidential Issue from 1938 as well as the pre-stamped Jefferson post card. Loose material from this album can be found in F-17.

Album # 12, British Empire. This album contains a run of British stamps featuring monarch heads starting in the mid-19th century and ending in 1940. It also includes stamps from and histories of Australia, Bermuda, and the British Solomon Islands. Loose material from this album can be found in F-18.

Album # 14, British Empire. This album contains stamps from Newfoundland, New Zealand, South Africa, Western Samoa, and Southern Rhodesia along with histories of each of the featured colonies. The stamps date primarily from the 1930's and 1940's. Loose material from this album can be found in F-19.

Album # 14, United States. This album contains a collection of stamps dealing with the American Revolution and ranging in date from 1925 to 1933. Several stamps are accompanied by handwritten biographies of the individuals portrayed in the stamp. Also in this album are seals and stamps from playing cards, narcotics, internal revenue, documents and postage due from the late 1890's. Twelve pages of loose material can be found in F-20.

Album # 16, United States. This album contains stamps ranging in date from 1909 to 1947 with the bulk coming from 1930's and 1940's, including an airmail stamp from 1928. Most of these were accompanied with handwritten histories of the subject of the stamps.

Album "Christianity in the Family 2," United States. American stamps ranging in date from 1893 to 1934. Most stamps commemorate historical events such as the voyage of Columbus (1893), historical figures such as Lincoln (1909) or events of the day such as the 1932 Olympics. The album also contained a number of membership cards for organizations such as the Red Cross, Pioneer Philatelic Phalanx and Christmas Seal Society. Loose material from the album can be found in F-21.

Album "Christianity and the Races 4," United States. The album includes programs, press clippings and post cards from the unveiling of several stamps. It contains special use stamps from the 1910's and 1920's namely parcel post, special handling and special delivery stamps, and also stamped envelopes from 1886 and 1892. Also in the album are serials of famous people and locations from the 1920's and 1930's, and a handwritten biography of Stephen Decatur accompanying his 1937 stamp. Loose material from this album can be found in F-22.

