

"Let's Play Authors," Says Uncle Sam, And He's Giving Us a New Series of Postage Stamps to Help Us Do That!

By **ELMO SCOTT WATSON**
(Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

REMEMBER back in the "good old days" when you used to play "authors"?

It was a card game, you recall, but it wasn't the kind that some puritanical folk frowned upon because there was a taint of gambling attached to it. Instead, your parents and your teachers encouraged you to play it because they considered it "educational" — it familiarized you with the names of the great literary figures of the world and the novels and poems and stories that they had written.

Well, your Uncle Samuel recently decided that it might



be a good thing to revive that old-fashioned game. At least, he decided that we Americans ought to become more familiar with some of the great literary figures in our own past so he's started a variation on the old game of authors on a nation-wide scale. You don't "play" it with pasteboards. You "play" it with stamps, which your Uncle Samuel manufactures



and sells you (at a very good profit to himself, incidentally).

All of which is by way of calling your attention to a new series of "Famous Americans" stamps which the United States post office department is issuing this year. The first set in the series was issued the last part of January and the first part of February; a second set was issued in February; a third will be placed on sale this month and each month until November will see a new group of American notables being honored by having their faces appear on a new set of stamps.

It so happens that the first of the seven groups which will be issued this year displayed the faces of five famous authors and the second the countenances of five famous poets—hence the statement at the beginning of the article that Uncle Sam was ask-



ing us to "play authors" with him by buying these new stamps for use on our letters. As a matter of fact, he's going to honor other "Famous Americans," too—educators, scientists, composers, artists and inventors.

Last November Postmaster General Farley announced that there was to be a new series of



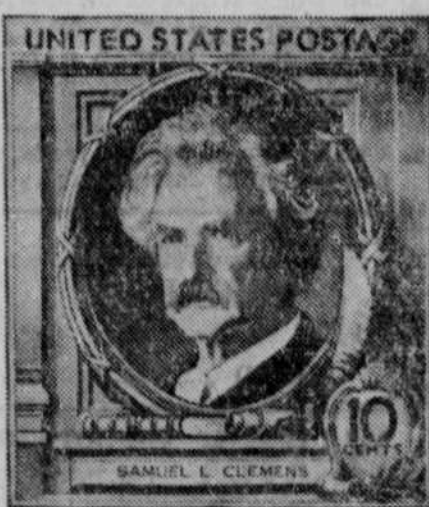
"Famous Americans" which would be composed of peace-time heroes, instead of military and naval heroes, or statesmen. Anticipating possible criticism by some people in regard to the selection of the men and women whose portraits were to appear on the stamps of different values, Mr. Farley pointed out that the selection of the various denominations, which include a one-two, three, five and ten-cent stamp for each of the seven stamps of the series, was to be governed by the date of birth of the 35 famous Americans in this new series.

In other words, the lowest denomination in each of the seven groups was assigned to that particular American notable whose date of birth precedes that of all others appearing in this particular group, with the notable of the most recent birth being awarded the highest denomination. This chronological birth order has been followed throughout the new series.

Thus, no one who believes that Henry Wadsworth Longfellow was a greater poet than James Whitcomb Riley can object because the face of the Hoosier bard appears on a stamp of higher value than that bearing the portrait of the New Englander. The fact that Longfellow was born in 1807 and Riley in 1853 was the determining factor in placing the picture of the former on the one-cent stamp and the fact of the latter on the 10-cent.

Similarly those who love the songs of Stephen Collins Foster can't object because his picture is on a one-cent stamp, whereas those of Edward A. MacDowell and Ethelbert Nevin, of whom they may never have heard, are on the five-cent and the 10-cent stamps, respectively. Of course, it may seem rather silly that Uncle Sam, as represented by his postmaster-general, has to be so very careful to avoid the slightest suspicion of partisanship in such a matter as this. But it's amazing what queer notions people have sometimes, and they've raised a veritable "tempest in a teapot" over lesser matters than this.

Having chosen his list of authors, poets, educators, scientists, composers, artists and inventors to appear on his new series of stamps, Uncle Sam next decided on the places for "first days," i. e., where each of these



stamps were first to be sold. In every case the home town of the notable or some place closely associated with his career was chosen.

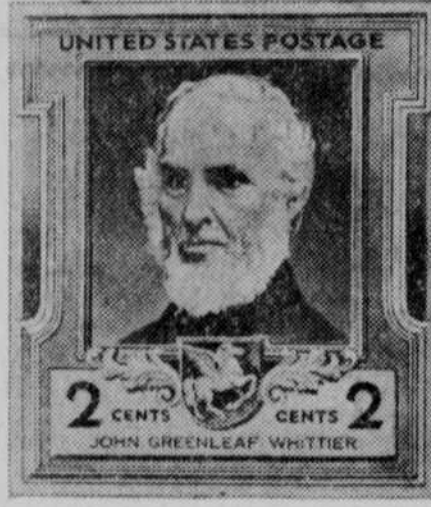
Thus on January 29 the green one-cent stamp bearing the portrait of Washington Irving was placed on sale at Tarrytown, N. Y. On the same day the post office at Cooperstown, N. Y., began selling the red-two cent stamps bearing a likeness of the author of the "Leatherstocking Tales"—James Fenimore Cooper. On February 5 the Ralph Waldo Emerson stamp (three-cent, purple) was first sold in Boston and the Louisa May Alcott stamp (five-cent, blue) in Concord, Mass. On February 13 the memory of Samuel Langhorne Clemens (Mark Twain, to most Americans) was again honored at Hannibal, Mo., with the first day sale of a new 10-cent brown stamp.

Thus Uncle Sam started his new "game" of authors and he continued it during February by issuing the five stamps in the poet group, as follows: February 16, the Henry W. Longfellow stamp

(one-cent, green) was first sold at Portland, Maine, and the John Greenleaf Whittier stamp (two-cent, red) at Haverhill, Mass.; February 20 the James Russell Lowell (three-cent, purple) at Cambridge, Mass., and the Walt Whitman (five-cent, blue) at Camden, N. J.; February 24, the James Whitcomb Riley (10-cent, brown) at Greenfield, Ind.

Beginning this month with the educators' group the stamps will be placed on sale as follows:

- Educators.**
March 14—Boston, Horace Mann, one-cent, green.
March 14 — Williamstown, Mass., Mark Hopkins, two-cent, red.
March 28—Cambridge, Mass., Charles W. Eliot, three-cent, purple.
March 28—Evanston, Ill. Frances E. Willard, five-cent, blue.



April 7 — Tuskegee Institute, Ala., Booker T. Washington, ten-cent, brown.

Scientists.
April 8—St. Francisville, La., John James Audubon, one-cent, green.

April 8—Jefferson, Ga., Dr. Crawford W. Long, two-cent, red.
April 17—Santa Rosa, Calif., Luther Burbank, three-cent, purple.

April 17—Washington, Dr. Walter Reed, five-cent, blue.
April 26—Chicago, Jane Addams, ten-cent, brown.

Composers.
May 3—Bardston, Ky., Stephen C. Foster, one-cent, green.
May 3—Washington, John Philip Sousa, two-cent, red.
May 13—New York, Victor Herbert, three-cent, purple.



May 13—Peterborough, N. H., Edward A. MacDowell, five-cent, blue.

June 10—Pittsburgh, Pa., Ethelbert Nevin, 10-cent, brown.

Artists.
September 5—Narragansett, R. I., Gilbert C. Stuart, one-cent, green.

September 5—Lowell, Mass., J. A. M. Whittier, two-cent, red.
September 16—New York, Augustus Saint-Gaudens, three-cent, purple.

September 16 — Stockbridge, Mass., Daniel F. French, five-cent, blue.
September 30—Canton, N. Y., Frederic Remington, 10-cent, brown.

Inventors.
October 7—Savannah, Ga., Eli Whitney, one-cent, green.



October 7—New York, Samuel F. B. Morse, two-cent, red.

October 14—Lexington, Va., Cyrus H. McCormick, three-cent, purple.
October 14—Spencer, Mass., Elias Howe, five-cent, blue.
October 23—Boston, Alexander G. Bell, 10-cent, brown.

Americans' interest in stamps has been greatly stimulated by the number of commemorative and special issues put out by the post office department in recent years. Another stimulus—but for a different reason—has been furnished by a book, "Fabulous Stamps: The Romance of the Rarities," written by John W. Nicklin and published by Hastings House of New York. Here are two stories from that volume which indicate the reason for an increase interest in old stamps:

The Widow's Mite.
In the year of our Lord 1896, the Rev. F. P. L. Josa served as pastor at Christ church, the Episcopal house of worship at Georgetown, British Guiana. The parish was in dire need of funds to fur-



ther certain charitable works that were dear to the heart of the beloved cleric.

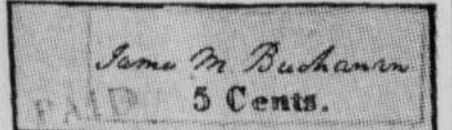
A certain widow, long a supporter of Christ church, felt a deep urge to assist the charitable work in which the Reverend Josa was engaged, but was unfortunately without financial resources to devote to this worthy purpose. "What else might I contribute from my meager possessions?" she wondered. "Those old letters, perhaps? That visitor from the old country had said years ago that they were of some value. Especially that one letter bearing a pair of circular stamps they had used for a time in Georgetown when I was but a girl."

And so, on the following Sunday, the widow of Georgetown placed in the collection plate of Christ church an old and faded letter bearing two copies of the two-cent British Guiana stamp of 1850. The Reverend Josa later sold these to a E. C. Luard for a sum in excess of \$1,000. The good work went on—the widow's mite had accomplished far greater good than she had hoped it would. Everyone was pleased, especially Mr. Luard, who subsequently parted with his purchase at a handsome profit. This widow's letter has an approximate present valuation of \$30,000, a sum sufficient to build an entire church.

Treasure in a Cornfield.
In 1925 a stamp hunter was working on a clue he had unearthed concerning an old bank whose records he believed to be in existence in the general vicinity of Baltimore.

After a painstaking search he was chagrined to learn that the bank in question had been out of business over 50 years and its records long since destroyed. He learned, however, that there was a family of the same name in a country district not far distant. So he went to the farm of the family believing there was small chance to find any old stamps in a place so abandoned as the district appeared to be.

Upon reaching the general vicinity of his destination he had the farm in question pointed out to him. As he turned his steps without enthusiasm toward the old farm house he noticed that it was flanked by several small outbuildings. When the path he was following brought him



abreast of the first of these, he noticed a few bits of paper scattered about the ground just near the edge of an adjoining field. Stooping, he picked up the first. It was a letter. Turning it over, he was amazed to see that it contained on its face a five-cent Baltimore stamp, worth about \$1,000.

Hardly believing his senses, he remained rooted to the spot, staring at the bit of paper in his hand. He hardly noticed that the lady of the house had been approaching and now stood before him. Trying to hide his great excitement he asked if he might look through the old papers that lay scattered before them.

"Surely," said the lady. "they come from the old granary. We are clearing it out and are destroying the old papers of grandfather. They are no use to us now. In fact, half of them have been burned up already."

The net result of the ensuing search was a total of eight more five-cent Baltimore stamps and a number of other valuable specimens of lesser rarity, chiefly of the 1847 general United States issue.

The house cleaning so fortunately interrupted had proceeded to such an extent that about half of the papers had already been destroyed. What did these contain? More five-cent Buchanans, perhaps a few of the rare 10-cent stamps. Who can tell?

Fabric Alone or With Straw Is Millinery Theme for Easter

By **CHERIE NICHOLAS**



ONE glance at the new hat fashions for spring, year 1940, and forthwith you feel your spirits mount high for you know in a flash that milliners are turning out creations of the flatterer sort.

Perhaps the most outstanding news in regard to hats that will grace the Easter millinery picture is the wide use being made of fabric, especially jersey (for wrapped turbans and snoods) and silk prints as gay and colorful as an artist's palette. See the hat centered below in the illustration. Here is a bright and shining example of what is being done with silk print. This wondrously chic little pillbox with shirred crown is made of a bordered silk print scarf. Its patterning of overlapping disc motifs achieves a dashing disc alliance. The manner in which the draped matching scarf is attached to the back of the hat by means of snaps so that it can be removed at will is both unique and practical. The fact that the hat can be worn alone with its detached scarf transformed into a neckerchief, knotted in place or held with a gay pin, adds greatly to its interest.

One of the big attractions offered to style-seeking women this season, is the print dress and hat ensemble or the print blouse that sells with a matching turban. You will find as the season progresses that the theme of the matching hat of printed silk will prove fashion's favorite spring song.

Now that the pastel color craze is taking the world of fashion by storm it has become a reigning vogue to wear a classic draped turban made of the identical pastel material that fashions the dress. The striking dinner gown pictured in the inset oval illustrates this new

trend. Sand beige silk jersey is the fabric that fashions this charming costume. The bodice is softly gathered from high neck to high waistline. The flowing skirt is pleated into a wide wrapped girdle. An elaborate ornament set in gold trims the rajah turban of self silk jersey in the manner of a regal potentate.

Sailors are with us again. Milliners report they are better than ever this season. Dusty pink suede forms the bandeau of the navy blue straw sailor shown at the top to the right. The ends of the suede jut through the crown and are stitched to give stiffness. A lovely model this, to wear with the very new and smart navy costume on Easter day.

Another type that maintains style prestige is the postillion. Lime green straw and a cactus blossom trim gives a springtime air to the postillion illustrated below to the right. This simple model will make an excellent fashion "first" to initiate your spring style program.

The new collections include many hats that are made of ribbon. A high-crowned chapeau of golden mustard-colored ribbon swathed in black net veiling, as shown above to the left, is a youthful headpiece that tunes ideally to midseason and early spring wear.

Cellophane black straw and felt combine to produce the smart turban pictured below to the left. A fan-shaped end of the felt mounting from the crown gives a note of height.

(Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

Startling Color Schemes Are Seen

Daring is the word for the startling color schemes that are carried out to a nicety by designers this season. It is really a revelation that colors so intensely "contrasty" can resolve into a symphony of color or loveliness under the touch of an artist style creator.

Navy for the skirt, old gold for the blouse, bright red for the wide corselet girdle and the entire sums up to color perfection as a charming dress in sheer wool recently displayed bears testimony.

Clever two or three-color alliances are being handled with brilliant and decidedly novel technique. A dark dress takes on a front panel of vivid tone, such as red with navy, fuchsia with turquoise. An evening gown in blackberry tone has a long train starting between the shoulders of bright fuchsia red.

Dual Personality In Jacket Outfits

Bright print jacket costumes possess a dual personality which more than doubles their practicality. While they may be worn on cool-ness spring days they also present a smart late winter appearance under fur coats.

A print with a white pattern on pearl gray makes an ideal background for bright-colored accessories. With a gray or black fur coat your accessories might include a gray hat with a red feather trim, and red gloves and bag.

High-Color Gloves Match to Jewelry

A new move in the fashion realm is that of bright gloves that sound the key color for the rest of the accessories. Especially effective is this color treatment when gloves match the color of the enamel flower necklace worn.

More Stripes



Day and night, stripes continue active in the fashion realm. A handsome silk in stripes that adopt a color scheme of Quaker gray, pink and white is the fabric choice for this tailored jacket designed for dinner wear. The leg o' mutton sleeves, box-pleated (at the back) pleum, the zippered front fastening are important style details. The skirt is of black taffeta. Taffeta is becoming increasingly important for formal evening gowns and daytime costumes as well.

The Basic Coat
A perfect foil for magnificent fur accessories is the simple untrimmed black cloth coat.

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HOUSEHOLD QUESTIONS

Use Dry Holder.—Never use a damp or wet cloth or holder in removing a hot dish from the oven or stove. A dry one prevents the heat from penetrating and scorching the fingers.

Hooked rugs will lay flat if they are dried properly. Place them, top side down, on papers spread over the floor. Allow them to dry thoroughly.

Coconut Marshmallows.—To roll marshmallows in coconut, shake them one by one in a bag of shredded coconut.

When cleaning celery, use a vegetable brush. It gets into the grooves and cleans the celery better than it can be cleaned otherwise.

Cleaning Mica.—Hot vinegar will remove stains from mica windows on stoves.

Candlewick spreads should be washed in plenty of hot water and soap suds. They should then be rinsed several times in clear, warm water and hung up in the shade to dry. When they are perfectly dry they should be placed, tufted side down, in a cotton blanket and pressed gently with a warm iron.

Cooking Pork Sausage.—Pork sausage requires slow cooking. If much fat collects, drain it off —to prevent greasiness. Pierce link sausage several times with a fork to prevent them from bursting while cooking. To form a brown, crusty covering on sausage sprinkle them with flour just before they are cooked.

Wash dully-waxed furniture with a chamois skin that has been rinsed frequently in warm water. Doing so will remove the dirt film. Then rub the furniture thoroughly with a soft cloth saturated in furniture polish. Afterwards wipe the furniture dry with a clean soft cloth.

Electric light bulbs should be dusted frequently and washed every five or six weeks. Wash with lukewarm water and a few drops of household ammonia. Do not use soap and do not let water come up above the glass of the globe. The volume of light will be increased if the bulbs are kept clean.



To Succeed
The success of most things depends upon knowing how long it will take to succeed.—Montesquieu.

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