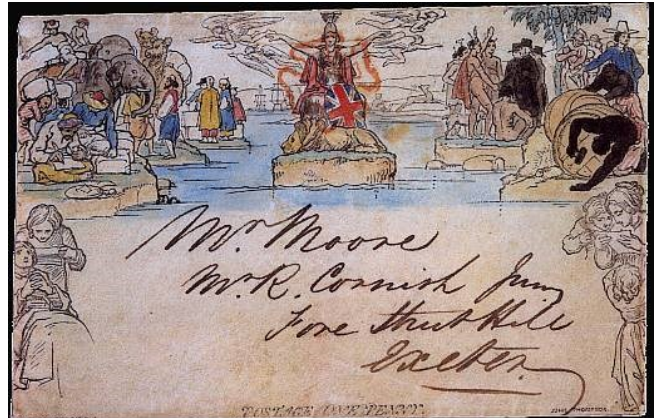




New Zealand Post issued a special stamp featuring **the grey duck as a part of the NZ Game Bird Habitat Collection**. NZ Post issue this series every year on 2 February to celebrate the World Wetlands Day. The 2016 issue is the 23rd in the series and features the grey duck.



The ultimate FDC !!!! a Mulready envelope with a Penny Black, cancelled on their joint Day of Issue, May 6, 1840, making this the First First Day cover of all of Philately!



**1st class letter to drop to 47¢ effective April 10**

A rare drop in postal prices will become effective from Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, the **United States Postal Service** has announced. The decrease, which results from the expiration of a temporary rate increase ordered in late 2013, had been widely anticipated.

It will be only the third time that there has been “a general reduction in postage rates,” first on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 1885, when a 2¢ reduction in the price of letters was ordered, & again on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 1919, when a WW I 1¢ “exigent” surcharge was removed.

Postmaster General Megan J. Brennan had pleaded with Congress and the courts to continue a 4.3 percent emergency rate increase that had been ordered because of sharply falling mail volume and the 2008 recession. But neither the courts nor lawmakers seemed sympathetic to intervening in the change, which Brennan said will cost the cash-hungry Postal Service \$2 billion a year. In early February, the USPS gave notice of what the new rates would be: the first-class letter rate will drop to 47¢, from 49¢. the additional ounces of first-class letters will drop to 21¢, from 22¢, international letters will drop to \$1.15, from the current \$1.20, postcards will fall from 35¢ to 34¢ and prices for FOREVER stamps will also decline .





# Postage stamps and postal history of Nauru

The **Republic of Nauru** is an island country in Micronesia, with 9,488 residents in a 21-km<sup>2</sup> area, and the world's 3<sup>rd</sup> smallest state after Vatican City and Monaco. The official language is Nauruan but English is widely spoken and is the language of government and commerce. Literacy on Nauru is 96%. Life expectancy on Nauru in 2009 was 66.0 years for males and 68.0 years for females. Nauruans are the most obese people in the world; 97 % of men and 93% of women are overweight or obese, as a result, at over 4%. Nauru has the world's highest level of type 2 diabetes. Nauru had 9,378 residents in 211 but in 2006 due to wide-scale reductions in phosphate mining 1,500 people left the island during a repatriation of immigrant workers from Kiribati and Tuvalu . The unemployment rate is about 90%, and of those who have jobs, the government employs 95%. There are no personal taxes in Nauru. Nauru's climate is hot and very humid year-round because of its proximity to the equator and the ocean. It is surrounded by a coral reef exposed at low tide preventing the establishment of a seaport. A fertile coastal strip 15m to 30m wide lies inland from the beach. Coral cliffs surround Nauru's central plateau. The highest point is 71m above sea level. .

Nauru is a phosphate rock island with rich deposits near the surface. This allowed easy strip mining giving Nauru the highest per-capita income enjoyed by any sovereign state in the world from 1965 to 1975. When mining ceased with the island's environment seriously damaged, the trust managing the island's wealth diminished in value from \$1.3 Billion to \$125 million. To earn income, Nauru briefly became a tax haven and illegal money laundering centre. From 2001 to 2008, and again from 2012, it accepted aid from the Australian Government in exchange for running the Nauru detention centre making Nauru seem a client state of Australia.

Phosphate was discovered on Nauru in 1900. The Pacific Phosphate Company began to exploit the reserves in 1906 by agreement with Germany. In 1914, following the outbreak of WW I, Nauru was captured by Australian troops. In 1919 it was agreed by the Allied and Associated Powers that His Britannic Majesty should be the administering authority under a League of Nations mandate. The Nauru Island Agreement made in 1919 between the UK, Australia and NZ provided for the administration of the island and for working of the phosphate deposits by an inter-governmental British Phosphate Commission (BPC). In 1923, the League of Nations gave Australia a trustee mandate over Nauru, with the UK & NZ as co-trustees. Japanese troops occupied Nauru in August 1942 then American forces liberated it in September 1945, when the Japanese surrendered to the Australian Army and Navy. In 1947, a new trusteeship was established by the UN and approved in 1947 making the UK, Australia & NZ one joint administering authority. However, in practice, administrative power was exercised by Australia alone.

Nauru became self-governing in January 1966 and became independent in 1968. Nauru is a republic with a parliamentary system of government with the president both head of state and government. Parliament is elected every 3 years. In 1967, the people of Nauru purchased the assets of the BPC and in June 1970 control passed to the locally owned Nauru Phosphate Corporation. The phosphate reserves on Nauru are now almost entirely depleted leaving a barren terrain of jagged limestone pinnacles which stripped and devastated about 8 percent of Nauru's land area, and affected the surrounding Exclusive Economic Zone. In 1989, Nauru took legal action against Australia in the International Court of Justice over its administration, particularly Australia's failure to remedy the environmental damage caused by island.



**Pre-independence** The first post office on the island opened in 1905 using stamps of the Marshall Islands. From 1914 to 1916 Australian stamps overprinted *North West Pacific Islands* were used. The British government then took control of the island and British stamps overprinted NAURU were issued in October 1916. From 1924 stamps produced in Australia were used.

**Independence** The first stamps of independent Nauru were issued in 1968.



# Nature of America

**Nature of America** is a series of 12 self-adhesive stamp sheets the USPS released annually between 1999 and 2010 starting with the Sonoran Desert sheet and ending with the Hawaiian Rain Forest Sheet. These were printed on large sheets 233mm x 171mm and were self adhesive not gummed.

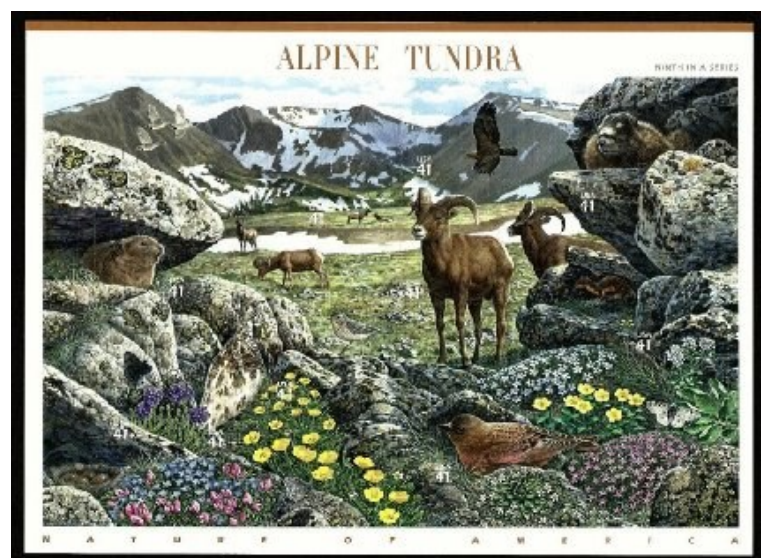
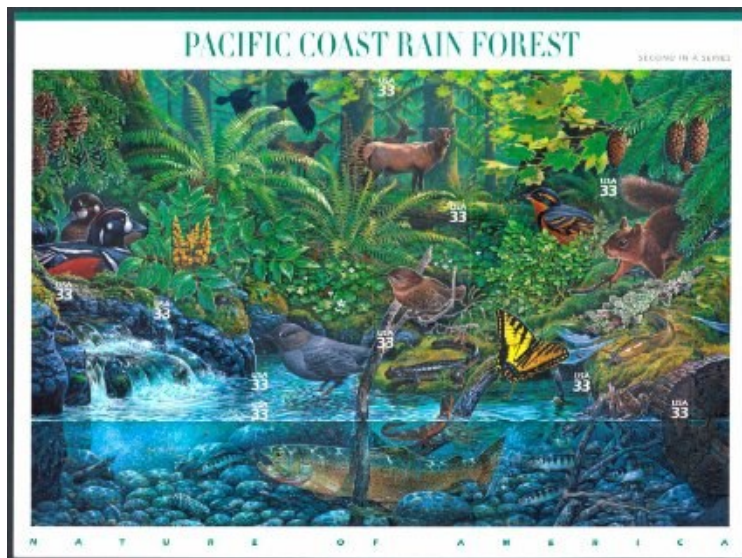
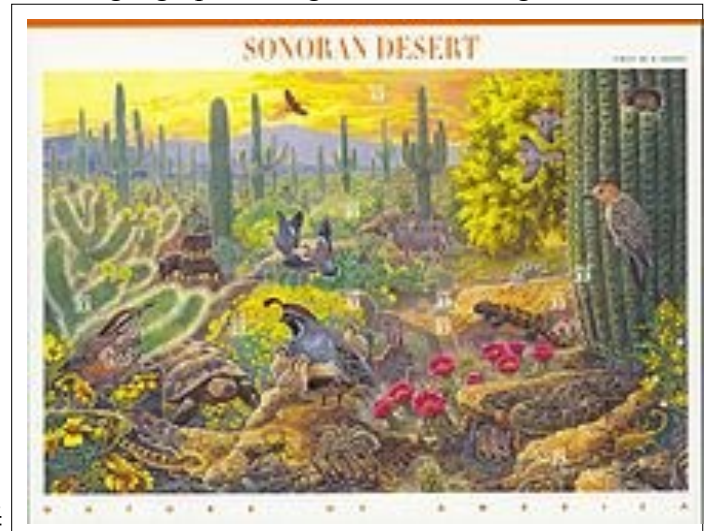
**Design process** The sheets were designed by Ethel Kessler and illustrated by artist John D. Dawson for the USPS. The original idea for the series, conceived in 1996, was for a set of 4 American desert stamps. This was inspired by the success of the *Desert Plants* commemorative stamps released in 1981. Dawson had worked on 3 previous USPS issues: *American Cats* (1988), *Idaho Statehood* (1990), and *Flowering Trees* (1998). From 4 stamps the idea expanded into a proposed set of 6 stamp sheets covering 6 ecosystems. After the commercial success of the first sheets the USPS decided to extend the series by six more, from the Sonoran Desert to the Hawaiian Rain Forest.

The design team drew inspiration from *The World of Dinosaurs* 2-sheet issue of 1997. These sheets were panoramic in design with punched perforations on a gummed sheet. Since the punched perforations would distract from the visual continuity of the design, they decided to go for the self-adhesive format with serpentine die cutting for the individual stamps. Each sheet consists of a large panoramic image of a U.S. geographical region, with the region's flora and fauna clearly visible. Ten stamps were die cut on to the design, each composing one or more species indigenous to that region. The rear of each sheet had a brief descriptive text of the stamp images, accompanied with a graphic outline of the depicted flora & fauna identified and labelled.

## The sheets

Sonoran desert 1999 Pacific Coast rain forest 2000  
Great Plains prairie 2001 Longleaf pine forest 2002  
Arctic tundra 2003 Pacific Coast coral reef 2004  
NE deciduous forest 2005 Southern Florida wetland  
2006 Alpine tundra 2007 Great Lakes dunes 2008  
Kelp forest 2009 Hawaiian Rain Forest 2010

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**Lost in Translation** mailman, postman correspondence delivery technician  
one who delivers the mail, Greek ταχυδρομικός διανομέας, Russian почтальон Turkish  
*postacı* Spanish *cartero*, *buzonero*  
Swedish *brevbärare* Dutch *postbode*  
Chinese (s) 邮差 Chinese (t) 郵差  
Portuguese *carteiro* French *facteur*  
Italian *posto*, *portalettere*  
German *Briefträger* Japanese 郵便  
集配人 Korean 우편 집배원





**Mulready Envelopes** are elaborately decorated, pre-paid envelopes and letter sheets issued at the same time as the Penny Black. They were part of a major postal reform called Island Penny Postage (also Inland Penny Postage, and Uniform Penny Post), in which the rate scale was dramatically revised, from a system based on the number of sheets of paper and the mileage, to one based simply on weight which meant that all letters sent within the UK went for a single fixed rate of 1d per ½ oz.

The Mulready's were regarded by many people as an embarrassing Folly, their elaborate, fanciful design was considered paternalistic and condescending. They subsequently saw little use, and were withdrawn, but are popular collectibles now as they are essentially the earliest stamped envelopes. Rowland Hill, their sponsor, expected them to be the primary vehicle for letters, and issued stamps as well almost as an afterthought. But the public preferred stamps so most of the Mulready stock had to be destroyed, making them rather scarce today. Many amusing and fanciful imitations, parodies, and lampoons were published, leading to a long tradition of beautiful illustrated envelopes, both printed, and hand-drawn.

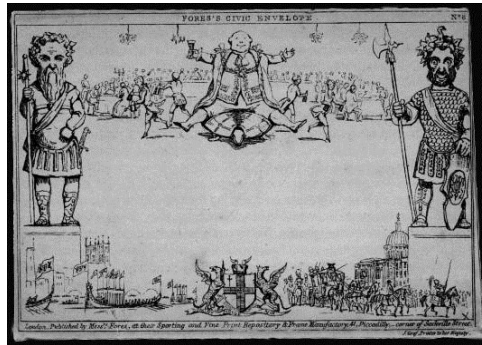
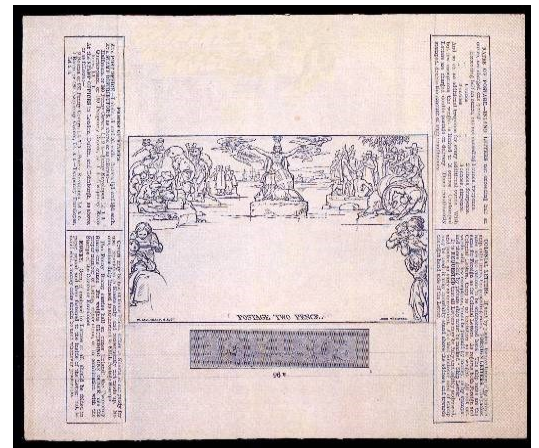
The Mulready (*Artist/Designer, William Mulready; Engraver, John Thompson; Printers, William Clowes & Sons*) was issued in two denominations, 1d (black ink on cream paper) and 2d (blue ink on cream paper), in two different colours to distinguish the denominations, and in 2 different formats - unfolded envelopes and unfolded letter sheets. Envelopes were still a novelty as the prior postal rates had been based not on weight but on the number of sheets of paper, an envelope counted as one sheet, doubling the rate. Note that there is no stamp or indicium in the design, merely the postage value printed at the bottom. It was only later, when stamps became the standard way to pay postage, that stamp-like images were printed on postal stationery.

## Mulready Letter Sheets

Here's what the Two Pence letter sheet looked like unfolded, However 1/4d per envelope for singles was probably a lot at the time. One could still use a folded letter sheet, sealing wax, and one of the new stamps, and save the extra cost for the envelope.

## Mulready Parodies, Lampoons & Caricatures

*Everybody has, we presume, before this time, had an opportunity of examining those very extraordinary specimens of British Art - the penny-post envelopes. On the merits of the design for those absurdities we have never heard but one opinion. From Sir Robert Peel down to the lowest kitchen wench the new covers have been laughed at by every man, woman, and child of the community who has the slightest perception of the ludicrous. Anything more ridiculous could hardly be imagined...*" (London Times, September 2, 1840)



Much of the public shared the reaction to the Mulready of the writer of that *Times* editorial and the publishers of these parodies, which sold among them many more copies than the real one. Many of these are scarce and valuable today. There is an entertaining and informative book, "The Mulready Envelope & Its Caricatures" by Major E B Evans (first published in 1891), which recounts the history of the Mulreadys themselves, and explains the meanings of the Imitations and Parodies, most of which are obscure to the modern viewers.

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## 50 years of Aussie Decimal currency celebrated through a special stamp

Australia Post marks **50 years of Decimal currency** which supplanted £/d in Australia on 14 February 1966.

**The \$1 stamp features the images of the new \$1 banknote and today's coin along with the image of the £1 banknote which was replaced.**

On 14 February 1966, one era ended and another began when Australia replaced British-style currency with decimal notes and coins. Not only did it require people to

rethink the method for everyday transactions in \$ and c but it also meant designing, producing and distributing new currency and stamps; converting monetary machines; training banking and retail staff; and a huge public education campaign.

## Most viewed stamp 2015

Website Stamp News.com report the following 2 stamps acquired. the title of most viewed stamp for 2015 online. They got nearly the same number of views and votes by its readers and followers.



The first philatelic item was introduced by Slovenian Post. It is dedicated to delicious traditional Slovene breakfasts. This original stamp is really something special as it was printed using a special technique and it has the delicious scent of honey.

Introduced by Gibraltar Post, the next item was released to commemorate Britain's Longest Reining Monarch – Elizabeth II. This stamp is important for several reasons.

*First of all, Queen Elizabeth II was set to become the longest ever reigning monarch in British history. On the 9th September 2015, she passed the record set by her great-great-grandmother Queen Victoria. To celebrate this achievement, Gibraltar Post decided to introduce its first ever single £10 stamp and also for the first time the words "Queen of Gibraltar" were printed on it. The item depicts a young Queen Elizabeth II using a photograph taken by the world renowned photographer Sir Cecil Beaton. Also the stamp features 22ct gold on the design using thermography printing in cooperation with stamp printers Lowe Martin in Canada.*

## Most shared stamp for 2015

This item is special because its background glows in the dark owing to its fluorescent colour which turns into a source of light if it is exposed to sunlight beforehand. One more peculiarity is having micro-perforations that become easily visible as the light waves are diffracted through the small openings. Sunlight is an essential life requirement for humans, animals and plants. Light in general is also a key issue in science and culture. The United Nations has declared 2015 the International Year of Light: The special stamp "play of light" allows the viewer to perform 3 experiments. Thanks to the fluorescent colour of the background the stamp glows in the dark. It is a light source, if it has been irradiated by the sun. Wave theory can be observed by holding the stamp in front of a light source. The micro-perforations in the paper are clearly visible in the light waves that are diffracted by the small openings. For the experiment, the quantum theory of pink curve was printed in the background of the globe with a special colour. Upon irradiation with UV light, the colour changes from pink to violet.

**Welcome** Robert welcomed 11 members to the meeting tonight

**Minutes** the minutes of the February meeting were taken as read and accurate Proposed by John Glaiyser seconded by Kelvin Trower passed with no matters arising

**General business** There is no news about the Blenheim trophy to pass on yet. John Glaiyser asked if somebody would take over supper duties as he will be away for some time. Nik gave forewarning that he will NOT be standing for secretary or editor in June ( the newsletter as is now takes up about 20-25 hours per month ).

**Correspondence** the Marlborough Club acknowledged our letter of the financial gift a bill for the post box for 2016 a Federation letter with details of the meeting in November and a special discussion about frames

**Letter of the month brought to you from the letter C** Cuba, China Crushington post office 1896/1919 , Canada flag definitive sets 2004 /05/06 , a censored cover cut in half stamp and Cape of Good Hope the winner was Kelvin with the Crushington PO

**Items of interest** Robert had a letter from UK mutilated by "cancelled by biro" attack (this is quite common and the subject of much grumbling in UK philately circles ) Ann Ross brought the recent first issue of the Nelson Mail from March 5th 1866. nik had a grrrrrrumble at the VERY expensive overseas registered letter prices he incurred for some Ebay selling in February.

**Special** there was a display from Robin with pages from his WHALES on Stamps thematic interest.

The next meeting will be Sunday 10th April at 1.30 in the AFTERNNOON the stamp of the month entries will be anything to do with the colour PURPLE ( rather than just a letter)

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Meetings on the second Tuesday of the month at Stoke School at 7:15pm sales table, 7:30 meeting starts winter meetings from April Sundays from 1.30 pm also at Stoke School sales table from 1.15pm

**Nice business if you can get it !!!!!!!** After saving my Chinese stamps for a rainy day the rain has arrived, off we go to the Ebay site, yayyy -big success with good prices so for once to be careful I wanted to register the 3 letters to China and 1 to USA . How can a registered letter from NZ to China be \$30 and even worse to USA is \$40. I have received registered letters from overseas which cost at most \$6US and a quick search on overseas PO websites revealed this; AusPost \$14.95, express post 15.90. Royal Mail, tracked and signed for letter ; £6, Ireland ANPost 7€ Holland -Post NL 17 €

**The Pony Express** was a mail service delivering messages, newspapers, mail, and small packages from St. Joseph, Missouri, across the Great Plains, over the Rocky Mountains and the Sierra Nevada to Sacramento, California, by horseback, using a series of relay stations. Officially operating as the Leavenworth and Pike's Peak Express Company of 1859, which in 1860 became the Central Overland California and Pikes Peak Express Company, this firm was founded by William H. Russell, Alexander Majors, and William B. Waddell all of whom were notable in the freighting business. During its 19 months of operation, it reduced the time for messages to travel between the Atlantic and Pacific coasts to about 10 days.<sup>[2]</sup> From April 3, 1860 to October 1861, it became the West's most direct means of east-



west communication before the telegraph was established and was vital for tying the new state of California with the rest of the United States.