



News from the American Philatelic Center
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American Philatelic Society and
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Contact: Fred Baumann

American Philatelic Center • 100 Match Factory Place
814-933-3803 ext. 212

e-mail: fred@stamps.org

Bellefonte, PA 16823
814-933-6128 (Fax)

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New North Carolina Album Promotes Stamp Show and Teaches, Too



Just in time to promote the APS AMERISTAMP EXPO show January 11–13 in Charlotte, the American Philatelic Society is making available a 16-page album of United States stamps related to the state of North Carolina and its history. Created for free use in the public domain — with generous permission from Scott to use its copyrighted catalog numbers — it is available as a pdf file that can be reviewed or downloaded at <http://www.stamps.org/AmeriStamp/AlbumPages.pdf>

Color illustrated throughout, the album has spaces for 46 stamps, three postal cards and a pane of Nature of America stamps. The stamps face pages of text describing how they relate to North Carolina, from the discovery of Roanoke Island by Walter Raleigh in 1584 to the Wright Brothers' 1903 flight at Kitty Hawk to the 1960 civil rights lunch counter sit-ins in Greensboro. The earliest stamp is the 1930 2-cent Carolina-Charleston issue (Scott 683). The most recent is a 75-cent stamp picturing the Great Smoky Mountains of North Carolina and Tennessee (Scott C140), issued in 2006. The Scott catalog value of all items needed to fill the album is only \$35.65 mint, or \$17.20 used or canceled.

Over the years, articles in *Linn's Stamp News* and elsewhere listed U.S. stamps and postal stationery with connections to various states. The concept behind the album was to streamline and update those lists for a state in which an APS-sponsored stamp show was to be held, creating an album with places for them and with enough descriptive text to broaden the appeal to beginners and interested non-collectors, including teachers, scouts and students.

The album isn't exhaustive. For example, space is provided for only one of the two 1982 State Birds and Flowers stamps issued in distinct perforation combinations, and one of the Greetings stamps that were issued in both 34-cent and 37-cent values in 2002. Some stamps that might have been included were not; for example, Whistler's mother, pictured on the 1934 3-cent Mothers of America stamp not included in this album, was a native of Wilmington, North Carolina. And where many stamps were available to illustrate the same thing — such as George Washington, surveyor of the Great Dismal Swamp in 1763 — an easy-to-obtain, common stamp was selected (in Washington's case, the 1938 1-cent Presidential stamp). The idea was to make a topical album that would be of use to those with an interest in North Carolina and could be printed on demand inexpensively; an album that anyone could use, and everyone could afford to complete.

The *Stamps of North Carolina* album is number 1 in a series, to be continued if there is interest in the project. Future albums may be scheduled in conjunction with 2008–2011 APS shows in Connecticut, Texas, Pittsburgh, Virginia, California, and Ohio. In time, if demand warrants, similar albums could be produced for states that annual APS shows have not yet visited as well.

To learn more about APS AMERISTAMP EXPO in Charlotte, visit <http://www.stamps.org/AmeriStamp/Intro.htm> To learn more about the American Philatelic Society, visit www.stamps.org