

This Day in History... October 1, 1981

Happy National Stamp Collecting Month!

On October 1, 1981, the USPS began its very first National Stamp Collecting Month, a celebration that continues to this day.

The USPS and the Council of Philatelic Organizations created National Stamp Collecting Month in 1981. In announcing the annual celebration, then-Postmaster General William F. Bolger encouraged “employees and customers alike to discover the joy of stamp collecting – the hobby of a lifetime.”



Columbian stamp pictured on the first National Stamp Collecting Month souvenir card in 1981.



This stamp was pictured on the 1982 souvenir card.



Trans-Mississippi stamp pictured on the 1983 souvenir card.



Stamp pictured on the 1984 souvenir card.

That first year, the USPS produced a souvenir card picturing two stamps – US #245, the \$5 Columbian, and #1918, the 1981 “Benefiting Mankind” stamp from that year’s Space Achievement issue. The theme that first year was “Discover Stamp Collecting – the Hobby of a Lifetime.”

In 1982, another souvenir card was issued, picturing US #C3a, the legendary Inverted Jenny. The 1983 card pictured US #293, the Mississippi River Bridge from the Trans-Mississippi Exposition. The theme that year was “Discover the Beauty and Lore of Stamp Collecting... the Hobby of a Lifetime.” The 1984 card pictured US #2104, the Family Unity stamp, to go with the theme “Fall in Love with Stamp Collecting – A Family Hobby.”

In 1985, the USPS issued its first stamps specifically for National Stamp Collecting Month, picturing different breeds of horses. Ever since they’ve issued a set of stamps most years in early October or late September to celebrate National Stamp Collecting Month. Often, these stamps are geared toward children, to help increase interest in a new generation of collectors.

And whether or not a new set of stamps is issued each year, the USPS and local stamp groups often stage National Stamp Collecting Month events. Many years the USPS has also created special National Stamp Collecting Month cancellations.



Stamp issued for the 125th anniversary of the first US stamp.



This stamp was also pictured on the first Stamp Collecting Month souvenir card.



The first stamps issued specifically for Stamp Collecting Month, in 1985.

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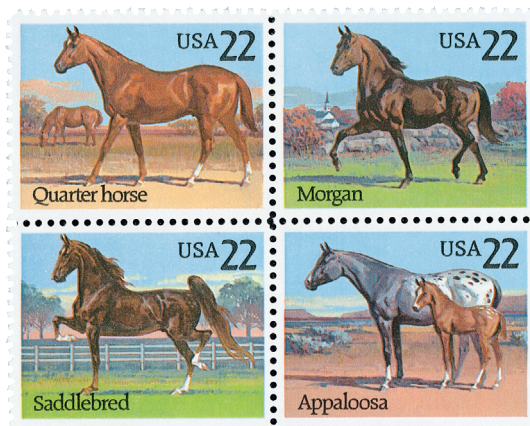
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