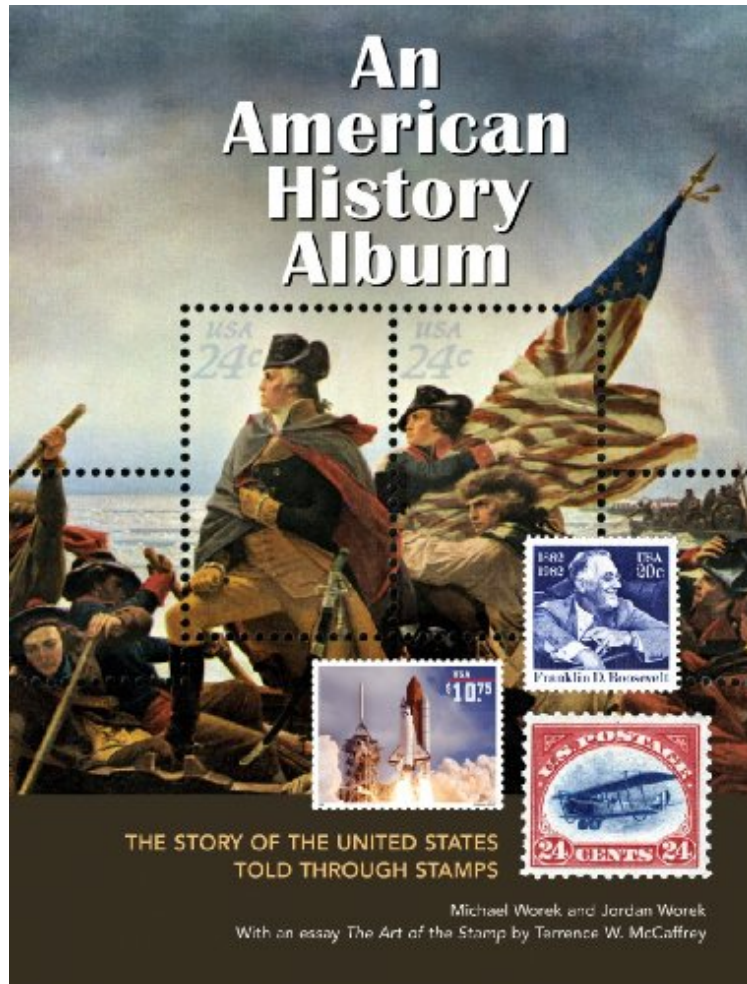


[FREE] An American History Album: The Story of the United States Told Through Stamps

# An American History Album: The Story of the United States Told Through Stamps

Michael Worek, Jordan Worek  
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**Michael Worek, Jordan Worek : An American History Album: The Story of the United States Told Through Stamps** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised An American History Album: The Story of the United States Told Through Stamps:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A must hav for any US Postal Stamp collector By Big Kahuna An excellent source for US Stamps and the "why" they were issued. I'm not a real history buff but this is a good read.

A unique record of the history of the United States. Throughout its history, the United States has celebrated its achievements, honored its heroes and recorded its history by issuing beautiful commemorative postage stamps. These stamps tell us about the discovery and settlement of the land; advances in transportation and communication; the

wonders of the American wilderness; and the accomplishments of political, military and civic leaders who served the republic and shaped its future. Created by the United States Post Office to honor significant events and important people, these stamps offer us a unique and proud look at America's history. An American History Album takes a look at the stories behind these miniature works of art—why they were issued and who or what they honor. Created by some of the best artists and finest engravers of their day, these stamps fashion a visual portrait of the history, values and accomplishments of the United States. Through their research for this book the authors identified more than 50 major themes of the American story that have been commemorated in stamps. An American History Album will appeal to history buffs, stamp collectors, educators, art enthusiasts and general readers. It serves as a graphic reminder that the American dream, as crafted in the Declaration of Independence and the American Constitution, remains alive and well. Here are just some of the stories told inside *An American History Album*: Columbus' Epic Voyage The Pilgrims and the Puritans The Louisiana Purchase Into the Wilderness The American Revolution The War Between the States Remember the Alamo The Settlement of the West The Transcontinental Railroad Building the Global Village The Great Depression The Second World War The Story of Flight The Cold War in America Putting a Man on the Moon The Office of the President Protecting the Wilderness The Story of the Flag America's Armed Forces The themes include: Heritage and Values: the ideas, symbols, beliefs and institutions that make America unique Discovery and Exploration: how the New World was discovered and the 13 colonies were established Neighbor Against Neighbor: how the Revolutionary War and the War Between the States shaped the nation Manifest Destiny: how the pioneers pushed westward across the wilderness to reach the Pacific Transportation and Communication: how ships, canals, railroads, automobiles and the telegraph tied the early nation together The Greatest Generation: the profound effect of the Great Depression and World War II on a nation and its spirit These United States: a brief look at each state and the postage stamp that honors it The Art of the Stamp: a fascinating look at how stamp subjects are chosen and designs created

This look at America's aspirations, challenges and achievements as depicted on commemorative postage stamps is delivered in elegant layouts... Almost every stamp is substantially enlarged to show details and they are thematically organized... Historical highlights span centuries [and] the first-class packaging and presentation could prompt tourists at Washington's Union Station to step across the street and visit the Smithsonian National Postal Museum, the main source for the stamp images in this beautiful book. (Publishers Weekly 2008-07-11) Stamp enlargement of the 19th century issues enables the reader to appreciate the art of the engraver, studying the stamp design rather than looking for the flaws, while the book itself is a valuable and interesting guide to American history, an example on a grand scale of Social Philately. (The London Philatelist Vol 118 No 1366) The hardcover book is a work of art. The stamps, brilliantly reproduced in spectacular color, were chosen on the basis of subject matter, the beauty of design, and the authors' personal preferences. While each stamp holds its own statement, the album as a whole reflects ways in which American values have shifted and priorities changed since 1847. And it reflects which values and priorities the government that issued these stamps wanted to promote.... I encourage you to get this 208-page book. (Dr. Everett L. Parker Global Stamp News) This large-format book gives us a fascinating angle on U.S. history and culture by homing in on the wondrous little worlds conveyed in commemorative U.S. postage stamps.... With the stamps rendered in wonderful detail, readers are treated to the equivalent of a close-up tour of a miniature art gallery.... This book will be catnip for stamp collectors and history buffs. Highly recommended for school and public libraries. (Suzanne Lay, Parry H.S., GA Library Journal) Public libraries should... consider purchasing this beautiful book for its circulating collection. (John R. Burch Jr American Reference Book Annual) The stamps are used not to narrate the history of the country, but to celebrate its virtues. (BookNews 2009-12-01) About the Author Michael Worek is an editor and publisher who combines his lifelong fascination with American history with his passion for commemorative stamps. Jordan Worek is a third-generation stamp collector who was completing his university degree while engaged in research for this book. Terrence W. McCaffrey is Manager, Stamp Development, Stamp Services, United States Postal Service. Excerpt. © Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved. Introduction Throughout its history, the United States has celebrated its achievements, honored its heroes and recorded its history by issuing commemorative postage stamps. These stamps tell us about the discovery and settlement of the land; advances in transportation and communication; wonders of the natural landscape; and accomplishments of political, military and civic leaders who served the republic and shaped its future. Created by the United States Post Office in the belief that the nation would be stronger for a tribute that combined historical significance with popular appeal, these stamps offer us a unique and proud look at America's history. The stamps are beautiful in themselves, but they take on even more interest when we learn the stories behind them -- why they were issued, and who or what they honor. Taken together, these miniature works of art, created by some of the best artists and engravers of their day, constitute an American family album -- a visual portrait of who we are, what we value and what we have accomplished. Within the American colonies, letters were carried long before there were stamps to put on them. A post office was opened in Boston as early as 1639, and regular service between Boston and New York City began in 1673. Since its formation in 1775, the United States Post Office, originally called the Post Office Department, has been a key element in the nation's communication system and

in the delivery of goods across the country and around the world. The world's first postage stamp, the famous Penny Black, was issued in England in 1840. The United States issued its first stamps in 1847. By 1850 every major country was using adhesive stamps to cover the postage rate, and letters were routinely mailed around the world with the assumption that they would arrive safely. In the United States registered mail was introduced in 1855, city delivery in 1874, and the first postcards, the emails of their day, in 1873. It is clearly not the purpose here to recount the full story of the United States and its place in the world. That huge task is well beyond the scope of this little book or the postage stamps themselves. There are many excellent works that look judiciously at the American experience and give a balanced and reasoned picture of the nation's history, warts and all. Happily, with this book we are free to give ourselves over to the enjoyment of the high points, the best days, the most noble acts and the moments of courage, sacrifice and greatness that will always be remembered and associated with the country's history. Like any family album, this one contains pictures only of the people and places we're proud of. They illustrate America's most patriotic perspective on its history. If at times, in this post-9/11 world, these images seem overly idealistic, we might remember that ideals often inspire our achievements. Those who have had the job of selecting, designing and issuing these little portraits of greatness have set a commendably high standard for illustrating our values and what we would like to become. The selection of stamps in this book is notable as much for what has been omitted as for the stamps that have been included. The United States has just too many stories and too many commemorative stamps -- more than four thousand in all -- to show more than a fraction of them here. Stamps were selected for their subject matter -- American history -- and the beauty of their design as well as on the basis of the authors' personal views and preferences. Although chosen to reflect the themes of the book, they also represent some of the best work of the United States Post Office. Since so many more stamps have been issued than are presented here, and since most are still available from stamp dealers at a reasonable cost, we encourage readers to form their own collections of original Americana featuring their favorite themes and topics and, while they are at it, to learn more about our history. As we move further into the electronic age of continuous communication with people everywhere, the postage stamps we have, and those that will be issued in the future, will remain as reminders of the pleasure we still experience in receiving a letter, in knowing that someone has taken the time to sit down and create a tangible bond between us. Unlike an email, a letter is a physical piece of history that we can read, treasure and pass down to our children. Appropriately, the stamps that have been issued to carry those letters are also worth treasuring, and surely a heritage to be enjoyed. These stamps and the stories they tell are important because American history is important. The American experience, sometimes called "the last best hope of mankind," is one worth sharing because it is a story in which we all have a stake. More than thirty years ago, English journalist and broadcaster Alistair Cooke justified his efforts to create a television series about the United States by saying that whether he was to succeed or fail, it seemed to him a good, though difficult, thing "to try and say what is moving about the American experience ... at a time when that experience is either forgotten, badly taught, or shamelessly sentimentalized." Cooke's words are still true today and justify any attempt, including this small one, to explore the best of America's aspirations and achievements. The United States is still poorly understood, even by many of its own citizens, but there is evidence in these stamps that the country is unique, resilient and somehow special. For all our rush into the future, history reminds us that the greatest good for the greatest number is best achieved by asking, with John F. Kennedy, not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country. These small tributes to the ideals, sacrifices and triumphs of the United States were created to help us take pride in the nation's history so that tomorrow's challenges may be faced with a surety of purpose and a confidence based on more than 200 years of experience in creating and sharing the American dream.