

**New England Baptist Hospital
Internal Promotion of Postage Stamps and Medicine on Display
via Colleague e-newsletter, @ The Baptist**



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History of Postage Stamps and Medicine on Display

As part of a generous grant from the Mass Cultural Council and in partnership with the [Spellman Museum of Stamps and Postal History](#), NEBH is now home to a beautiful display that details the history of postage stamps and medicine. The exhibit is located on Lahey 3, outside the cafeteria, and will be on display for the next several months.

[Learn more and see additional photos!](#)

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This first-of-its-kind exhibit showcases the importance of stamp collecting and why it is relevant – and specific entries and visuals describing stamps and their meaning, along with information about the Spellman Museum. Our exhibit within NEBH features stamps with content relevant to the orthopedic specialty hospital, including stamps featuring surgery, the invention of the MRI, osteopathy and wellness, anesthesia, pharmacy and wellness. Also included is a special diabetes stamp that features content on this co-morbidity affecting so many patients. Other stamps on display include the Mayo physician brothers, Walter Reed and Clara Barton. Stamps featured highlight various countries' health care and institutions.

See below to get a sneak peek of the exhibit, but be sure to visit it in person to see it up close and personal and really appreciate the details of it!

A special thank you to Heidi Price, from Heidi Price Design, and Joseph Mullin, Executive Director, Spellman Stamp Museum, who brought this to life.



POSTAGE STAMPS AND MEDICINE

Postage stamps tell stories. The first postage stamp was created in 1847 featuring Benjamin Franklin. For more than two centuries, these beautiful and illustrative forms of international currency have highlighted important medical conditions, clinical breakthroughs and esteemed physicians, as well as nurses and scientists who pioneered treatment and care.

Please visit the extended display in the case across from the Lahey elevators



Clara Barton (1821-1912), nurse, demonstrated her nurturing spirit at age eleven, when she acted as her injured brother's devoted nurse. As an adult, she responded to the needs of the wounded troops by establishing an agency to distribute supplies and assist sick transports. Her efforts to aid others extended to helping families locate their loved ones after the war.

Following the war, Clara travelled to Europe, where she met members of the European Society of the Red Cross. Upon returning to the United States in 1881, Clara founded the American Association of the Red Cross, and served as the first president. Her legacy endures today as the American Red Cross continues to provide emergency assistance and disaster relief around the world.



Issued 1995



This US stamp was issued in 2006 to honor Dr. Jonas Salk (1914-1995), who was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1977 for developing the first safe and effective polio vaccine. This stamp was one of a series in the Distinguished Americans stamp series.

SPELLMAN MUSEUM OF STAMPS AND POSTAL HISTORY

The Spellman Museum of Stamps and Postal History is one of just two stamp museums in the United States — located nearby in Weston, Massachusetts on the Regis College campus. It is a local resource and a national treasure.

The Spellman is a center of learning for people of all ages. Its collections, exhibits, library, and facilities are a philatelic trust for the lifelong education and inspiration of the general public; the Spellman promotes the hobby of stamp collecting; and, is a resource to engage historians, researchers, and the curious.

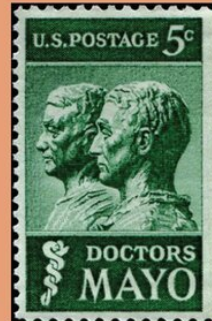
The museum houses rich and varied collections of stamps from all eras nationally and internationally. The Spellman features extraordinary exhibits and displays throughout the entire museum that illustrate history and common connects through stamps.

Memberships are available and the museum re-opens to the public on July 7. All children receive a free packet of stamps every visit.

This exhibit shares just some of the significant stories of medicine, nursing care and clinical scientific advances through postage stamps.



This Canadian stamp was issued in 2020 to honor Dr. Bruce Chown, a world leader in studying rhesus disease, which impacts newborns. He's one of six 'medical groundbreakers' featured on five stamps issued that year.



Issued 1964

This 1964 stamp honors the Mayo family, the most famous family of physicians in the United States. Three generations of the Mayo family established the world-renowned nonprofit Mayo Clinic and the Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research, in Rochester, Minnesota, which are dedicated to diagnosing and treating nearly every known illness.



Issued 1986

Paul Dudley White, MD, was born in Roxbury, MA, in 1886. He became interested in medicine when he accompanied his father, a family doctor, on house calls in his horse and buggy. One of America's leading cardiologists, he is often considered the founder of preventive cardiology. He helped to found the American Heart Association, the National Institutes of Health and the International Society of Cardiology.

After President Dwight Eisenhower's 1955 heart attack, he chose Dr. White as his personal physician. In this role, Dr. White advocated that healthy diet and exercise were effective in preventing heart disease. He specifically recommended cycling for the president, which gave the bicycle industry a significant boost. This stamp was issued in 1986 in recognition of Dr. White's significant contributions to medicine and patient care.



The USPS issued this stamp in 1940 to honor Walter Reed, Army surgeon and clinical pioneer. Military medicine has contributed significantly to our clinical knowledge both in the care of the wounded and the control of disease. Dr. Reed's contributions set patterns and safety measures that are still in place today.



1961 Colombian stamp honors Manuelita de la Cruz, Red Cross nurse who drowned while on duty during floods of 1955.



This exhibit was made possible in part thanks to the support of the Mass Cultural Council and its partners, who are working to amplify the importance of the arts, humanities, and sciences to the citizens of the Commonwealth.

For more information, visit spellmanmuseum.org or call Joseph Mullin, Executive Director and one of the nation's leading experts on stamps and their content at 781-768-8367.

POSTAGE STAMPS AND MEDICINE



Stamp collecting is also known as philately

Stamp collecting has been around as long as stamps. Stamps provide relevant and artful content highlighting arts, culture, biography, architecture, prominent individuals, world leaders, science, and of course, medicine and clinical breakthroughs.

While the primary purpose of stamps has been to pre-pay for the transportation and delivery of mail, stamps have also helped to preserve histories around the world.

The world's first postage stamp was the Penny Black invented by Sir Rowland Hill, a British administrator and educator, principally known for his development of the modern postal service, which was subsequently adopted throughout the world.



Example of international postage stamp highlighting medicine



Osteopathic medicine is a "whole person" approach to medicine—treating the entire person rather than just the symptoms. Practitioners of Osteopathic Medicine (DOs) help patients develop lifestyles that don't just fight illness but help prevent it, too.

Dr. Andrew Still created the practice of osteopathic medicine when he put three of his children to sleep one night in 1814. He became dissatisfied with the crude medical methods of the day. Dr. Still created his own alternative treatments including prayer, but he died, for want of a good medical education. From these ideas he developed osteopathy, an alternative medical practice that focuses on the manipulation of muscle tissue and bones. These his belief in the body's ability to heal itself, doctors could treat a number of diseases effectively.

Example of international postage stamp highlighting medicine



Clara Barton (1821-1912) nurse and educator, founded the American Association of the Red Cross, and served as the first president. Her many endeavors today as the American Red Cross continues to provide emergency assistance and disaster relief around the world. This stamp was issued in 1995.



In December of 1961, this contemporary looking stamp was issued to honor and recognize the nursing profession.



Errors, freaks, and oddities (EFO) refers to all the kinds of things that can go wrong in postage stamp production.

The inverted Jenny was issued in 1918, on which the image of the Curtiss JN-4 airplane in the center of the design is printed upside-down. It is probably the most famous error in American philately. Only one pane of 100 of the inverted stamps was ever found, making this error one of the most prized in philately.

At right, faulty perforations.

Clara Maass, army nurse during the Spanish-American War, studied the cause of yellow fever — whether the tropical fever was caused by city filth or a mosquito bite. Seven volunteers, including Maass, were bitten by the mosquitoes as part of the experiment. Two men died, but she survived. She volunteered again several months later, this time being infected. Maass died of yellow fever at the age of twenty-five. This stamp commemorates her selfless achievements.



These 2 international stamps celebrate anniversaries of two Irish medical institutions.

150th Anniversary of St. Vincent's Hospital
St. Vincent's Hospital in Dublin was founded in 1834 by Mary Aikenhead and her sisters, offering a unique range of healthcare and compassionate care for the poor. Today, it is Ireland's largest academic teaching hospital.

Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland 200th Anniversary
The Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland has been training doctors to be surgeons for more than 200 years and has a long and proud history in Ireland and throughout Europe.

Medical Breakthroughs - A set of 6 stamps celebrating six of the most significant medical breakthroughs from the 20th century.



Microscopy, Microbiology, Microbiology, 1829
Antibiotics, penicillin, 1928
DNA, 1953
Transfusions, 1901
Vaccines, 1877
Computed tomography scanner, 1972

This stamp was issued to honor Florence Nightingale, considered the founder of modern nursing.
An English nurse who organized her training as a nurse in Germany, Ms. Nightingale organized the nurse during the Crimean War and together they cared for over 10,000 sick and wounded soldiers.

This stamp was issued in 1975.
The Sepsidles is a group of 115 islands in the Indian Ocean, off East Africa. It is one of dozens of postage stamps issued worldwide commemorating and celebrating the work of Florence Nightingale.

This Diabetes Awareness commemorative stamp was issued in 2001. The stamp was illustrated by James Sheerberg of Amherst, MA, and is part of a continuing tradition of raising public awareness of health and social issues with stamps. About 16 million people in the U.S. have diabetes, and about one-third of them are unaware that they have this chronic disease.

This 1954 stamp honors the Mayo family, the most famous family of physicians in the United States. Three generations of the Mayo family established the world-renowned and profitable Mayo Clinic and the Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research, a Rochester, Minnesota, dedicated to diagnosing and treating nearly every known illness.

Examples of innovative Postage Stamps and First Day Covers highlighting Medicine

Pharmacy was featured on this 8-cent stamp issued in 1972.

In 2005, American Scientists were honored with this block.
These are some of the greatest scientists of our time. Their pioneering discoveries will influence our lives today. Each a member of the U.S. Postal Service's board of governors.

Josiah Willard Gibbs, who lived from 1839 to 1903, was a pioneer in the study of vector analysis, electromagnetic theory, statistical mechanics and thermodynamics.

Barbara McClintock won the 1985 Nobel Prize in medicine for her observations in genetics. She was among the first scientists to study the way genetic material controls the development of an organism.

John von Neumann was one of the top mathematicians of the 20th century. He helped develop a machine that became a model for modern computers, which led to the advent of AI.

Richard P. Feynman won the Nobel Prize in physics in 1965 for work in quantum electrodynamics. His work included diagrams that help visualize the dynamics of atomic particles.

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Did you find this exhibit interesting and informational? Let us know! josephmullin@gmail.com

Collaborating with the Mass Cultural Council, the Spellman Museum of Stamps and Postal History is the nation's only museum dedicated to the history of medicine.

At the Spellman Museum of Stamps and Postal History, we are proud to be a part of the nation's only museum dedicated to the history of medicine. We are proud to be a part of the nation's only museum dedicated to the history of medicine. We are proud to be a part of the nation's only museum dedicated to the history of medicine.

Mass Cultural Council

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Special thanks to New England Baptist Hospital for helping this exhibit and promoting the importance of education and information shared through this project.