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.

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 traveled to Europe, where she met members of the European Society of the Red Cross. Upon returning to the United States in 1861, 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.

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.

The US stamp was issued in 2006 to honor Dr. James Bill (1914-1996), who was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1972 for developing the first safe and effective polio vaccine. This stamp was one of a series in the distinguished American stamp series.

The US Mint issued this stamp in 2001 to honor Walter Reed, a world-renowned physician and major pioneer in the field of infectious disease. Dr. Reed’s contributions to the study of yellow fever and malaria, among other diseases, contributed significantly to the development of modern vaccines.

The Spellman Museum of Stamps and Postal History is one of the two stamp museums in the United States and is located on campus. The museum has a comprehensive collection of stamps from all over the world and is open to the public. The museum is housed in a neoclassical building and is a popular destination for visitors from around the world.

The museum houses a rich and varied collection of stamps from all over the world and is open to the public. The museum features exhibitions and workshops throughout the year, and it is a popular destination for students and researchers from around the world.

For more information, visit spellmanmuseum.org or call Joseph Pulkin, Executive Director and one of the nation’s leading experts on stamps and their impact on culture and history in the United States.
POSTAGE STAMPS AND MEDICINE

Stamp collecting is also known as philately.

While the concept of the postage stamp has been around as long as stamp collecting has been around, the invention of the postage stamp has also helped to preserve history around the world.

Three 19th century stamps commemorate the anniversary of the Boston Medical Association. The third stamp commemorates the 100th anniversary of the Massachusetts Medical Society.

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

Left: The discovery of penicillin, which revolutionized medicine.

Right: The development of the polio vaccine, which eradicated a deadly disease.

In celebration of these medical achievements, new commemorative stamps were issued to honor and recognize the groundbreaking research.
The Spellman Museum of Stamps and Postal History is located on the campus of Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia.

The museum is dedicated to the study and preservation of stamps and postal history. It houses one of the largest collections of stamps from around the world, including rare and historic items. The museum offers educational programs, guided tours, and events for students, collectors, and the general public.

Membership is available and offers members a rich collection of stamp-related programs and exhibits. Members also receive a quarterly newsletter and are invited to special events and activities.

For more information, contact the museum at 404-250-2183. To learn more about the museum and its collections, visit www.spellmanmuseum.org.