



The Maine Philatelist

Vol. 28, No. 2

October 1995

Whole No. 101

Stevan Dohanos responsible for Maine stamp designs

"Winter Scene in Norway, Maine" one of several Pine Tree State issues influenced by designer

By Ed Whitney

Stevan Dohanos died on July 4, 1994 at the age of 87. His name may not be as familiar as, for example, Norman Rockwell, but chances are you have seen and perhaps admired his work many times over the years as you affixed to an envelope one of the 36 postage stamps he designed.

And somehow it seems fitting that he should depart this life on July 4th, as he was responsible for the design of six U.S. flag stamps issued during his lifetime (Scott #1132, 1153, 1320, 1338, 1338F), and a postal card (UX117) which had the distinction of being sold by the U.S. Postal Service at Cologne, Germany, with cachet for Philatelia '87.

His record of 125 *Saturday Evening Post* covers rivals the great Rockwell's, and to my mind his drawings were equally as poignant and memorable. I don't pretend to possess any expertise as an art critic, but as the man said, "I know what I like," and I like the works of Stevan Dohanos.

In researching his stamp designs, I was surprised to learn that the *Scott Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue* lists his

design of Washington at Prayer at Valley Forge, a 1977 Christmas issue (Scott #1729), as being after a painting by J. C. Leyendecker. I consider that picture typical of what I remember of his magazine covers and was about to call attention to it as one of the original Dohanos designs!

Apparently incorporating the works of others into stamp designs is quite common; nearly half of Dohanos's designs are credited as "from a painting by...". Reducing a two-foot by four-foot portrait to the size of a postage stamp requires consummate skill, as evidenced by the fact Dohanos was called upon to "clean up" the Rembrandt Peale portrait of George Washington which Bill Hyde used in the original design of Scott #1283.

Comparing that issue with Dohanos's Scott #1283b clearly demonstrates the value of his work. His adaptation of Jacques Lowe's photographic portrait of John F. Kennedy (Scott #1287) has the necessary amount of shading to portray the subject while at the same time defining the clean-cut features

Continued on page 5

The Real First Mail Order Dealer Operated Right Here In Maine

By Herman "Pat" Herst

A decision by the giant mail order house Montgomery Ward to discontinue its catalog after more than a century has revived the myth that it was the first catalog mail order house. Uncle Sam gave credence to the myth in 1972 when a commemorative stamp was issued on which was inscribed "100th Anniversary of Mail Order." The year was intentionally selected, for it was in 1872 that Aaron Montgomery Ward posted his first catalog.

Philatelists know better. A half dozen years earlier, H. B. Shaw of Alfred, Maine concluded that there were many people living on farms or in other areas inaccessible to a store who would use the United States mail to meet their needs.

Shaw advertised in rural newspapers and in other publica-

Continued on page 3



The H. M. Shaw house in Alfred, Maine is said to be the home of the first mail order dealer in the United States. The order envelopes, which today would be worth over a quarter-million dollars, were found stored in the barn behind the house.

Want to travel to Boxborough, Boston show on a chartered bus?

Would the idea of chartering a bus to take Maine Philatelic Society members to the Boxborough, Massachusetts spring show and the fall Boston show be appealing?

The idea is being suggested as a benefit of MPS membership, and would save a lot of driving for those who perhaps would prefer not to drive in metro Boston or the more distant Boxborough.

Under the plan, which is still in the talking stage, a chartered bus would pick up members (spouses would be wel-

come as well) in Bangor, Newport, Waterville, Portland and possibly Biddeford. This schedule of pickup points is also tentative. Cost of the trip also will have to be worked out, based on the cost of chartering the bus and hiring a driver.

Most likely, there would be an early morning departure from Bangor. Following a time at the show, the return trip would most likely include a supper stop.

Similar arrangements would be made for the Boston show in the fall. Everything is tentative at this point until the board learns how many people would be interested in the venture. Those who would be willing to reserve seats on the bus should contact President Everett Parker as soon as possible.

Time is of the essence because buses have to be chartered far in advance of a planned outing. The Northeast Federation of Stamp Clubs sponsors the popular Philatelic Show at the Holiday Inn Boxborough. Dates of the show will be April 26-28. The bus trip would most likely occur on Saturday.

The Maine Philatelist is published quarterly by the Maine Philatelic Society, Inc.

The purpose of the Society, a non-profit Maine corporation, is to promote philately in the Pine Tree State. Membership is open to anyone. Membership applications are available from the Secretary, listed below. Dues are \$5 per year. A Life Membership is also available.

Contact the Secretary for details.

OFFICERS

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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MUDPEX event coming in May

The Maine Philatelic Society will again sponsor the popular MUDPEX at Kennebec Valley Technical Institute (KVTI) in May. Board Member Jim Foote III of Manchester has volunteered to design a cachet for a special event cover. Those with ideas for a cachet and special theme for MUDPEX should contact him at Post Office Box 16, Manchester, ME 04351.

The show will include one-frame exhibits (*see page 3*) and Board Member E. David Muzzy of Westbrook will coordinate this part of the event as well as overall publicity. Other workers are needed for MUDPEX. Contact Mr. Muzzy if you're willing to help in some way.

THE CLASSIFIEDS

Classified advertisements are free to non-dealer members. You may use this space to buy and sell, trade or swap. Dealer members are asked to contact the Editor for advertising details. When sending an advertisement, please mark it for the Classifieds and indicate how many issues you wish it to appear. All ads will appear twice and be removed unless otherwise indicated.

WANTED

Wanted: Maine hunting and fishing stamps properly used on licenses. Also always looking for other New England state revenues. Also looking for Old Home Week seals. I have many from New England to trade. Terence Hines, P.O. Box 629, Chappaqua, NY 10514-0629. (2-96)

One frame, noncompetitive exhibits to be featured at MUDPEX **Board Member Dave Muzzy to coordinate with Maine clubs**

At the MPS board of directors meeting on October 14, the idea of creating one-frame, noncompetitive exhibits at MUDPEX received an enthusiastic endorsement. Board Member E. David Muzzy volunteered to be coordinator.

The plan calls for the various stamp clubs throughout Maine to put together a single frame display on any philatelic subject they wish. The exhibits will then be on view during MUDPEX, set for May of 1996 at KVTI in Fairfield.

Board members agreed the exhibits would add to the annual stamp show sponsored by MPS and hopefully would lure more people into stamp collecting. The exhibits will be reviewed by a panel of judges and awards announced.

In other action at the October board meeting, it was stressed that all members are invited to attend meetings and not just board members. Members are invited to attend and offer input. As well, additional members are needed for the Board of Directors. Anyone interested in serving on the board is asked to contact the president. The next meeting is set for Decem-

ber 9, beginning at 10 a.m. at KVTI (Exit 35 on Interstate 95). Board members voted to accept dealer display advertisements in *The Maine Philatelist*. The cost will be \$25 for a full page, \$15 for a half page and \$10 for a quarter page. These rates are per issue.

A budget committee was appointed to establish a budget for the 1996-97 fiscal year, which begins July 1, 1996. Secretary Bruce Hazelton and Treasurer Terry Drummond will serve along with one other member who will be appointed.

Also discussed was the possibility of chartering a bus for Philatelic Show 96 in Boxborough, Massachusetts in April and the Boston show next fall (see separate article).

Board members attending were President Everett Parker of Greenville, Vice Presidents Robert Turmelle and Richard Williams of Waterville, Secretary Bruce Hazelton of North Yarmouth, Treasurer Terry Drummond of Bingham, Board Member E. David Muzzy of Westbrook and Board Member Jim Foote III of Manchester.

First mail order dealer ran a business from right here in the State of Maine

Continued from page 1

tions that served farmers, especially in the growing Midwest, offering a catalog listing specialties that were intended to induce anyone reading it to order.

The fact that Shaw was inclined to be somewhat dishonest with the product claims ought not to detract from the place in mail order history the Maine entrepreneur deserves. There was the guaranteed fly and mosquito killer, "a device that could not fail." There was the "magnificent steel engraving of the father of our country, as excellent an engraving that equaled the skill of the country's finest engravers." And there was the least expensive sewing machine ever offered -- \$1.00.

Perhaps Shaw hoped that customers would have a sense of humor, but even if they did not, it was not likely that they would complain to the authorities. The bug killer was two small blocks of wood, with full instructions. The insect was to be placed on one block and squashed to death with the other.

As for the splendid engraving of George Washington for two dollars, it was a \$1 bill. And the sewing machine was a needle, a thimble and a spool of thread, the whole package in one small container.

Most of the remittances that came to the Maine mail order dealer arrived in the form of cash. Shaw's bookkeeping system was admirably simple. On each envelope the name of the sender and the amount of the order was written and it was then filed, in the order it was received.

Shaw discontinued operations some time in the early 1880s but for almost a half century, chests and chests of the envelopes, which had come to Alfred from customers, were stored

in a barn behind the proprietor's house. Many of the envelopes had been registered, so that the sender need not worry about the safety of the remittance. (Registry was but a dime for much of this period; in the 1890s, it was reduced to eight cents because the post office felt guilty that the service was producing such a large profit.)

In the early 1920s, a stamp collector from a nearby Maine village heard of the accumulation and bought it from the residents of the Shaw house, which incidentally is still standing in Alfred. Over a period of many years, the fortunate philatelist recouped a fortune from his purchase.

Many of the stamps, especially those of the short-lived 1869 issue, were very rare, and since the registered envelopes required stamps of unusual denominations, such as seven, 12 and 15 cents, they were worth considerable sums. It was recently estimated that if the Shaw accumulation of letters was to go on the market today, it would easily bring better than a quarter of a million dollars.

There is only one very interesting fact to be added to this story and that is the proprietor's first name. It was Harriet. Harriet B. Shaw -- a woman -- was this country's first true mail order dealer, despite the seal of approval the USPS put on Aaron Montgomery Ward.

This is by no means the first time that our postal service has erred in honoring the wrong person on our stamps, nor will it be the last, but that is another story.

-- Herman "Pat" Herst is a prolific philatelic writer and a Life Member of the Maine Philatelic Society. He lives in Boca Raton, Florida

My Favorite Cover**Letter home to Foxcroft from Dakota Territory offers interesting insight**

By Robert Turmelle
Vice President

In 1863 the Dakota Territory was opened for homesteading. Two Foxcroft, Maine boys left their home in 1878 and headed to Bismarck for their claim. Indian attacks were not uncommon in the Territory at this time but new developments were taking place since the Northern Pacific Railway had lines to Bismarck for five years now. The first commercial telephone exchange was opened in New Haven, Connecticut on January 28, 1878.

My favorite cover holds a letter written by one of the two brothers to his mother in Foxcroft. The letter is written on stationery from the Sheridan House located in Bismarck, Dakota Territory and dated Sept. 8, 1878.

Dear Mother

today is cold and rainy and Frank and myself are obliged to stay in doors. and as we have no fire in our room we have to go for some ones office whare there is a stove. I am in the Signal office trying to write whare there are a half a dozen men all trying to gobble at the same time and so dont look for blunders in my writing.

Well I am in the same old place doing the same old work.....

Frank is building a barn 36 by 40 feet and he has got to build a stoar house and so he will not come home intill winter but he will come home sos to be a there duering the

hollydays and will stay all winter or two or three months

Frank and I have been talking through a telephone from one room to another to day. There was a grand ball here in the Sheridan House the night of the 6th the benefit was for the yellow feaver suffers. the fort Lincoln Band was here they had a grand time and danced till three the next morning but all working men like me was in bed at half past ten.

To me? the music was grand and thats all. A man brought a large rattle snake in town the other day it was four feet in length and had fifteen rattlers on the extream end on his tail it was shot. across the river with a shot gun.

we have nuts and water melons on the table and grapes, peaches oranges every day. We get a good taste of all kinds of fruit in its seasons

Well there is to much moire to write here and to cold in my room so good by

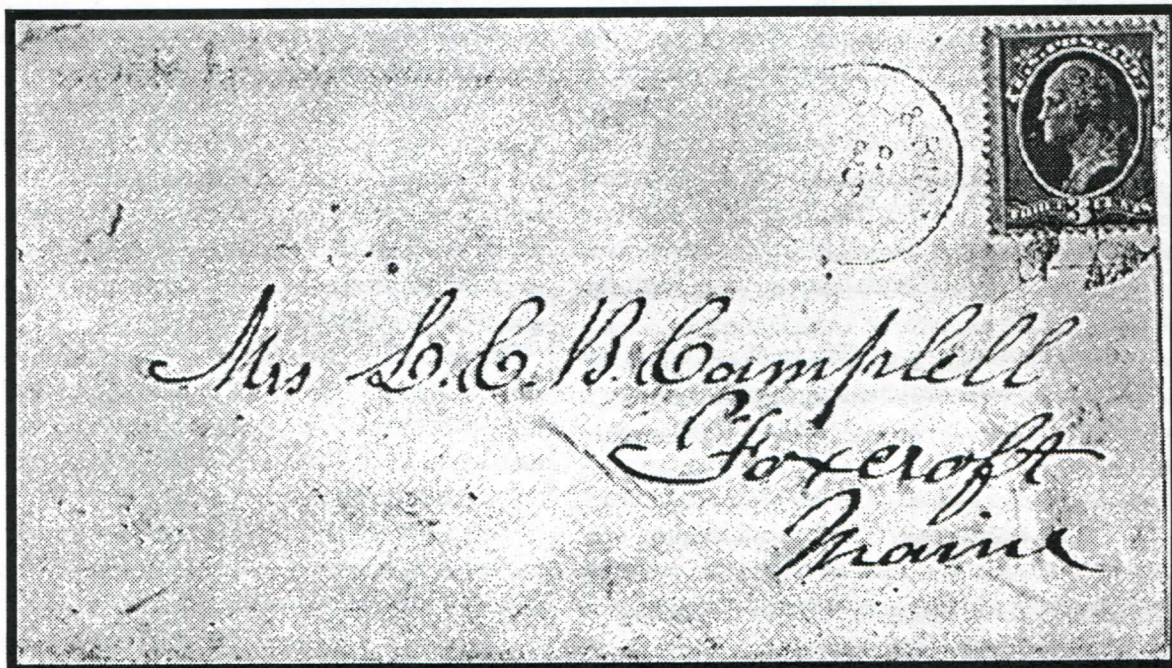
write soon from your son

A.S. Brown

The mother must of been proud of her sons. What lives they were having compared to what was happening in Foxcroft. The envelope has an incomplete postmark but dated Sep 9 ... L & BTS. with a three cent stamp, Scott #158.

-- Robert Turmelle is a Vice President of the Maine Philatelic Society and a resident of Waterville.

"My Favorite Cover" candidates are solicited by the Editor.



Dakota Territory cover of 1863 addressed to Mrs. L.C. Campbell in Foxcroft, Maine. The town is now known as Dover-Foxcroft and is the shiretown of Piscataquis County.

Stevan Dohanos designed stamps with a Maine connection

Continued from page 1

of the young president.

Christmas was a favorite subject. In addition to his Valley Forge stamp, he adapted Ghirlandaio's "Madonna and Child" for Scott #1579, used his own painting of Santa Claus for Scott #1472, and adapted three Currier & Ives-type prints for Scott #1384, #1551 and #1702 (and #1703, two issues having been printed) and an 1878 Christmas card by Louis Prang for Scott #1580.

His traditional or secular Christmas offerings included four antique toy stamps (Scott #1415-1418) and a sleigh with presents (Scott #2428 and #2429) which contained design and color differences between the pane and booklet versions. Although not issued as a Christmas stamp, Dohanos honored Emily Bissell (Scott #1823) who introduced Christmas seals in the United States as part of the Crusade Against Tuberculosis. This may well be an original work by Dohanos; no qualifying credits are given in Scott's Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps.

Incidentally, although I have not found any connection be-

tween Dohanos and the State of Maine, as a native son, I am pleased to call attention to Scott #1384, "Winter Sunday in Norway, Maine," which he adapted from an 1870 painting by an unknown primitive artist, and to Scott #1391, Maine Statehood, which he adapted from Edward Hopper's painting "The Lighthouse at Two Lights, Maine."

Four stamps designed by Dohanos concerned military service: Scott #1421 honoring U. S. Servicemen Prisoners of War, and Missing & Killed in Action, and its se-tenant partner, Scott #1422 commemorating 50 years of service by the Disabled American Veterans Association issued in 1970; Scott #1802 honoring Vietnam Veterans on November 11, 1979; and the most elusive (and therefore expensive) Scott #1341, a \$1 stamp picturing an eagle and pennant which was issued to pay for airlift of parcels from and to U. S. posts to servicemen overseas and in Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico.

In the block of four stamps honoring folk art in the United States (Scott #2138-41), Donahos's drawings of broadbill, mallard, canvasback and redhead duck decoys are clear and sharp -- and accomplished when the artist was in his late 70s. His earlier commemoratives included Scott #1231, Food for Peace, and Scott #1263, Crusade Against Cancer, which were issued in the early 1960s.

Four handsome postal cards complete the collection of his philatelic works. In 1967, he commemorated the World Scout Jamboree in Idaho with a striking rendition of Borah Peak, Lost River Range in Idaho with the fleur-de-lis emblem of the Boy Scouts (Scott #UXC7). His eagle weathervane (Scott #UXC14) and Angel Gabriel weathervane (Scott #UXCI6) each contained the motto "Visit USA Bicentennial Era" on airmail postal cards in 1974 and 1975 respectively.

-- Author Ed Whitney is member #490 and a resident of Brunswick, Maine

STEVAN DOHANOS CHECKLIST

YEAR	SCOTT #	FACE	DESCRIPTION
1959	1127	4c	NATO 10th. Ann.
1959	1132	4c	49-Star Flag
1960	1153	4c	50-Star Flag
1963	1231	5c	Food for Peace
1965	1263	5c	Crus. Against Can.
1967	1283b	5c	Washington, redr.
1967	1287	13c	John F. Kennedy
1966	1320	5c	Flag & Stat. of Lib.
1968	1338	6c	Flag & White House
1968	1341	\$1	Airlift (Eagle & Pen.)
1969	1384	6c	Win. Sun. in Norway
1970	1391	6c	Sesqui. of Maine St.
1970	1415-18	6c	Christmas Issue of 4
1970	1421	6c	Disabled Am. Vets
1970	1422	6c	POW-MIA-KIA
1971	1338F	8c	Flag & White House
1972	1472	8c	Santa Claus
1974	1551	10c	Sleigh - Christmas
1975	1579	(10c)	Madonna & Child
1975	1580	(10c)	Christmas Card
1976	1702	13c	Winter (Christmas)
1977	1729	13c	Washington Praying
1979	1802	15c	Vietnam Ser. Ribbon
1980	1823	15c	Emily Bissell
1985	2138-41	22c	Folk Art (decoys)
1989	2428-29	25c	Sleigh (sheet, bkl.)
1987	UX1 17	14c	Stars & Stripes P.C.
1967	UXC7	6c	World BS Jam. PC
1974	UXC14	18c	Eagle, Vane PC
1975	UXC16	21c	Angel, Vane PC

HELP WANTED!

An article in the August 1995 issue of *The Maine Philatelist* referred to a pictorial cancellation for Colonel Joshua Chamberlain. I am interested in obtaining several of these cancellations for any of the towns mentioned in the article.

Please contact me with information regarding where I can purchase the subject covers.

Robert Patkin
 P.O. Box 186
 Georgetown, MA 01833-0286
 Telephone (508) 887-3399

The Maine Philatelic Society



APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

The Maine Philatelic Society is a non-profit organization of stamp collectors and dealers who wish to promote stamp collecting as a hobby, to collect and disseminate information concerning philately, to sponsor stamp shows and auctions, and to conduct other activities. The MPS has members throughout the state and a number of out-of-state members as well. You are invited to join your fellow philatelists by becoming a member of the Maine Philatelic Society. Please fill out the information requested below and submit to Mr. Bruce Hazelton, Secretary, P.O. Box 67A, Cumberland Center, ME 04021 together with dues. The membership year is from July 1 through June 30, and dues paid at the time of application will cover time remaining until July 1 next. Members will receive a Membership card and the Society's journal, *The Maine Philatelist*.

Please complete the following information

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY (TOWN): _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____ TELEPHONE: _____

(Optional) OCCUPATION: _____

MAJOR COLLECTING INTERESTS: _____

Have you ever been an MPS member in the past? (Circle one) YES NO

Have you ever been removed from or denied admission to any philatelic organization? (Circle one) YES NO

If YES, please advise details of denial: _____

Would you be willing to help MPS in promoting stamp collecting in Maine? (Circle one) YES NO

If YES, how would you be willing to help: (Check all that apply) Help at stamp shows Help with auctions

Write articles for *The Maine Philatelist* Other: (Specify)

Occasionally, the Society releases its mailing list to other philatelic groups. Mark the following box if you do NOT wish us to publish your name and address.

I hereby agree to be bound by the rules and bylaws of the Maine Philatelic Society and the Philatelic Code of Ethics. Enclosed with this application is the membership fee for the year at hand.

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT _____

DATE _____ NAME OF SPONSOR (Not Required) _____

***Dues are \$5.00 per year. Membership year begins on July 1 of each year.
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Please let me know your collecting interests!

President's Message

By Everett L. Parker

So you thought you'd get through the whole issue and not hear from me, eh? It didn't work. But after splashing myself all over the front page and back cover in the last issue, making my plea, I thought it best to hide back here this time.

Actually, I was overwhelmed with the response in the form of letters and checks that both Bruce and I received after the last mailing. Everyone who wrote was supportive of the need and desire to rejuvenate the Maine Philatelic Society. Some, such as John Bache-Wiig of Nogales, Arizona, sent generous donations for the general fund, and others, such as Joseph Antizzo of New York City, John Head of Bethel, Richard Gerry of Orono and William Arata of Veazie extended their memberships for several years.

These are samples of the kind of support your officers need as we try to put new life into this society. And it is indeed YOU who will make a difference. We have a number of jobs that need to be done. The Maine Philatelic Society needs a presence at local and regional shows (such as the spring show in Boxborough, Massachusetts), and we need people who will staff a table for a few hours or all day to pass out membership applications, brochures and to greet other members. We need

people who will put their names forward as candidates for office when election time rolls around. And we need people who will volunteer to write articles for *The Maine Philatelist*.

If I had to choose the most critical element, I would say it is finding authors willing to write. Without writers, we're doomed to failure. You don't need a degree in English. In fact, probably every member can submit a "My Favorite Cover" as Robert Turmelle did for the feature on page 4. I need a sharp photocopy of the cover and your written description of why it means a lot to you. Please don't depend on a few of us to supply material for publication.

Here's what we're doing for you. First, you have my commitment to a good journal. That's worth \$5 a year in itself. Members can also buy, sell and trade philatelic items through FREE classified ads (see page 2). Dealer members are asked to write to particulars.

This is the last mailing to people who have not renewed. Check the mailing label below. If it shows (6-96) or later to the right of your name, you're okay. If there's no number, this is the last issue you'll receive unless Bruce gets your \$5.

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