

# The Quarterly Journal of the Maximum Card Study Unit

## NORTH AMERICAN MAXIMAPHILY

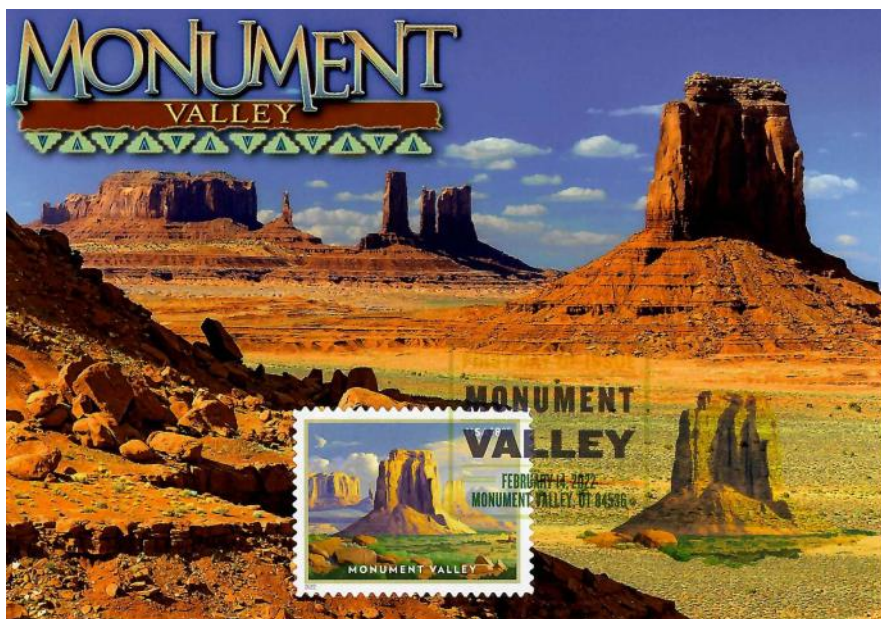
### 2022 USA Maximum Card of the Year

**Stamp:** Monument Valley  
Priority Mail, Scott #5666

**Postcard:** Monument Valley,  
published by Smith Western

**Postmark:** official digital  
color FDOI, Monument  
Valley, UT 2/14/2022

**Realized by Ying Huang**



### Volume #41, No. 4

Oct/Nov/Dec, 2023

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## Letter From the President

As I write this, I am in the process of submitting the entry form for the USA's entry into the FIP Maximaphily Commission's 2022 Maximum Card of the Year Competition. After placing five very good maximum cards up for a vote among the MACSU membership, the Monument Valley card pictured on the cover came up as the winner of the USA contest. I feel that the Monument Valley card, submitted by Ying Huang will be a strong contender in the 2022 competition. As one voter stated, the card has "perfect harmony, is very well balanced in size of the images of the card, stamp and cancellation. Also perfect depth effect". I think that the fact that the stamp is high denomination Priority Mail one with a digital color pictorial FDOI, should increase its standing with the international voters.

I would like to thank Ying Huang and Sun Yu Ng for submitting their 2022 realizations for this competition. Scans of the other entrants can be seen on the following page. I would also like to thank those MACSU members who took the time to study and vote in this contest.

As our journal is the North American Maximaphily, we must also mention the Canadian entrant into the 2022 Maximum Card of the Year Competition. The Caribou card to the right will represent Canada in the 2022 Maximum Card of the Year Competition. The Caribou card was submitted by MACSU board member, George Constantourakis.



**Stamp:** Caribou

**Postcard:** Caribou

**Postmark:** pictorial Quebec Woodland Caribou, Montreal, QC  
12/28/2022

Realized by George Constantourakis

### MAXIMUM CARD STUDY UNIT OF NORTH AMERICA

The Maximum Card Study Unit (MACSU) is an independent non-profit organization dedicated to the creation, collection, exchange, enjoyment, display, and study of Maximum Cards, by spreading the knowledge of Maximaphily among its members. The activities of MACSU are planned and carried on entirely by the volunteer services of its officers and members. MACSU is Affiliate # 106 of the American Philatelic Society, Chapter # 67 of the American First Day Cover Society and an affiliate of the American Topical Association.

#### **Board Members:**

Terry Watson  
President, Editor  
Lithia Springs, GA  
[terryw7633@comcast.net](mailto:terryw7633@comcast.net)

Sun Yu Ng  
Vice President  
Menlo Park, CA  
[sng94025@gmail.com](mailto:sng94025@gmail.com)

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Treasurer  
Forest Park, IL  
[suozyb@gmail.com](mailto:suozyb@gmail.com)

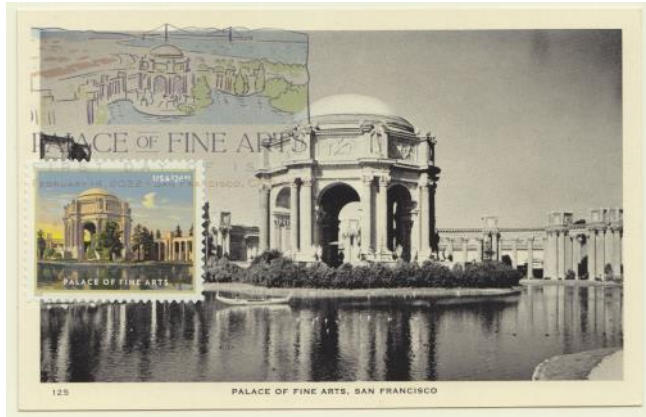
George Constantourakis  
At Large  
Montreal, Canada  
[geo.constant@sympatico.ca](mailto:geo.constant@sympatico.ca)

Dorin Cojocariu  
At Large  
Herndon, VA  
[dorindorinco@gmail.com](mailto:dorindorinco@gmail.com)



## 2022 USA Maximum Card of the Year Competition

These four cards are the other entrants in the 2022 USA Maximum Card of the Year Competition.



**Stamp:** Palace of Fine Arts, Priority Mail, Scott #5667

**Postcard:** Palace of Fine Arts, San Francisco, CA published by W.M. Smith

**Postmark:** official digital color pictorial FDOI, San Francisco, CA 2/14/2022

Realized by Sun Yu Ng

**Stamp:** Iowa Riverboat from the Mighty Mississippi River issue, Scott #5698c

**Postcard:** Riverboat, published by Rosenthal & Bond's

**Postmark:** official digital color pictorial FDOI, Memphis, TN 5/23/2022

Realized by Sun Yu Ng

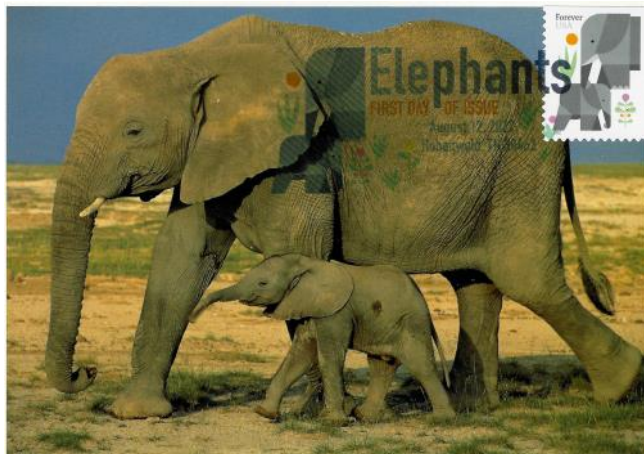


**Stamp:** Elephants, Scott #5714

**Postcard:** Elephants, published by Impact

**Postmark:** official digital color pictorial FDOI, 8/12/2022

Realized by Ying Huang

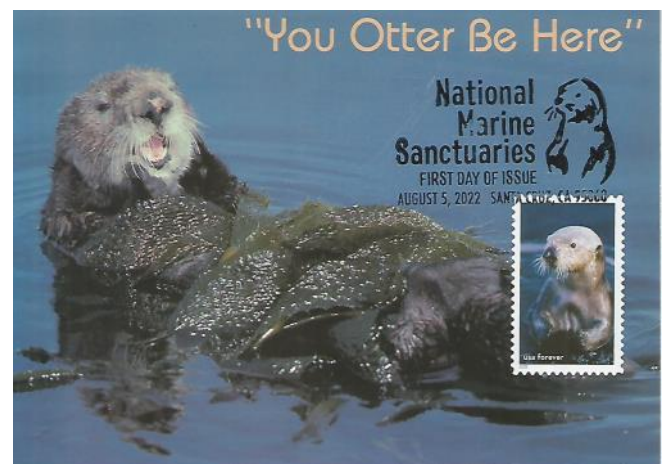


**Stamp:** Sea Otter from the Marine Sanctuaries issue, Scott #5713j

**Postcard:** "You Otter Be Here", Sea Otter, published by Smith-Western Co.

**Postmark:** official pictorial FDOI, Santa Cruz, CA 8/5/2022

Realized by Terry Watson



## Postmarks From Your Local Post Office Can You Realize Maximum Cards From There?

Can one realize maximum cards using the postmark from your local post office? Certainly, if there is place concordance! I am fortunate enough to live adjacent to a Georgia State Park that is inhabited by all kinds of animals. Thus, if I can find a matching stamp and postcard of any of the animals that live in the park, a local Lithia Springs, Georgia postmark is place concordant and I can make a card that meets the FIP Guidelines for a correct maximum card.

While I do not consider myself to be a “birder”, I do enjoy watching the birds that dine at my birdfeeders. Strategically located on my back porch, in front of a large picture window, I can sit on my living room couch and get a great view of their activities. Since last Spring, I have counted 13 different species of birds feeding at my birdfeeders. I decided to make maximum cards of some of these birds by going to my local post office and obtaining cancellations.

In observing the behavior of the birds, it does not take long to notice the pecking order. Of the regular feeders, the Northern Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*) has the dominant position. When a Cardinal lands on the feeder, all other birds fly away. If another species is slow to leave after the Cardinal’s arrival, it will push the other bird off the feeder.

Once on the feeder, Cardinals tend to stay put for as long as a minute or two. They are very wary, looking around for 5 to 15 seconds before taking another sunflower seed from the feeder. They crack the seed with their beak and eat its interior while at the feeder.



**Stamp:** Northern Cardinal  
from the 2016 Songbirds in  
Snow issue, Scott #1528

**Postcard:** Northern  
Cardinal, derivative art-  
work based on photo by Ray  
Hannessy on Unsplash, pub-  
lished by Christopher  
Arnold Postcards

**Postmark:** circle-date,  
Lithia Springs, GA  
6/8/2023



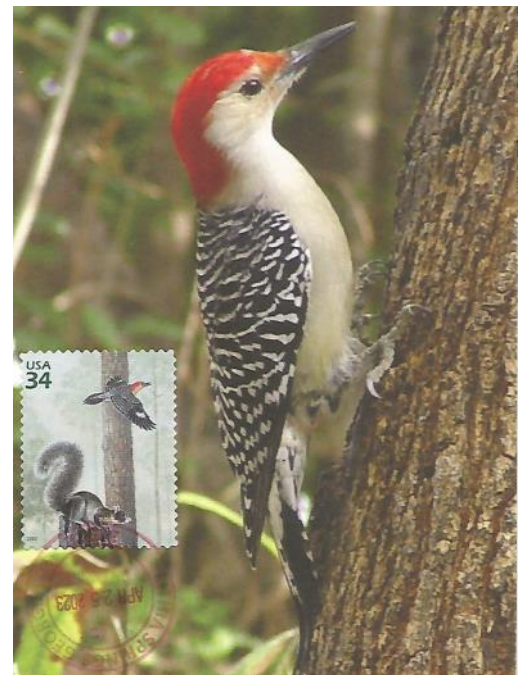
Another interesting thing to witness is juvenile Cardinals attempting to roost on the feeder bar. Juvenile cardinals initially have a lot of difficulty flying up to the feeder and landing on the feeder's roosting bar. I have observed young cardinals landing on top of the feeder, seemingly bewildered as to how to perch on the feeder's bar. However, young cardinals will get their share of food with the help of their parents. Juvenile cardinals often sit on my porch's railings just below the feeder and "beg" by flapping their young wings. Both male and female parent respond to this by bringing seeds to them, depositing them in their offspring's open mouth.

Other interesting facts about cardinals is that they are the official state bird of seven US states. Cardinal pairs often mate for successive years and some may mate for life. Male and female calls are sexually dimorphic due to hormonal differences. Over the past few decades, the Cardinal has been expanding its range from the US' southeast to the north into Canada and to the west into the desert southwest. With climate change forecasts, the Cardinal is likely to increase its range by 31%, mostly further north into Canada. The Cardinal is the mascot for the National Football League's Arizona Cardinals and baseball's NL St. Louis Cardinals. The bird is also the mascot of no less than 14 US universities and colleges.

Another bird that maintains dominance while at my feeder is the Red-bellied Woodpecker. However, this bird is a much less frequent visitor to my feeder. I have never seen a Cardinal and this woodpecker at my feeder at the same time, so I do not know which would send the other packing.

I was surprised the first time that I saw a Red-bellied Woodpecker at my feeder because I had always thought that woodpeckers were carnivorous. While these birds mainly search out arthropods on tree trunks, they are omnivores and will also eat fruits, nuts and seeds, thus their visits to my feeder. I have always been confused by this bird's name, as I can detect no red on the bird's belly. As it is a common bird in the southern US and its red coloration is much more visible on the back of its neck, I would have named it a "Red-necked" woodpecker.

Another woodpecker that is even a less frequent visitor to my feeder is the smaller Downy Woodpecker. The Downy Woodpecker is the smallest woodpecker to be found in the United States. The Downy Woodpecker primarily feeds on insects, although it also supplements its diet with seeds and berries. To date, the US Postal Service has not issued a stamp of this diminutive woodpecker.



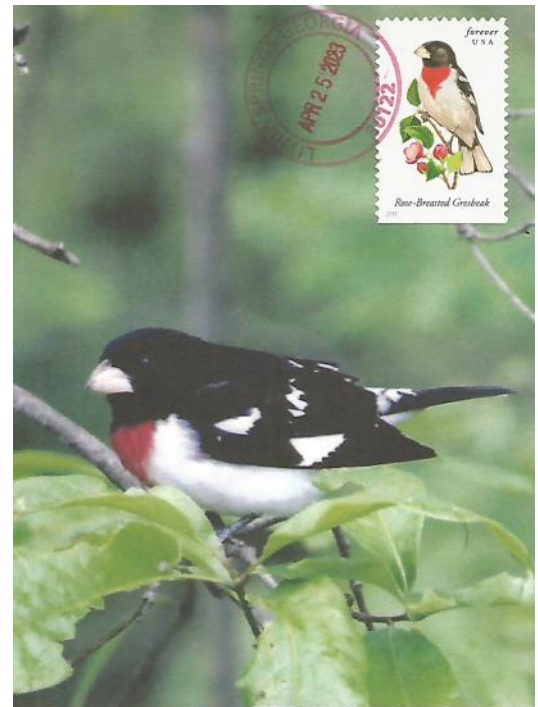
**Stamp:** Red-bellied Woodpecker (*Melanerpes carolinus*) and Fox Squirrel from the Long Leaf Pine Wildlife issue, Scott #3611c

**Postcard:** Red-bellied Woodpecker, published by Zazzle

**Postmark:** circle-date, Lithia Springs, GA 4/25/2023

In addition to the Cardinal, the most colorful bird species to visit my bird feeder are the Rose-Breasted Grosbeak, the Scarlet Tanager, and the American Goldfinch. Unlike the Cardinal that is seen daily and year-round at my feeder, these three birds are only seasonal visitors and visit my feeder infrequently in the spring and autumn while they are migrating. All three of these birds were featured on the US Postal Service's 2014 Songbirds issue.

The Rose-Breasted Grosbeak (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*). It is a member of the cardinal family (*Cardinalidae*). Like many other birds, the male Rose-Breasted Grosbeak is much more colorful than the female. Much of Canada and the northeastern portion of the U.S. are the Rose-Breasted Grosbeak's summer breeding habitat. They winter from central-southern Mexico through Central America and the Caribbean to Peru and Venezuela. These birds visit my feeder as they migrate south in late September or in October, and upon their return in late April or early May.



**Stamp:** Rose-Breasted Grosbeak (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*), Scott #4889

**Postcard:** Rose-Breasted Grosbeak (male), published by Zazzle

**Postmark:** circle-date, Lithia Springs, GA 4/25/2023



The Scarlet Tanager is another visitor that I get in the spring and autumn. This medium-sized songbird also belongs in the Cardinal family (*Cardinalidae*), although it previously had been placed in the Tanager family (*Thraupidae*).

They primarily eat insects, but opportunistically consume fruit when plentiful. My research has not shown that they eat seeds, but they spend time at my birdfeeder with its sunflower seeds. So, maybe they are eating the roaches that occasionally find their way into my feeder.

**Stamp:** Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga olivacea*), Scott #4888

**Postcard:** Scarlet Tanager (male), published by Zazzle

**Postmark:** circle-date, Lithia Springs, GA 4/25/2023

The yellow-olive plumage of the female is much more subdued than the brilliant red-bodied and black-winged male Scarlet Tanager. The bird's breeding habitat lies in south-easter Canada and north-eastern U.S. Scarlet Tanagers winter in the montane forests of South America's Andean foothills.





**Stamp:** American Goldfinch (*Spinus tristis*) Scott #4890

**Postcard:** American Goldfinch (male), published by Zazzle

**Postmark:** circle-date, Lithia Springs, GA 6/8/2023

The arrival of the American Goldfinch (*Spinus tristis*) at my birdfeeder is a welcomed sight. The males' yellow and black plumage is gorgeous. The female coloration is a dull yellow-brown. The American Goldfinch are small birds in the Finch family (*Fringillidae*). This bird has a large range and can be found from coast to coast in the United States. Its northern breeding range can extend into much of southern Canada. Its non-breeding winter habitat can extend through eastern Mexico. The American Goldfinch is a short-distance migrant and can be found year-round in central portions of the United States.

Frequent visitors to my bird feeder are Red-Breasted Nuthatches. In 2016 the USPS issued a stamp of the Red-Breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*).

Nuthatches are an acrobatic species. They climb down the trunks of trees headfirst looking for food. Males and females are similar in appearance: blue-gray upper parts with a black stripe through the eyes. However, the males have rusty-colored breasts.

In summer, nuthatches hatchlings primarily eat insects, while in the winter, they switch to conifer seeds, including sunflower seeds at my birdfeeder.

I have observed Nuthatches taking seeds from my feeder and flying to a nearby tree trunk where they then wedge the seeds into cracks in tree bark and hammer them open. This behavior gave rise to its common name.



**Stamp:** Red-Breasted Nuthatch from the 2016 Songbirds in Snow issue, Scott #5129

**Postcard:** Red-Breasted Nuthatch (male), published by Zazzle

**Postmark:** circle-date, Lithia Springs, GA 4/25/2023

By far, the most frequent visitors to my bird feeder are the Titmouse and the Chickadee. These two species use a “hit and run” tactic in obtaining seeds from my feeder. They fly to the roost, grab a seed and immediately take off to a nearby tree to crack it open. The USPS has yet to issue a stamp of the Titmouse. The USPS has issued a stamp of the Chickadee (Scott #1971), but the stamp was part of the 1982 State Bird & Flower issue. I did not realize hometown maxi-cards with the Chickadee stamp as it would not have acceptable place concordance having a Georgia postmark with the name of a different state on the stamp. The Chickadee is the state bird of Maine.

The Carolina Wren (Scott #1992) and the Purple Finch (Scott #1981) also occasionally visit me. The Carolina Wren usually waits below the feeder waiting for seeds to fall. However, occasionally, it will sit on the feeder’s roost. I love hearing its powerful “song” coming from such a small bird. The Purple Finch is a seasonal bird that visits me as it migrates in spring and fall. This small bird is very territorial and will sit at my feeder’s roost taking its time as it eats seeds. It will chase away other birds, including fellow finches while it picks out seeds to eat. The Carolina Wren is the state bird of South Carolina, while the Purple Finch is the state bird of New Hampshire.



Chickadee  
Scott #1971

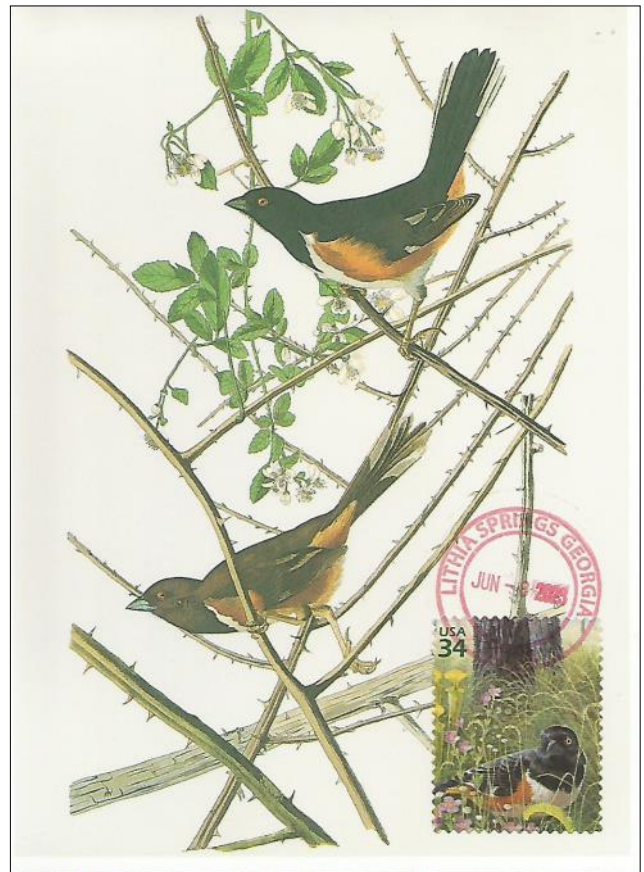


Carolina Wren  
Scott #1992



Purple Finch  
Scott #1981

Several other birds “hang out” around my feeder, but do not attempt to sit on the feeder’s perch. This is because the Morning Dove, the Junco, and the Eastern Towhee are ground feeders. I have observed these birds waiting on my deck below the bird feeder waiting for the other birds to spill seeds out onto the deck. The Junco (not yet honored with a stamp by the USPS) is seen on my porch in the winter months. The Morning Dove visits year-round and I love to hear its cooing and the sharp whistling or whinnying sounds that its wings make when it takes to flight. The USPS has issued a stamp of the Morning Dove (Scott #3293 ) as part of the 1999 Sonoran Desert Wildlife issue.



**Stamp:** Eastern Towhee from the Long-Leaf Pine Wildlife issue, Scott #3611f

**Postcard:** Rufous Towhee, John J Audubon engraving, published by Pomegranate Communications, Inc.

**Postmark:** circle-date, Lithia Springs, GA 6/8/2023



Eastern Towhees are infrequent visitors beneath my bird feeder in the winter months. The Towhee is a ground feeder and I have not witnessed this bird on my feeder's perch. They are a large New World Sparrow. The name "towhee" is an onomatopoeic description of one of the towhee's most common calls, a short two-part call rising in pitch and sometimes also called a "chewink" call. Until relatively recent times, the Eastern Towhee and the Spotted Towhee were considered to be the same species—the Rufus Towhee. James Audubon's painting of this bird came at a time when there was no differentiation between these two species.

As I live by a lake, there are a number of other birds of which I could realize "home town" maximum cards. Ducks, geese, herons, egrets are frequently seen from my back porch. Several years ago, a breeding couple of bald eagles moved into trees above this lake. It is hard to believe that these birds of prey could live 15 miles from downtown Atlanta. I consider myself quite lucky to frequently see these majestic birds soaring just off my back porch.



**Stamp:** Bald Eagle from the Florida Wetlands Wildlife issue, Scott #4099d

**Postcard:** Bald Eagle, published by the Sierra Club

**Postmark:** circle-date, Lithia Springs, GA 4/25/2023

## Travel & Maximum Cards

In February, 2022 my wife and I took a 22-day cruise from Buenos Aires, Argentina to Santiago, Chile around Cape Horn and including the Antarctic Peninsula. My trips are always "maximized" when I am able to realize at least one maximum card while on a trip. While in Chile, I was able to realize two maximum cards.

After 12 days, we had seen the incredible sights of Antarctica and had rounded the Horn and arrived in Chile's most southern city, Punta Arenas. Punta Arenas is located on the Magellan Strait, which Fernando Magellan discovered on October 21, 1520 on his circumnavigation of the earth with the purpose of discovering an unknown passage to the spice islands of Asia.

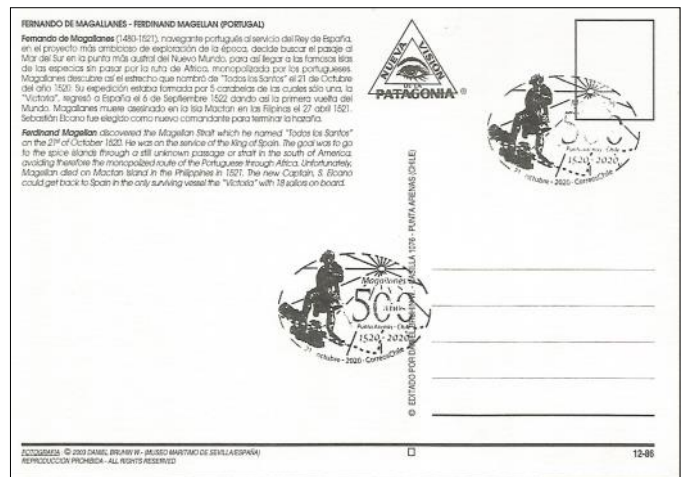
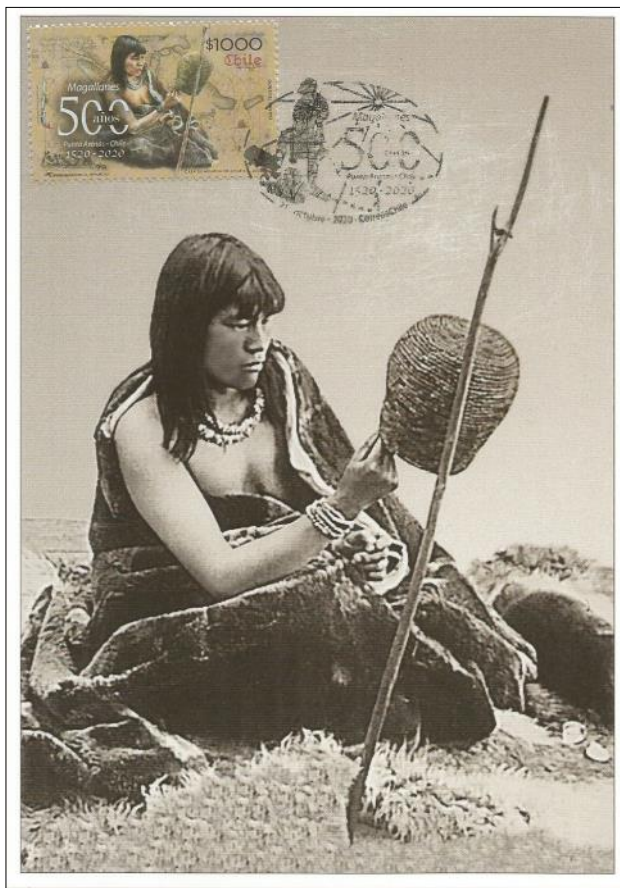
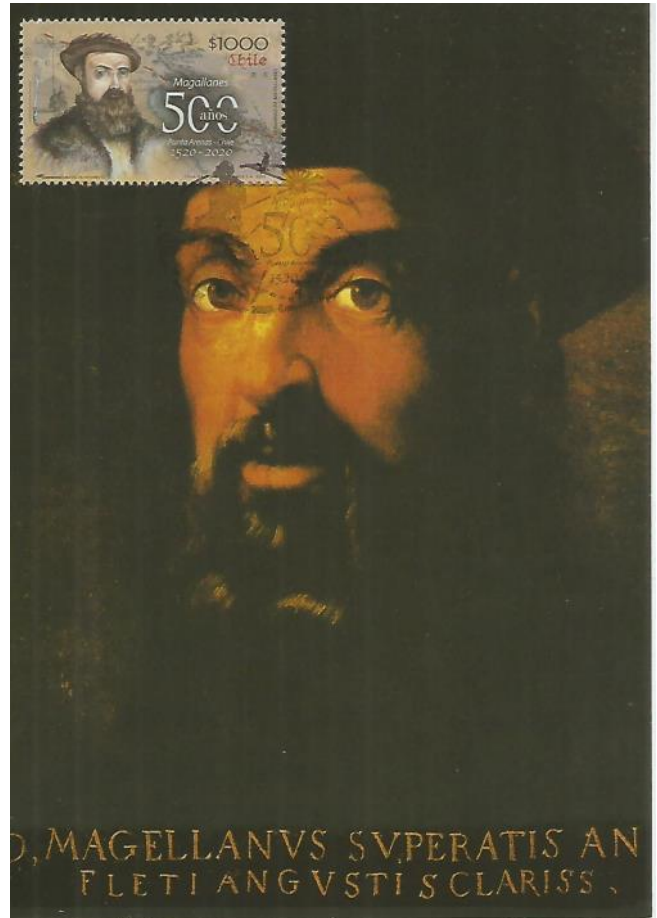
While in a souvenir shop there, I spotted a postcard of Magellan. I purchased it for my collection of postcards of people and sites of places that I have visited. My next stop was the local post office as I needed to send postcards to friends and relatives. Asking the clerk what stamps were available, she showed me several stamps commemorating the 500th anniversary of Magellan's visit to the area. Excitedly, I purchased seven of the Magellan stamps and one of a native weaver or Tierra del Fuego that was part of the "Magallanes 500 Anos" set. I left the post office and returned to the souvenir shop to buy additional Magellan post cards and a postcard of the native weaver.

Arriving back at the post office, I prepared the cards and asked the clerk for a Puntas Arenas cancellation. To my pleasant surprise, she pulled out the first day of issue cancelling device that was almost two years old. If she did not mind backdating the card with a pictorial first day of issue postmark, I certainly did not.

**Stamp:** Ferdinand Magellan 500th Anniversary

**Postcard:** Portrait of Ferdinand Magellan, published by Nueva Vision de la Patagonia

**Postmark:** "Magallanes 500 Anos", Punta Arenas, Chile 10/21/2020



Address side of Magellan post card with First Day of Issue postmarks.

**Stamp:** Native Weaver from the Ferdinand Magellan 500th Anniversary from the Magellan 500th anniversary issue

**Postcard:** Native Tierra del Fuego weaver, published by Hispapel Ltda.

**Postmark:** "Magallanes 500 Anos", Punta Arenas, Chile 10/21/2020



# On the Origins of Maximum Card Precursor Families by Means of Concordance Selection: Postal Stationery as Maximum Card Forerunners

(Part 2)

by Sun-Yu Ng

We continue to present the Russian Empire postal stationery, as yet another example of maximum card precursor in the coat of arms family, again issued later than formular stationery as shown in our companion article [10] and videos [8]. In Figures 13 and 14, we compared similar postal stationery issued in 1886 and 1906, being uprated with the coat of arms stamps issued in 1889 or 1908, showing lesser or greater concordance due to the addition of four small shields on each wing of the double-headed eagle for the 1908 stamp.

Contrary to our earlier impressions from counting exhibited second generation precursors, we were able to unearth a surprising large number of Russian precursors franked by concordant coat of arms stamps issued either in 1889 or 1908 [8]. We would attribute this unexpected treasure trove to three factors: firstly, many palaces were decorated with imperial arms; secondly, timely issues of concordant stamps; and thirdly, quite a few visitors sending TCV postcards to France (we counted 51 out of 61 Russian second generation precursors between 1901 and 1912 before the 1917 Revolution). The latter observation thus confirms our previous reports [5][6].

The capital of the Russian Empire was moved from Moscow to Saint Petersburg after Peter the Great commissioned the new city named after Saint Peter. The Peter and Paul Fortress is the citadel of Saint Petersburg, built in 1703 on small Hare Island in



Fig. 13

FIGURE 13. An example of Russian Empire official postal stationery (ОТКРЫТОЕ ПИСЬМО in Russian) imprinted with a 1883 small or lesser Russian Empire coat of arms (double-headed eagle with four small shields on each wing and Saint George on an escutcheon), which is listed as Michel No P7 (issue date is 1886), and uprated with one kopeken Russian Empire coat of arms (double-headed eagle without small shield on either wing and St George on an escutcheon) stamp issued in 1889 (Michel No 41). This example was sent from Aleksandrowo (Alexandrowo in German) in occupied Poland by Jan Nower to Berlin on April 13, 1889 (this Julian Calendar date is April 25, 1889 on the Gregorian Calendar). Russian Emperor Alexander II and German Emperor Wilhelm I met there in 1879 because it is near both borders. Toruń (Thorn in German) and Nieszawa are located 20 km north and 16 km east of Aleksandrowo, respectively. This example was issued during the reign of Tsar Alexander III (1881~1894).



Fig. 14

*FIGURE 14. An example of Russian Empire official postal stationery (ОТКРЫТОЕ ПИСЬМО in Russian) with the best image concordance. It is imprinted with a 1883 small or lesser Russian Empire coat of arms (double-headed eagle with four small shields on each wing and Saint George on an escutcheon), which is listed as Michel No P17 (issued in 1906), and uprated with one kopeken Russian Empire coat of arms (double-headed eagle with four small shields on each wing and Saint George on an escutcheon) stamp issued in 1908 (Michel No 64). The 1908 stamps have the double-headed eagle with four small shields on each wing whereas the latter were missing in most previous stamp issues except a few [10]. This example was sent from Saint Petersburg to Berlin on July 18, 1909 (this date in Julian Calendar is July 31 on the Gregorian Calendar). This example was issued during the reign of Tsar Nicholas II (1894~1917). P7 and P17 with almost identical Russian Empire coat of arms would count as one postal stationery edition in our final tally.*

the Neva River. The Petrovskiy or Saint Peter's Gate is the official ceremonial entrance erected to commemorate Russian victory over Sweden in 1709 (Battle of Poltava) and is decorated with a huge imperial crest above the gate (Figure 15). Other imperial arms decorations are found on top of the obelisks of the Troitskiy bridge and on the pedestal of the Nicholas I equestrian monument [8]. The official residence of the monarchy in Saint Petersburg, the Winter Palace, was decorated with imperial arms on its main gate [8], as well as the gates and railings of its private garden [8] and on top of the semaphore telegraph line station [8]. Even more grandiose is the gold gilded main gate of the Catherine Palace in Tsarskoye Selo ("Tsar's Village"), the summer residence of Empress Elizabeth and Catherine the Great located south of the capital [8]. Imperial arms also decorates the palace balustrade at Peterhof, the "Russian Versailles" of Peter the Great [8].

The Kremlin is the best-known city fortress of the Russian Tsardom, located in Moscow, its capital before 1712. The Spasskaya Tower [1][8] and Troitskaya Tower [8] are entrance gates on the eastern and northwestern walls of the Kremlin, respectively. Both towers were crowned with double-headed eagle but both eagles were replaced with red stars by Stalin around 1935.

Similar to the above removal of symbols of imperial Russia on top of Kremlin gates, a few imperial monuments have suffered worse fates. One such monument was the Alexander II memorial [8] completed in 1898 but it was demolished in 1918 during the revolutionary period. Another monument was the Red Gate which was demolished in 1927 but its namesake survives as a metro station. The latter can be seen in our article [10] and video [8].



FIGURE 15. An example of Russian Empire coat of arms second generation maximum card precursor. This postcard depicts the Petrovskiy or St Peter's Gate of the Peter and Paul Fortress in Saint Petersburg. An imperial crest weighing over one ton sits over the arch. The imperial arms stamp used for posting this TCV on May 13, 1908 (this date in Julian Calendar is May 26 on the Gregorian Calendar) from Saint Petersburg to Noailles de L'Oise, France (arrival postmark is dated May 29, 1908) is Michel No 42 issued in 1889. In contrast to the Red Gate and Troitskiy Bridge TCV, the major difference between the two imperial arms is that the Petrovskiy Gate crest lacks the collar of the Order of Saint Andrew surrounding the central escutcheon.



Fig. 15

Our next-to-last example is postal stationery from the Kingdom of Italy imprinted with its first coat of arms (Figures 16 & 17). The Kingdom of Italy was proclaimed in 1861 by King Victor Emmanuel II of Sardinia and the House of Savoy after the Unification of Italy. Thus the House of Savoy coat of arms (shield with white cross on red field) was adopted as the Kingdom of Sardinia coat of arms in 1848 and the latter was adopted as the Kingdom of Italy coat of arms in 1861. In Figures 16 & 17, we compared 1893 and 1903 postal stationery under the reign of King Umberto I or Victor Emmanuel III, all imprinted with similar Kingdom of Italy coat of arms as one continuous edition.



FIGURE 16. An example of Kingdom of Italy official postal stationery (cartolina postale con risposta in Italian) imprinted with its first small or lesser coat of arms (primitissimo stemma del Regno d'Italia in Italian) from 1861~1870, which is listed as No P26 F in the Michel catalogue, being uprated with concordant 1891 issued small or lesser coat of arms (piccolo stemma in Italian) stamp (Michel No 60) and posted from Nole to Turin (Torino in Italian) on July 9, 1896 and arrived on the same day because the distance between them

is 25 km. A later edition (No P30 F with the same coat of arms but different imprinted stamp) was uprated with 1897 stamp (Michel No 73) and posted from Viareggio to Firenze in 1901. The distance between these two locations is 95 km. Both examples were issued during the reign of King Umberto I (1878~1900) with greater concordance than during the reign of his son (Figure 17). There is no Italian coat of arms stamp issued before 1889. Therefore there is no Kingdom of Italy coat of arms precursor during the reign of King Victor Emmanuel II (1861~1878).



Fig. 17

FIGURE 17. An example of Kingdom of Italy official postal stationery (*cartolina postale con risposta* in Italian) imprinted with its first small or lesser coat of arms (*primitivo stemma del Regno d'Italia* in Italian) from 1861~1870, which is listed as No P35 F in the Michel catalogue, being uprated with a stamp (Michel No 76) issued in 1901 showing the Royal Standard of 1880~1946 (*stemma di stendardo reale del Regno d'Italia* in Italian) with the Savoy shield as escutcheon on the Roman Aquila and posted from Longare to Vicenza on October 27, 1904. The distance between these two locations is 10 km. This example was issued during the reign of King Victor Emmanuel III (1900~1946) with lesser concordance than during the reign of his father. P1, P26F, and P35F with almost identical Kingdom of Italy coat of arms would count as one postal stationery edition in our final tally.

The Kingdom of Italy small or lesser coat of arms stamps were issued in 1889, 1891, 1896, and 1897 became invalid for postage use in 1902. The new 1901 stamp issue showed the Royal Standard of 1880~1946 with the Savoy shield as escutcheon of the Roman Aquila. This stamp was cancelled on a postcard showing the Palazzo Carignano façade decorated with the House of Savoy and Kingdom of Italy coat of arms as an example of F1 descendant (Figure 18).

Representing the new world, the United Mexican States or Mexico, with its national emblem (*Escudo Nacional de Mexico* in Spanish) imprinted on postal stationery since 1884, but not appear on postage stamps until 1899. We show one of a few examples of first generation TVA precursor uprated with concordant *Escudo* stamp (Figure 19), followed with one of three examples of second generation TCV precursor or maximum card showing a former palace gate (Figure 20).





Fig. 18

FIGURE 18. An example of Kingdom of Italy coat of arms second generation maximum card precursor. This postcard depicts the front façade of Palazzo Carignano facing Piazza Carignano. Since Palazzo Carignano is the 1820 birthplace of King Victor Emmanuel II, the first monarch of the Kingdom of Italy, a large decorative frieze was added by Carlo Ceppi in 1884 to commemorate with the inscription QVI NACQVE VITTORIO EMANUELE II (translated as Victor Emmanuel II was born here) as well as the House of Savoy and Kingdom of Italy coat of arms. Another postcard shows the rear façade of Palazzo Carignano facing Piazza Carlo Alberto. Both postcards were franked with the same 1901 stamp (Michel No 74) showing the Royal Standard of 1880~1946 (stemma di stendardo reale del Regno d'Italia in Italian) with the Savoy shield as escutcheon on the Roman Aquila, and cancelled on November 12, 1906 in Turin. A third postcard similar to the first was franked with Michel No 76 stamp as TCV and was sent from Turin to Bagnolet in France on September 21, 1906 [8]. Palazzo Carignano also was the subject of fifth generation maximum cards in 2011 for the 150th anniversary of the proclamation of Italian Unification (Risorgimento in Italian) which was held there.



Fig. 19

FIGURE 19. An example of the Mexico official postal stationery (Tarjeta Postal in Spanish) imprinted with its national emblem (Escudo Nacional de Mexico in Spanish) from 1867~1893, which is listed as No 96 in the Higgins & Gage catalogue, with type 13 Escudo, being uprated with a stamp (Scott No 295) issued in 1899, showing the same Escudo with a golden eagle perched on a prickly pear cactus devouring a rattlesnake and posted from Mexico City Federal District (Mexico D. F. Sucursal) to Marseille, France on July 31, 1900.



Fig. 20

FIGURE 20. An example of Mexico coat of arms second generation maximum card precursor. It shows the main gate of the Chapultepec Castle on Chapultepec Hill in Mexico City. The Military Academy or Colegio Militar, was located there from 1882 until around 1914. The Imperial residence of Emperor Maximilian I (1864~1867) and later the Presidential residence (1882~1934) were located there also. Therefore this gate may be a former palace gate. Above this main gate is the national emblem (Escudo Nacional de Mexico in Spanish) as decoration, denoted by hand-drawn arrow as if the sender (Vicente F. Rivera) or its previous owner was aware of its concordance with Scott No 306 Escudo stamp, issued in 1903, affixed on postcard as TCV, but this Escudo decoration was removed in a similar postcard posted in 1909, long before the relocation of the Military Academy (circa 1914). This rare precursor or maximum card was sent from Mexico City Federal District (Mexico D. F.) to Montlouis, France on November 10, 1904. Two similar TCV precursors, one was sent to Uruguay in 1904 and another was sent to Belgium in 1905.

Although the multi-generation transition pathway starting with TVA from Egypt or Switzerland to classic French maximum cards seems to prevail based on the large number of TCV sent to France, but so far there is no discernible association between TCV collectors and third generation maximaphily pioneers. Therefore, we remain open-minded about possible long distance connection between Mexican TCV senders (few in number but several with their names imprinted on the address side of TCV including Figure 20) and early Spanish and/or Mexican maximaphily pioneers, including José Buil Belenguer (1879~1959), born in Spain and worked in Mexico, who has realized Mexican maximum cards as early as 1910 [8], and thus he is one of the few second generation maximaphily pioneers who we know by name.

In summary we have identified twelve countries, four (Grand Duchy of Luxembourg [8], Kingdom of Denmark [8], Principality of Bulgaria, and Latvia) of which we did not include here, with postal stationery which would qualify as maximum card precursors. All of them, except the Austrian Empire, Bosnia, and Latvia, also bear postcard descendants whose images include coat of arms decoration on palace gate or façade, the latter thus become early second generation (or F1) maximum card precursors of the coat of arms family.



How about other countries with postal stationery imprinted with their respective coat of arms? We would encourage our readers to investigate further. The same would be open for the above twelve countries, our readers are welcomed to expand this family and identify other buildings in the latter countries which are decorated with coat of arms.

Regarding the possible postal stationery origin of the Royal Personages family we present the following supporting evidences: firstly, the Dutch Postblads shown in Figures 2 and 3 in our previous article [2], with the earliest example (1888) in Figure 5a [10], and videos [8]; secondly, the Kingdom of Portugal Bilhete Postal shown in Figure 5 in our previous article [2]; thirdly, the Kingdom of Sweden Brefkort shown in Figure 7 in our previous article [2] all are postal stationery. Other than these three countries, post-cards from other countries including the Kingdom of Italy Cartolina Ricordo are not pre-stamped or include prepaid postage. On the other hand, the possible claim for postal stationery origin of the Rooms with Views (or Hotels) family is the weakest among the three precursor families without a single known example.

To answer the question about the postal stationery origins of the three first parental generation maximum card families, we would calculate the ratio of pre-stamped postal stationery versus formular or hotel stationery with imprinted stamp box in each family. Both of them are forerunners of maximum card precursors. The importance of imprinted stamp box have been discussed in our previous article [4]. In the coat of arms family, postal stationery dominates thirteen to three (by countries) or fifteen to five (by editions). In the royal personages family, postal stationery wins three to one (by countries) or five to one (by editions). In the rooms with views family, postal stationery lost zero to three (by countries) or zero to nineteen (by editions). With all three families combined, the ratio is sixteen to six (by countries) in favor of postal stationery but is behind twenty to twenty two (by editions).

Actually postal stationery versus imprinted box is the incorrect interpretation of our results, they are two divergent paths to the same goal. The pre-printed stamp is on the same side as the imprinted coat of arms or royal personage and thus the extra stamp for uprating postage would be affixed on the same side as both. When the extra stamp bears image concordance with the imprinted coat of arms or royal personage, then the resulting postal stationery becomes a maximum card precursor (for example, Figures 1, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11 in part 1 [9] and Figures 13, 14, 16, 17, 19 in Part 2). On the other hand, when the formular or hotel stationery designer places the stamp box on the same side as images of the German Empire imperial eagle bearing a small or large shield with the House of Hohenzollern coat of arms, the Russian Empire imperial arms, the Swiss hotel flying Swiss flag, or the Cairo hotel advertising its proximity to the Sphinx and Giza Pyramids with images of the latter, and then were franked with the concordant stamp (1872 German Empire embossed imperial eagle bearing small or large shield, 1908 Russian Empire imperial arms, 1882~1899 Swiss "Kreuz und Wertziffer", or 1888~1893 Egypt fourth De La Rue issue), the resulting formular or hotel stationery thus becomes a maximum card precursor too [3][4][5][10].

Our hypothesis on the origins of maximum card precursors by means of concordance selection occurs in three phases, to be treated like single man or woman searching for his or her perfect mate and resulting in “marriage” between stamp and postcard [8][10]. The first or TVA phase is like arranged marriage [8][10].

Since neither stamp nor postcard are biological entities, their mating on paper could not lead to progeny directly, but rather it is the results of their “marriage”, ie success or failure, which would inform the creators of the next generation what to do in order to perpetuate concordance and how not to repeat mistakes of the past. The second or TCV phase is like limited face-to-face dating before “marriage”. TCV maximum card precursor is either the result of informed or lucky choice when stamp and postcard find concordance or marital bliss. TCV non-precursor occurs where choice is based on misinformation or false premises resulting in “marriage” on the rocks. Same fate or worse could happen with TCA (*timbre côté adresse* in French, meaning that stamp is affixed on the address side) because there could be no harmony with such a union because concordance is impossible.

Current hypothesis regarding the TCV phase origins includes two alternative paths. The more direct pathway would be followed by someone familiar with TVA, either as sender or collector, he or she then would become imprinted with the natural inclination to affix stamps on the pictorial side with or without image concordance. The second route via trial and error is exemplified by the Joseph Triquet collection [8]. He sent more than 137 postcards during his extended trip to Switzerland in 1904. At first he sent 7 TCA postcards to his home address in France but afterwards he discovered that he could send TCV postcards to his Swiss hotel and would never look back.

The third or maximum card phase is like online dating before marriage. Such modern dating game involves an exhaustive search for image concordance among a vast array of postcards. If a good match is found, then “marriage” should be a success. On the other hand, such searches may be too daunting for busy folks. As a result, they may remain single or just settle for virtual companionship represented by subscription to clonal maximum cards produced for members or beginner collectors. However, traditionalists would hold steadfast to ideas learnt from classic archetypes and apply such knowledge in creating their own unique neoclassic reincarnations based on vintage postcards if the stamp images show timeless heritage objects.

What are the major lessons from our study on the origins of maximaphily? We will mention two lessons briefly here: firstly, the “marriage” between postage stamp and postal stationery, formular stationery, or postcard is being executed by individuals, initially by following guidance from postal stationery and formular stationery designers, but then with the explosion of commercial postcard editions which opens up a period of diversity and creativity, as the results of personal preferences and educated choices of individual senders. Secondly, before the definition of image concordance as an essential parameter of maximaphilist collectibles was established in the 1940s, early pioneers began to identify and select maximum card precursors among the haystacks of mailed postcards and also create maximum cards with new stamp issues based on lessons learned from the former activities. Similar steps of concordance selection have been carried out by each



generation of collectors since the times of early pioneers. Today, it would fall on our shoulders to apply analytics methodology to the already discovered as well as untapped resources in order to elevate maximaphily above all other classes of philately based on our uniqueness at the nexus of experimental innovations and big data analytics. When treasure hunters became researchers they would begin to develop the discipline of archaeology, our goal is to infuse research into maximaphily in order to rebrand it as philaconcordology [7].

**Acknowledgments:** This article is dedicated to the memory of Ronald van der Leeden (1958~2020), who impressed us with his research and discoveries in the realms of maximaphily ancestry. I thank George Constantourakis, Cvetan Cvetkov, Dénes Czirók, Francis Dochez, Frans Jorissen, Luc Gybels, Daryl Kibble, Stefan van der Leeden, Bernard Loman, Wayne Menuz, Lars-Olof Nilsson, Olivier Nosbaum, Zoltan Takacs, Terry Watson, and Jindřich Zronek for critical inputs and helpful peer reviews. Their contributions justify the use of “we” throughout this article.

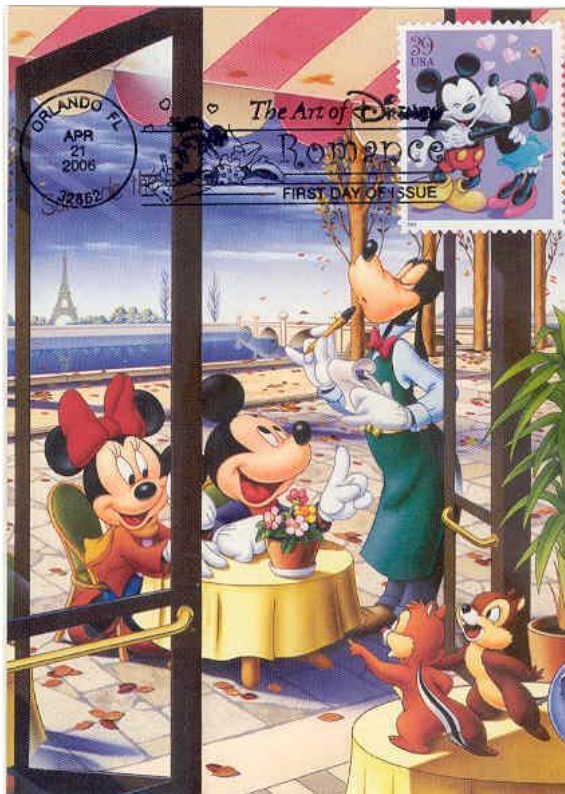
**References:** For references [1] to [8] please see part 1 or reference [9].

[9] Ng, S-Y (2023a) 《On the Origins of Maximum Card Precursor Families by Means of Concordance Selection: postal stationery as maximum card forerunners》 Part I in *The Quarterly Journal of the Maximum Card Study Unit*, Volume 41, number 3, pages 3 to 13.

[10] Ng, S-Y (2023b) 《On the Origins of Maximum Card Precursor Families by Means of Concordance Selection: first generation Swiss pioneers and second generation French pioneers》 *The Congress Book 2023*, the American Philatelic Congress, pages 223 to 245.

## The State of Florida Through Maximum Cards (Part 2)

As we continue to highlight maximum cards of each of the 50 United States, we now offer additional cards from the state of Florida.



Florida's primary industry is tourism. In 2022 there were over 137 million people that visited the state, making it the most popular tourist destination in the US. The industry contributed over \$102 billion into the state's economy and supported 1.7 million jobs within the state.

The Orlando area reported 71 million tourists visiting the area in 2022. The city of Orlando claims that it is the "Theme Park Capital of the World" with the Disney theme parks anchoring this claim.

**Stamp:** Mickey & Minnie Mouse from the Art of Disney Romance issue, Scott #4025

**Postcard:** Mickey & Minney, published by Starpics (Thailand)

**Postmark:** pictorial FDOI, Orlando, FL 4/21/2006

The Kennedy Space Center is another major tourist attraction in Florida. Each year 1.5 million people visit the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex. In 2016, it was voted the eighth best museum in the United States.

As a NASA launch site, the Kennedy Space Center is involved in space exploration, research and development. About 15,000 people are employed at the Kennedy Space Center.

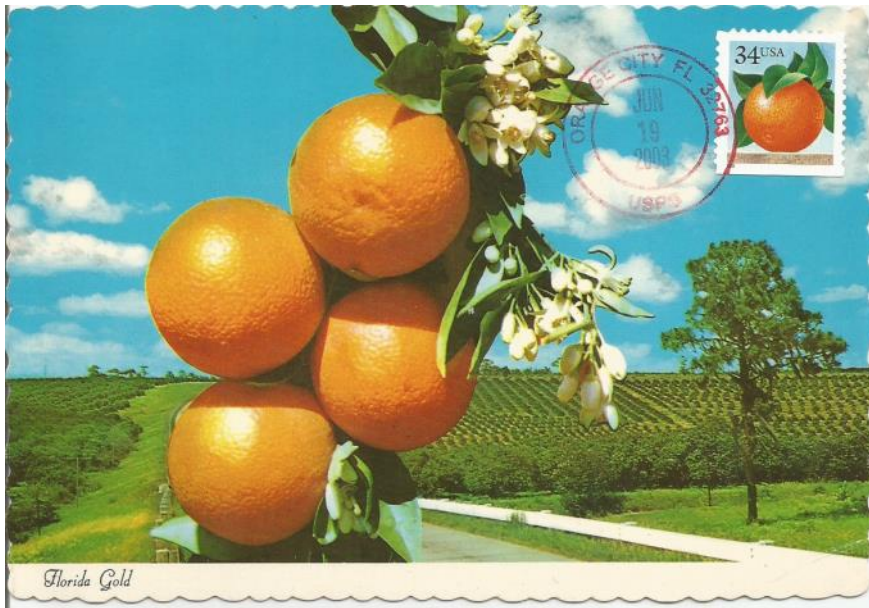
**Stamp:** Space Shuttle Program from the Celebrate The Century series, Scott #3190a

**Postcard:** Shuttle lift off, Kennedy Space Center, published by Orange Belt Distributors

**Postmark:** circle-date FDOI, Titusville, FL, FL 1/12/2000







While Florida ranks only number 18 in US agricultural production, it is the leading producer of oranges for juice, mangoes, tomatoes, sugar, sweet corn, green beans, beans, cucumbers and watermelon. It is the second biggest producer of strawberries, peppers, avocados and grapefruit.

**Stamp:** Orange, Scott #3492

**Postcard:** Oranges, "Florida Gold", published by Gator Card Co.

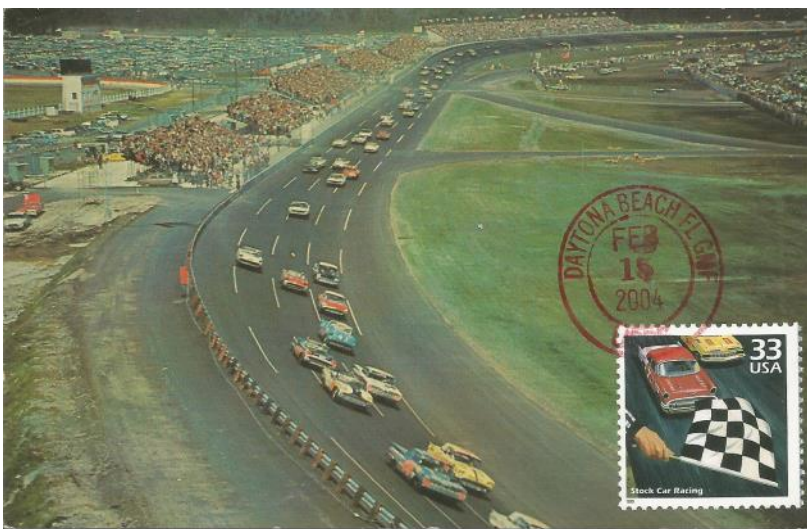
**Postmark:** ordinary circle-date, Orange City, FL, 6/19/2003

Florida is home to three NFL football teams, two MLB baseball teams, two NBA basketball teams, two NHL ice hockey teams and two MLS soccer teams.

**Stamp:** Dolphin, Scott #4388

**Postcard:** "Original Miami Dolphin", published by Florida Natural Color, Inc.

**Postmark:** pictorial "Super Bowl XLIV", Miami, F:L 2010



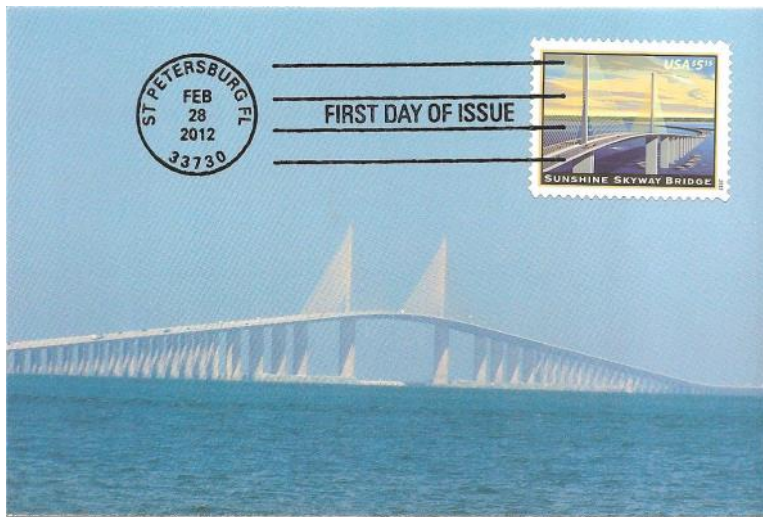
Located in Daytona Beach, Florida, the Daytona International Speedway is home to the Daytona 500. The Daytona 500 is one of NASCAR's most prestigious races and it is its opening event.

**Stamp:** Stock Car Racing, Scott #3187n

**Postcard:** Daytona Speedway, published by Eames Distributor Co.

**Postmark:** circle-date Daytona Beach, FL 2/15/2004





The 4.14 mile Sunshine Skyway Bridge spans lower Tampa Bay. The bridge consists of two long beam bridges with a central cable-stayed bridge. It was completed in 1987 after a maritime disaster partially destroyed the previous bridge at this location. The 4-lane bridge carries I-275 and US Route 19.

**Stamp:** Sunshine Sky Bridge, Priority Mail, Scott #U676

**Postcard:** Sunshine Sky Bridge, unknown publisher

**Postmark:** official 4 bar FDOI, St Petersburg, FL 2/28/2012



Two great literary figures that have Florida connections have been commemorated by the United States Postal Service. Ernest Hemingway was a celebrated novelist, short story writer and journalist. He won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1954. Although Ernest Hemingway was born in Illinois, he wintered in Key West, Florida during the 1930s. Today, his home is a tourist attraction in Key West.

**Stamp:** Ernest Hemingway, Scott #2418

**Postcard:** Ernest Hemingway with Catch, published by Abbeville Publishing Co.

**Postmark:** circle-date, Key West, FL 7/25/2005

**Stamp:** Marjorie Kennan Rawlings, Scott #4223

**Postcard:** "Twin Fawns", published by DeSoto County Publishing Co.

**Postmark:** circle-date, Hawthorne, FL 6/24/2014

Marjorie Kennon Rawlings lived in rural Florida and wrote novels with rural themes and settings. Most of her works were set in Florida scrub country. In 1939, she won the Pulitzer Prize for fiction with her most famous work, "The Yearling". "The Yearling's" plot centered about a young boy who adopted an orphaned fawn.





## Card Critique—Is It, or Is It Not?

As many of you on Facebook may be aware, I daily post a maximum card in several FB groups as a “this day in history” post. On July 18th, I posted the below card and this statement: *This Day in History: On July 18, 1334, the bishop of Florence blessed the first foundation stone for the new campanile (bell tower) of the Florence Cathedral. The bell tower was designed by the artist Giotto di Bondone.* Someone replied with: “There's no agreement of place. It's not maximum!” My response is below. So, is it, or is it not?



Why is it not a maximum card? It is not a maximum card because the GUIDELINES FOR JUDGING MAXIMAPHILY EXHIBITS finalized in August 2019 state in section 4.3.4.a that "For monuments, landscapes and sites there is only one place that gives the required concordance. It is the one where the monument, the landscape or the site is located." This statement means (according to the "guidelines") that virtually no United Nations stamp can be realized into a maximum card. Very Limiting! It must also be remembered that the "Guidelines For Judging Maximaphily Exhibits" are just that--"guidelines" (not rules) and were written for maximum cards in an exhibit. I would like to argue that this card does adhere to all of the other FIP Guidelines of a correct maximum card. The FIP Guidelines state in its "Definition and Nature of Maximaphily" that "a maximaphily exhibit contains only picture postcards showing a visual concordance between the three elements: picture postcard, postage stamp on the picture side of the postcard, cancellation".

This card obviously shows a visual concordance between these three elements with the cathedral's dome on stamp, card and postmark. The Guidelines further state in section 4. (Judging Criteria for Maximaphily Exhibits, 4.3.4) that "Concordance of place requires a "connection" between the name of the place or the locality of the cancellation and the subject of the postage stamp and of the postcard". The keyword here is "connection". The New York, United Nations postmark has a very clear connection to the stamp and card in that the stamp is honoring United Nations UNESCO World Heritage Sites of which the Florence Duomo is one. Furthermore, in 4.3.4h the Guidelines state that "Cancellations made abroad by post offices of a country (on occasion of philatelic exhibitions or other event) are allowed in a maximaphily exhibit. It is my belief that the FIP Guidelines for a maximum card are too limiting and hurt our hobby. To be called a Maximum Card, must the card meet all of the guidelines for an exhibited card?

## United Nations 2023 “Don’t Choose Extinction”

by Michael Kogan, excerpt used by permission from his [paleophilatelie.eu](http://paleophilatelie.eu) website

On June 20th, 2023, all three Postal Administrations (Vienna, Geneva, New York) of the United Nations issued Souvenir-Sheets "Don't Choose Extinction". Each Souvenir-Sheet shows a different scene from a video created by the United Nations in 2021 to support the "Don't Choose Extinction" campaign.

The campaign which was launched by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for the COP26 UN Climate Summit, calls for an end to fossil fuels and a global transition towards sustainable, green economies.

Each Souvenir-Sheet has a QR code that when scanned will launch the full video of Frankie Dinosaur addressing world leaders to take action against climate change. Boaz Paldi, UNDP Chief Creative Officer at UNDP said that the campaign hero appearing on UN stamps is an impressive step forward for the fight for global action around the climate crisis.

*“We are very honored to have Frankie the Dino featured on official UN stamps. Beyond the recognition of the Don't Choose Extinction campaign, this is an important reminder that all of us must take urgent climate action”* Paldi said.



The 3 UN souvenir sheets issued on June 20, 2023.



**Stamp:** “Don’t Choose Extinction”, Frankie the Dinosaur (Utahraptor) addressing the UN General Assembly,

**Postcard:** Utahraptor, Museums of Western Colorado, (Fruita)

**Postmark:** pictorial FDOI, “Don’t Choose Extinction”, United Nations, New York 6/20/2023



*Utahraptor* is a genus of large carnivorous (predator) dinosaur, popularly called “raptor”, that lived during the Early Cretaceous period (145-100 million years ago). *Utahraptor* is found in the Yellow Cat Member at the base of the Cedar Mountain Formation in outcrops around Arches National Park in east-central Utah. Since 2018, *Utahraptor* has been Utah's State Dinosaur.



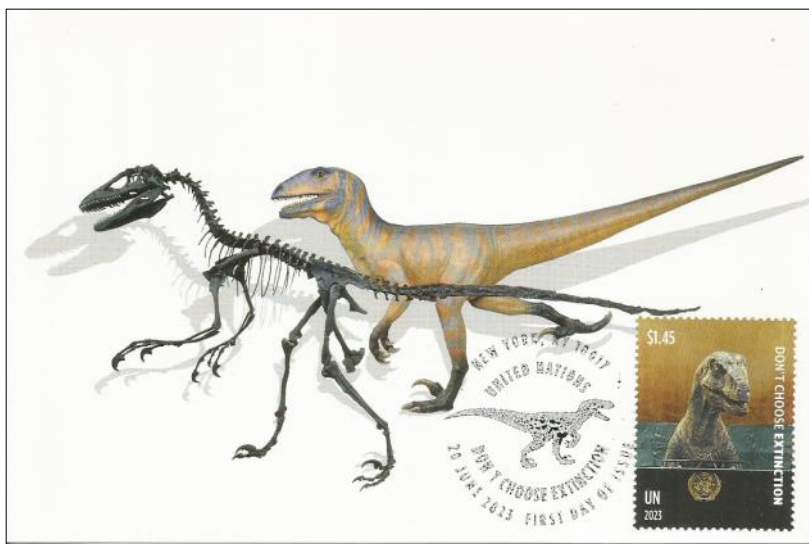
Bursting into the iconic United Nations General Assembly Hall, famous for history-making speeches by leaders from around the world, the imposing dinosaur tells an audience of shocked and bewildered diplomats and dignitaries that *“it’s time humans stopped making excuses and started making changes”* to address the climate crisis.

The **“Don’t Choose Extinction”** campaign was created in partnership with Activista, a purpose-driven creative agency based in Los Angeles (LA). Activista led the strategy and creation of the platform including the launch of the film, which was written in collaboration with David Litt, Barack Obama’s speech writer whilst in office. This first-ever film to be made inside the UN General Assembly using computer-generated imagery (CGI) features global celebrities voicing the dinosaur in numerous languages. Activista also partnered with Framestore Pictures and Oscar-winning VFX studio Framestore to deliver the shoot and Computer-Generated (CG) dinosaur for the film.

The Framestore animation team headed by Marco Marengi, one of the world’s leading dinosaur animators, developed the look and feel of the menacing creature, delicately striking a balance between anthropomorphism and realistic behavior. The team worked closely together 20 years prior on the BBC Emmy Award-winning docuseries, *“Walking with Dinosaurs”*, Framestore Pictures director Murray Butler and Framestore creative director Marco Marengi, were a perfect duo to bring the striking *Utahraptor* dinosaur to life.

The team developed the look and feel of the menacing creature delicately striking a balance between anthropomorphism and realistic behavior. Shooting at the iconic UN Assembly Hall in New York, the team used the dinosaur’s dimensions to mockup stand-ins out of PVC piping, allowing the extras and actors something to react to in real time.

The film, where Frankie the Dino calls out Governments for spending billions on fossil fuel subsidies, instantly became a cultural phenomenon and a rallying cry for climate action. The campaign film has been viewed by more than 2.2 billion people across the world to the date of the stamps’ issue and gained more than 4,000 media mentions across the globe. The original short film was voiced in 39 languages and features famous actors from around the world.



**Stamp:** “Don’t Choose Extinction”, Frankie the Dinosaur addressing the UN General Assembly,

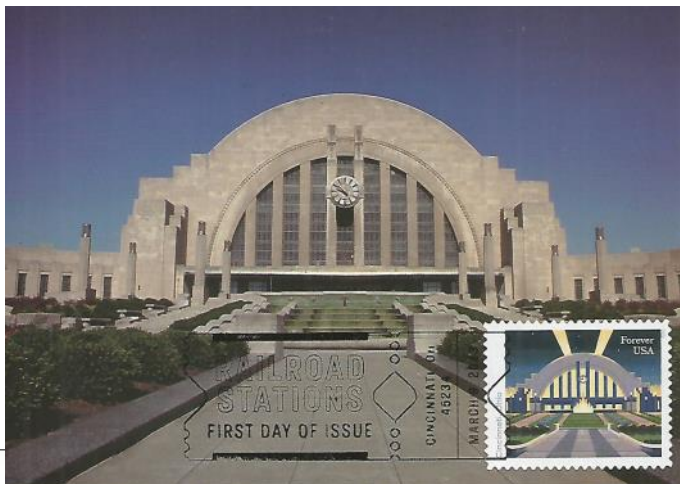
**Postcard:** Deinonychus (“terrible claw”), published by Yale Peabody Museum

**Postmark:** pictorial FDOI, “Don’t Choose Extinction”, United Nations, New York 6/20/2023

The Deinonychus is another Dromaeosaurinae dinosaur, a smaller relative of the *Utahraptor*.

## Recent Realizations — Railway Stations

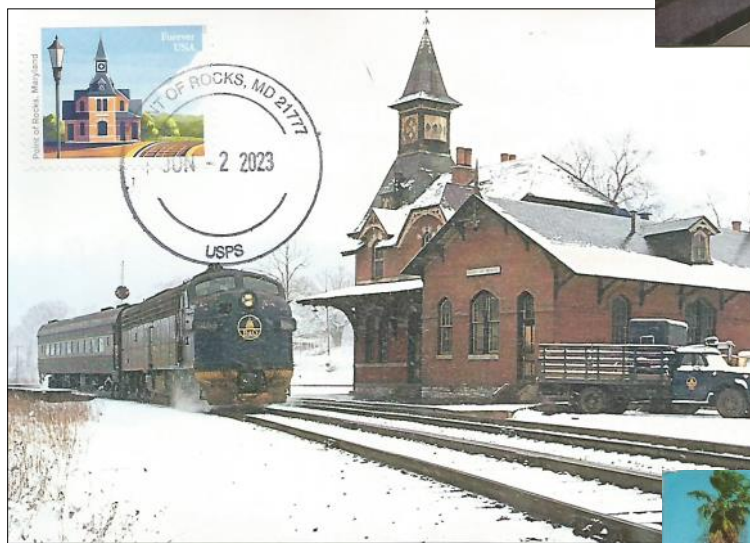
On March 9, 2023, the United States Postal Service issued a set of five stamps that feature old railroad stations that are architectural gems. Four of them are featured on this page. The fifth stamp featured the Main Street Station in Richmond, Virginia. While many of the railroad station built in the late 19th century have been demolished, these five stations still play an important role in their communities.



**Stamp:** Cincinnati Railway Station, Scott #5762

**Postcard:** Museum Center at Union Terminal, published by Dynamic Impressions

**Postmark:** pictorial FDOI, Cincinnati, OH, 3/21/2023



**Stamp:** Point of Rocks Railway Station, Scott #5758

**Postcard:** blank back, unknown publisher

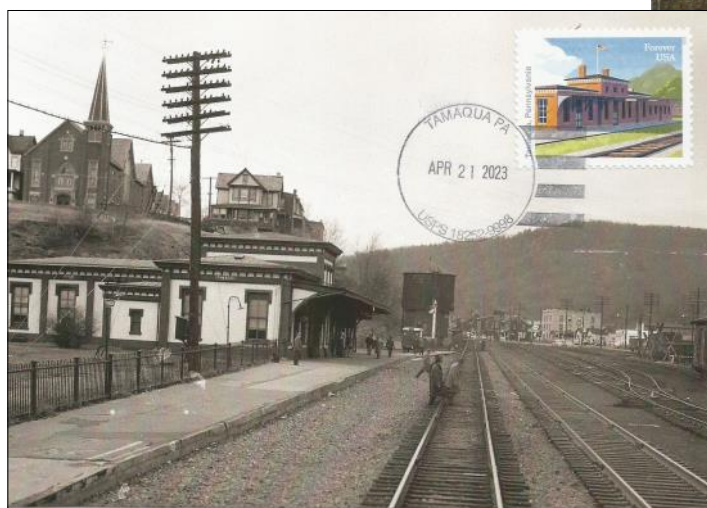
**Postmark:** circle-date Point of Rocks, MD 6/2/2023



**Stamp:** San Bernardino, CA Railway Station Scott #5760

**Postcard:** Santa Fe Depot, San Bernardino, CA published by Western Publishing & Novelty Co.

**Postmark:** ordinary, circle-date, San Bernardino, CA 5/2/2023



**Stamp:** Tamaqua Railway Station, Scott #5761

**Postcard:** blank back, unknown publisher

**Postmark:** four-bar killer, Tamaqua, PA 4/21/2023



## Recent Realizations



**Stamp:** "Freedom", US Flag, Scott #5787

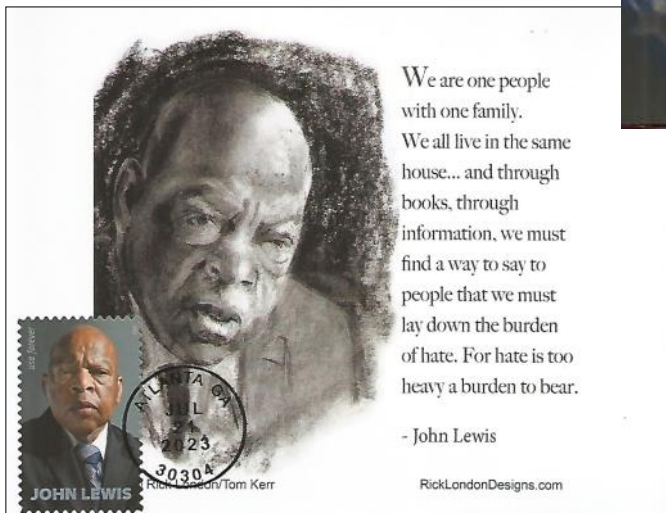
**Postcard:** "Born in the USA", published by The Postcard Factory

**Postmark:** Four-bar FDOI, Freedom, ME 4/10/2023

**Stamp:** "Freedom", US Flag, Scott #5787

**Postcard:** Eagle, "Home of the Brave", published by Smith-Southwestern

**Postmark:** Four-bar FDOI, Freedom, ME 4/10/2023



**Stamp:** John Lewis, Scott #5801

**Postcard:** President Obama awarding Lewis Presidential Medal of Freedom, publisher by Zazzle

**Postmark:** circle-date FDOI, Atlanta, GA 7/21/2023

**Stamp:** John Lewis, Scott #5801

**Postcard:** President Obama awarding Lewis Presidential Medal of Freedom, publisher by Zazzle

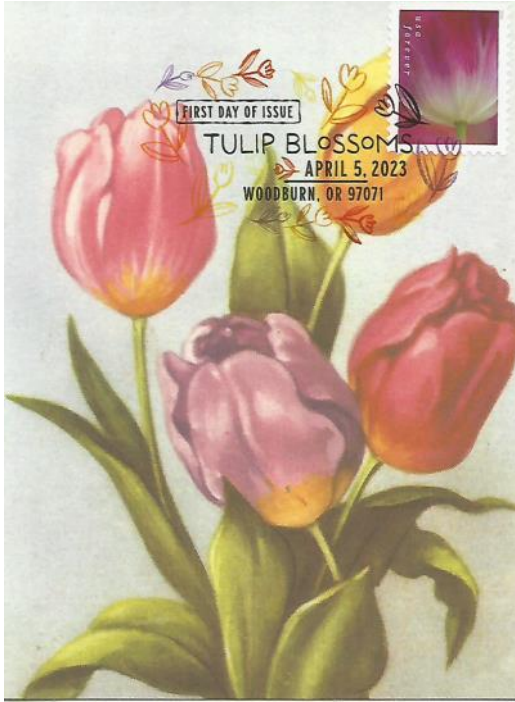
**Postmark:** pictorial FDOI, Atlanta, GA 7/21/2023



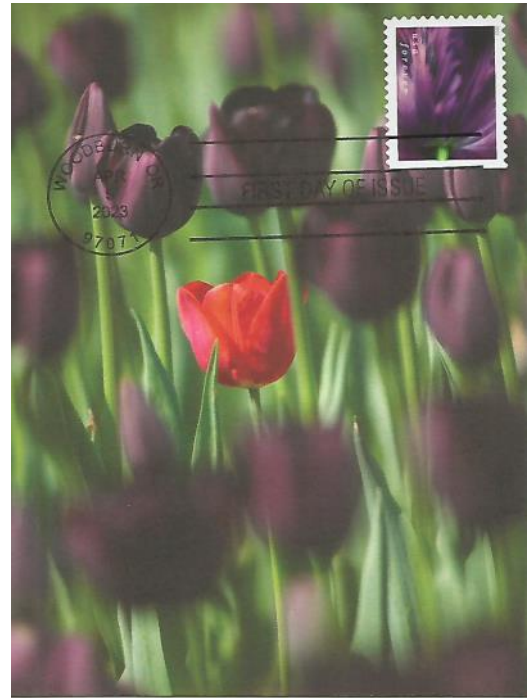


## Recent Realizations—Tulips

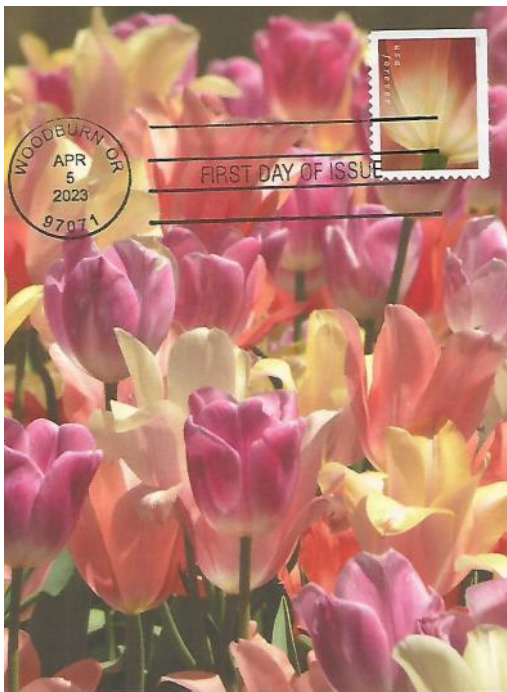
On April 5, 2023, the USPS issued a set of 10 tulip stamps in both coil and booklet formats. The stamps feature a closeup view of tulips that covers the entire frame of the stamp with only a small portion of the stem also being visible. These ten maximum cards were all realized on postcards published by Zazzle. Several of the cards have digital color pictorial FDOI postmarks from Woodburn, OR that are dated April 5, 2023.



Stamp: Scott #5781



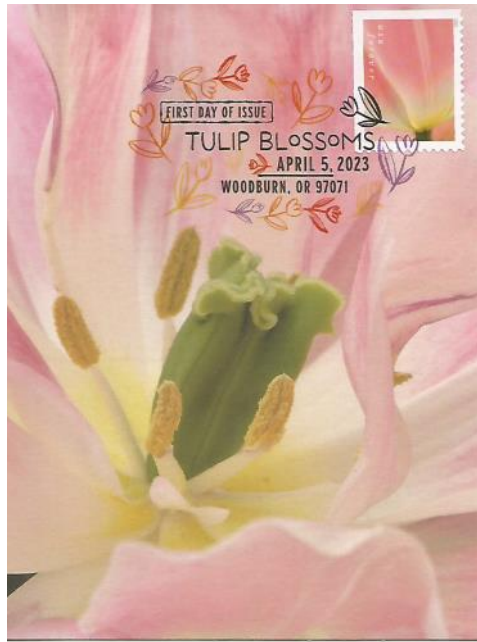
Stamp: Scott #5784



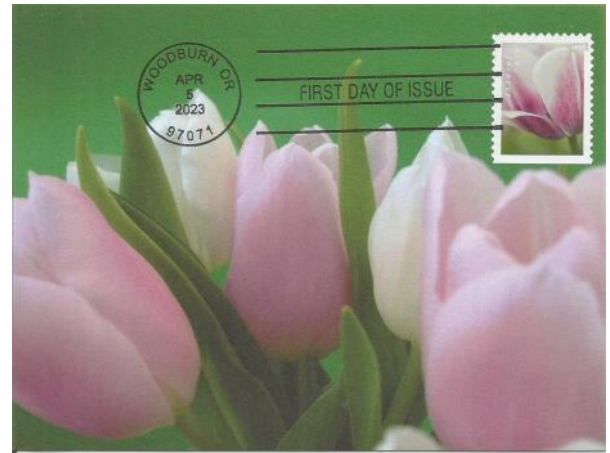
Stamp: Scott #5777



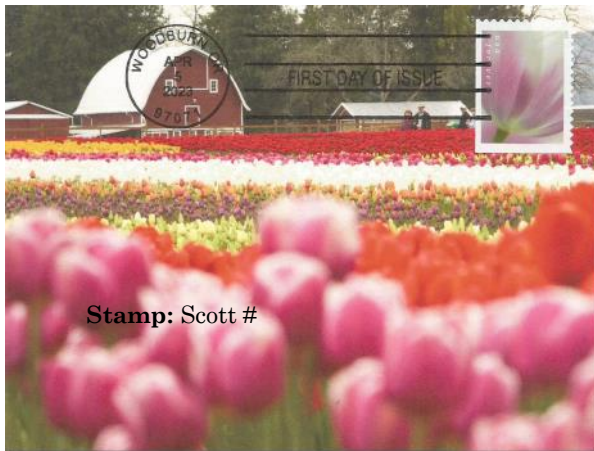
Stamp: Scott #5779



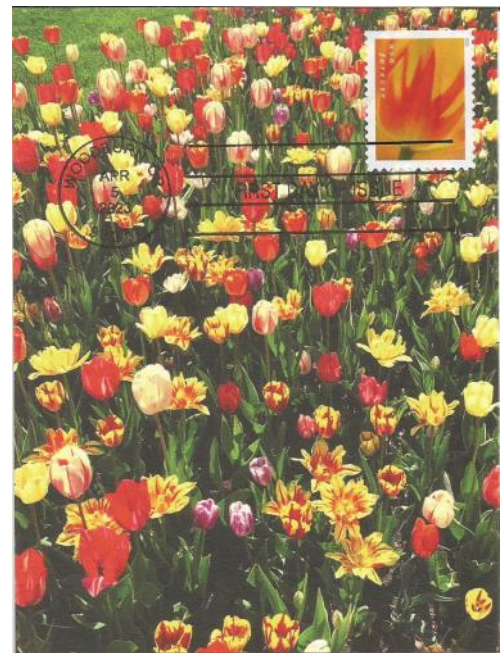
Stamp: Scott #5778



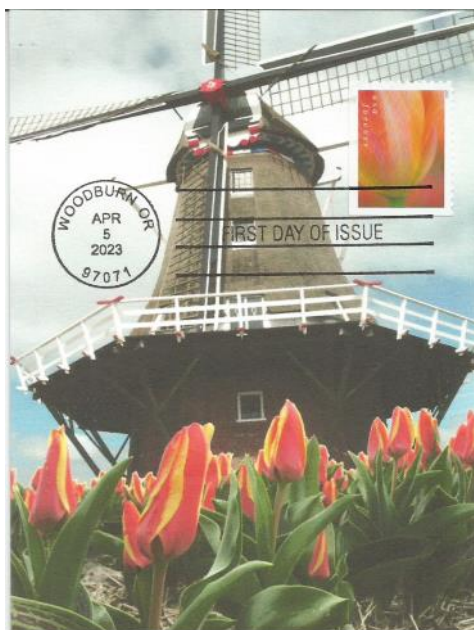
Stamp: Scott #5785



Stamp: Scott #



Stamp: Scott #5780



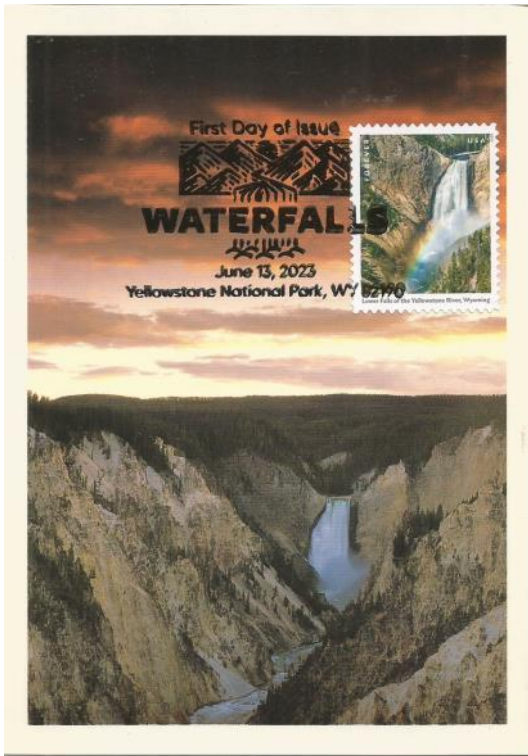
Stamp: Scott #5783



Stamp: Scott #5786



Recent Realizations — Waterfalls



**Stamp:** Lower Falls of the Yellowstone River, Scott #5800d

**Postcard:** Sunset at Lower Yellowstone Falls, published by The National Park Postbox Collection

**Postmark:** official pictorial FDOI, Yellowstone National Park, WY 6/3/2023



**Stamp:** Nevada Fall, California, Scott #5800b

**Postcard:** Nevada Falls, linen-era, published by Western Publishing & Novelty Co.

**Postmark:** unofficial circle-date FDOI, Yosemite, CA 6/13/2023



**Stamp:** LaSalle Canyon Waterfall, IL, Scott #5800k

**Postcard:** LaSalle Canyon within Starved Rock State Park, unknown publisher

**Postmark:** unofficial circle-date FDOI, Utica, IL 6/13/2023



**Stamp:** Niagara Falls, NY, Scott #5800g

**Postcard:** Closeup of the American Falls, published by Mira Jordan

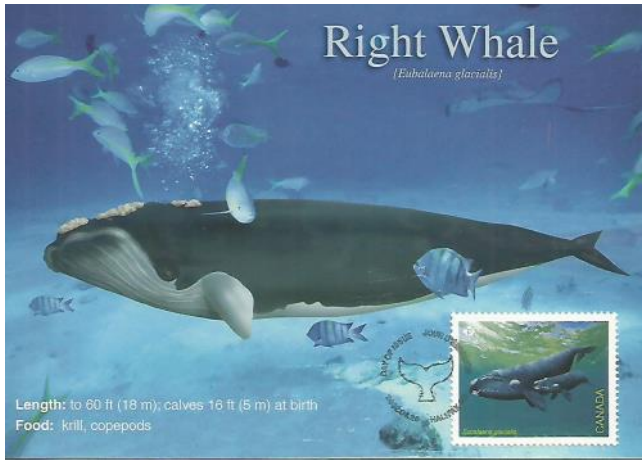
**Postmark:** ordinary, circle-date, Niagara Falls, NY 6/15/2023



## Recent Realizations—Canada

On May 20, 2022, the Canada Post issued a set of five stamps of whales. According to their website, “this stamp issue celebrates the remarkable beauty and diversity of whales found in Canadian waters. It also raises awareness of the plight of five species.... that have populations assessed as Endangered by the Committee on the Status of Wildlife in Canada”.

A maximum card of the northern bottlenose whale (*Hyperoodon ampullatus*) was not realized due to my inability to locate a postcard of this extremely rare whale that lives off the Scotian Shelf.



**Stamp:** North Atlantic Right Whale (*Eubalaena glacialis*)

**Postcard:** Right Whale, published by South Cape Distributors, Inc.

**Postmark:** pictorial FDOI, Halifax, NS 5/20/2022



**Stamp:** Killer whale (*Orcinus orca*)

**Postcard:** Killer Whale, published by Nature Design Photography

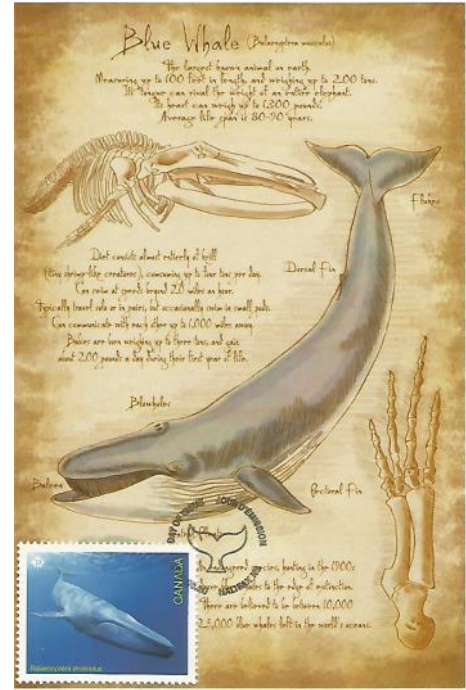
**Postmark:** pictorial FDOI, Halifax, NS 5/20/2022



**Stamp:** Beluga Whale (*Delphinapterus leucas*), Georgia Aquarium

**Postcard:** Beluga Whale, published by Impact

**Postmark:** pictorial FDOI, Halifax, NS 5/20/2022



**Stamp:** Blue Whale (*Balaenoptera musculus*)

**Postcard:** Blue Whale, published by Lantern Press

**Postmark:** pictorial FDOI, Halifax, NS 5/20/2022

## Recent Realizations—United Nations

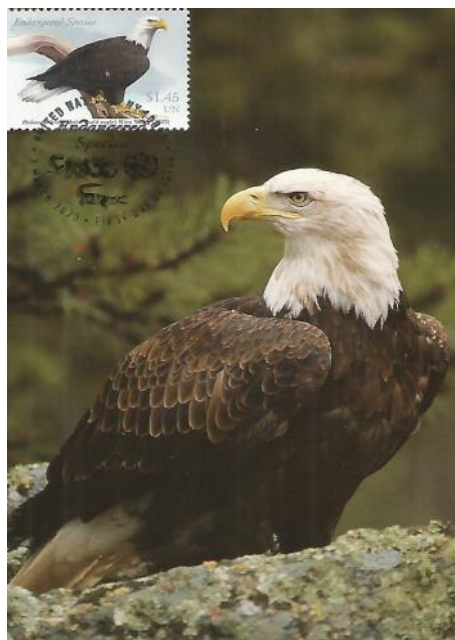
With the New York offices of the United Nations Postal Administration being located in North America, it falls within our purview of North American Maximaphily to feature maximum cards realized by them. While some purists may feel that most UN maximum cards do not have place concordance, the United Nations does have a “connection” to endangered animals as the UN is involved in setting the criteria for establishing endangered animals.



**Stamp:** Morelet's Crocodile (*Crocodylus moreletti*)

**Postcard:** Crocodile (questionable concordance), published by Zazzle

**Postmark:** FDOI, “Endangered Species”, New York, NY 3/3/2023



**Stamp:** Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)

**Postcard:** Bald Eagle, published by First Flight Publishers

**Postmark:** FDOI, “Endangered Species”, New York, NY 3/3/2023



**Stamp:** Cape Aloe (*Aloe ferox*)

**Postcard:** Open fields with Cape Aloe, published by Zazzle

**Postmark:** FDOI, “Endangered Species”, New York, NY 3/3/2023



**Stamp:** Big Horn Sheep (*Ovis canadensis*)

**Postcard:** Montana Big Horn Sheep, published by Hamilton Group, Ltd.

**Postmark:** FDOI, “Endangered Species”, New York, NY 3/3/2023



# MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

## For The

### MAXIMUM CARD STUDY UNIT of AMERICA

Founded in 1978, the Maximum Card Study Unit (MACSU) is an independent non-profit organization dedicated to the creation, collection, exchange, enjoyment, display, and study of Maximum Cards, by spreading the knowledge of Maximaphily among its members.

Membership includes a subscription to Maximaphily USA, a quarterly journal featuring news of the maximum card world and articles by members and experts in the field.

Articles featuring topical collecting typically are richly illustrated with maximum cards and share the author's insightful knowledge of the subject and his own personal and helpful experience.

The pages providing information regarding activities of individual members allows members to place free advertising for trading, buying, selling and exchanging information. Here the opportunity to make contacts with members in other countries is provided.

There are articles evaluating maximum cards according to accepted standards, pointing out good qualities and making suggestions for improvement.

Mail bid auctions are held on occasion, featuring inexpensive cards donated by members.

Every issue provides a page or two of illustrations of the most recent maximum card creations by our members. Every member gets a chance to show his cards and write an article about them.

.....

#### MACSU Membership Application

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_ Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Collecting Interests (Topics, countries, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

(Indicate if you want your name and interests listed in an upcoming issue: YES:  NO )

Club membership is only \$12 per year and includes a quarterly journal emailed to you. You can pay your dues via PayPal. Send your PayPal payment to **MAXICARDS@gmail.com**