

This great presentation on American flags was published in 1977 by the Postal Commemorative Society, Norwalk, Connecticut. It's a handy reference for Masonic philatelists, especially those flags shown as "Flags of our Forefathers."

MSCNY ARTICLE No. 43



Flags Symbolizing Our Heritage

Beginning with the courage of the merchants and farmers of the Continental Army at Bunker Hill, the heritage of our nation was forged by many great individuals, each playing a part. So too, the development of the U.S. Flag was influenced by such patriots as George Washington, Betsy Ross, Lafayette, Pulaski... and immortalized by Francis Scott Key in our "Star-Spangled Banner."



This 1931 issue honors Polish General Casimir Pulaski.



This 1952 stamp honors Lafayette's contribution to America.



This 1957 issue depicts the Lincoln-Douglas debate.



This 1948 stamp pays tribute to Francis Scott Key.



This 1952 stamp depicts Betsy Ross sewing the First American Flag.



This 1944 stamp marks the 75th Anniversary of the first transcontinental railroad.



The 1944 stamp marks the 125th Anniversary of the first steamship to cross the Atlantic.



The 1947 commemorative honoring the 150th Anniversary of the landing of "Old Ironsides."

Flags in Historic Places

With Andrew Jackson at the Battle of New Orleans . . . atop the war-scarred peak of Mount Suribachi . . . saluting the end of the Mexican War in California . . . helping to drive a golden railroad spike . . . welcoming a new state into the firmament of the Union, these are just a few of the roles the United States flag has played in historic times and places in the story of America.



This 1959 stamp depicts the Bunker Hill monument to bravery.



The 1933 stamp depicts Washington's Headquarters at Newburgh, N.Y., where peace with England was proclaimed.



This 1936 issue celebrates the state of Arkansas' 100th Anniversary.



The 1950 issue honoring the Supreme Court for the National Capital Sesquicentennial.



The 1950 issue honoring the White House for the National Capital Sesquicentennial.



This 1945 stamp commemorates the Lone Star State's Centenary.



This 1944 stamp shows Stephen Watts Kearny with the flag bringing peace to California.



The 1935 issue honoring 100 years of Michigan's Statehood.



The 1945 stamp honors U.S. Marines atop Mount Suribachi.



The 1965 stamp depicts Andrew Jackson holding his ground before the flag at New Orleans.



This 1959 stamp honors the air mail carrying Balloon, *Jupiter*.

Flags of Our Forefathers



The Pine Tree Flag was carried by Washington's cruisers.

As the colonists mustered their courage as well as men and arms to meet the challenge of freedom, everywhere they sought the comfort and confidence of their flag. From the Rhode Island militia to our earliest cavalymen in Philadelphia; from the ships of the fledgling navy, to the first official flag raised over Washington's headquarters in Cambridge, Massachusetts, the flags of our fore-



The Flag of the First Rhode Island Regiment, carried at Brandywine, Trenton and Yorktown.



The Flag that rallied the colonists at Bunker Hill.



Flown by the Philadelphia Light Horsemen, forerunners of the U.S. Cavalry.



This "Liberty" banner flew over Fort Moultrie during the Battle of Sullivan's Island.

fathers burst forth in joyful patriotic profusion. Stripes representing the 13 original colonies appeared even before the Declaration of Independence, in the Continental Colors (Grand Union Flag), first raised on Prospect Hill, Somerville, Massachusetts, on New Year's Day 1776, when the Continental Army came into being. Stars, ancient symbol of unity, appeared in various arrangements on a blue canton after the Continental Congress resolved, in 1777, that the U.S. Flag should contain 13 stars and stripes. Many of these first manifestations of patriotism are represented here in this Historic Flag Series issued in 1968, already an increasingly valuable collector's series in itself.



Displaying the popular snake symbol of unity is America's first Navy Jack.



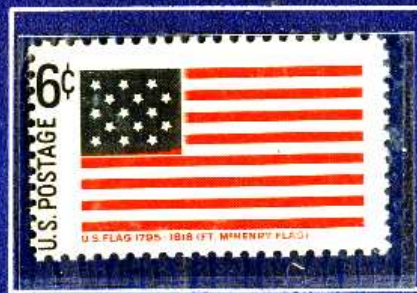
The nation's first official Flag, the Grand Union.



America's first "Stars and Stripes" created by Congress on June 14, 1777.



The famed Bennington flag.



The Fort McHenry Flag inspired "The Star-Spangled Banner."

Flags used as an Inspiration

In a patriotic salute to "Old Glory" or as a reminder of America's Bicentennial, the flowing red and white lines and the star-studded field of blue have always served as fitting inspiration in times of national pride, such as the addition of our 49th and 50th states—in times of national effort, such as encouraging voter registration or the purchase of U.S. Bonds.



The 1959 49-star Flag welcomed Alaska to the Union.



The 1960 50-star Flag marked Hawaii as the 50th state.



This 1964 issue urged citizens to vote.



The 1957 48-star salute to "Old Glory."



The 1966 Flag stamp marked the 25th Anniversary of the Savings Bond Program.



The 1973 Bicentennial tribute to the 50 and 13 star flags.



The 1976 Bicentennial tribute to Independence Hall.



The 1977 Bicentennial tribute to the Capitol.

Flags over the White House

As the residence of America's First Family, the White House symbolizes home for all Americans. Whether our own homes be great or small, rich or poor, we all share in the larger home of freedom and in the flag which flies forever above it.



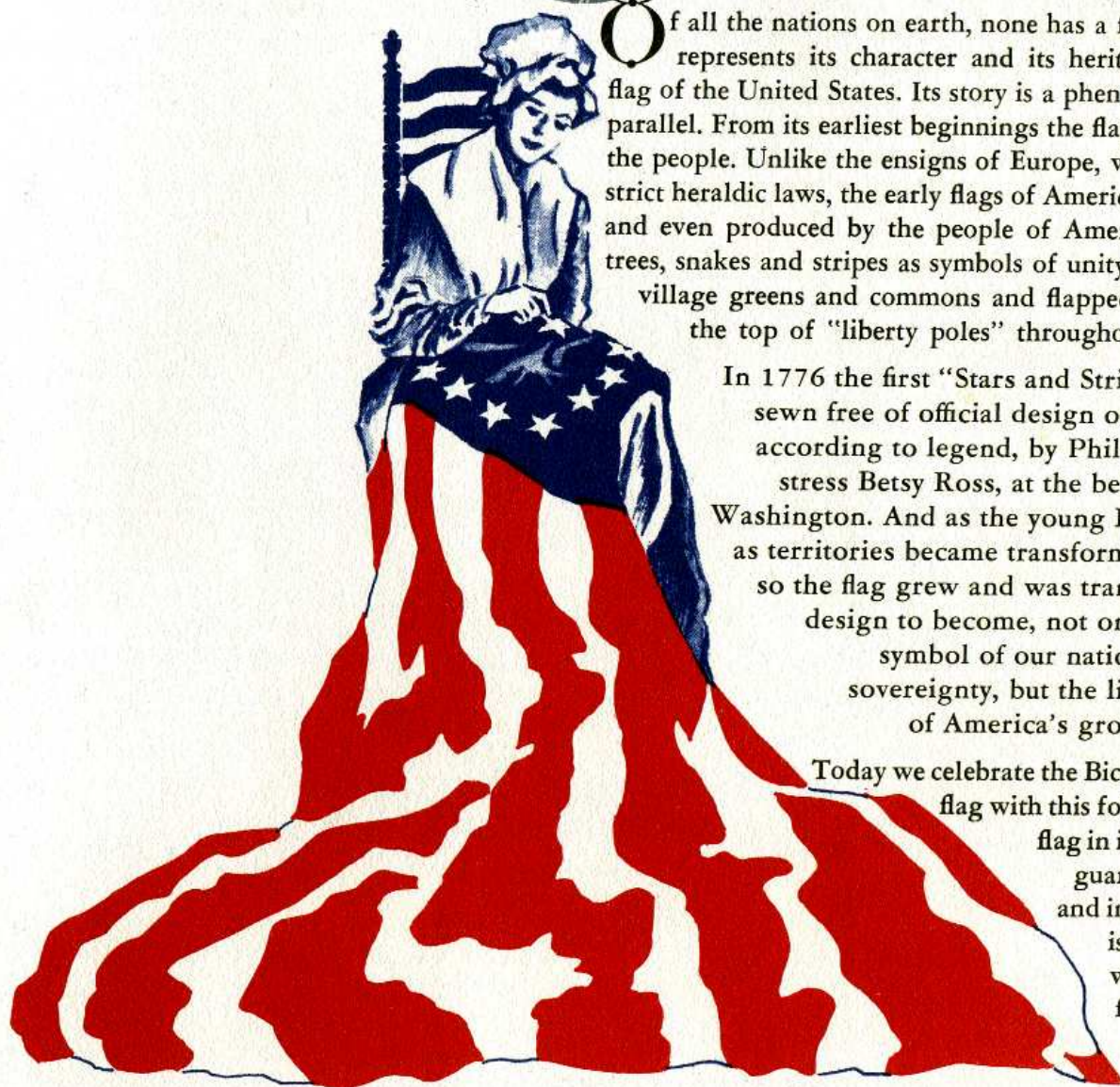
This 1963 design was inspired by Mrs. John F. Kennedy.



The 1968 regular issue stamp.



The 1971 new denomination issue of the 1968 stamp.



Of all the nations on earth, none has a flag that so truly represents its character and its heritage as does the flag of the United States. Its story is a phenomenon without parallel. From its earliest beginnings the flag was the flag of the people. Unlike the ensigns of Europe, which adhered to strict heraldic laws, the early flags of America were designed and even produced by the people of America. Using pine trees, snakes and stripes as symbols of unity, they flew over village greens and commons and flapped brazenly from the top of "liberty poles" throughout the colonies.

In 1776 the first "Stars and Stripes" was hand sewn free of official design or proclamation according to legend, by Philadelphia seamstress Betsy Ross, at the behest of George Washington. And as the young Republic grew, as territories became transformed into states, so the flag grew and was transformed in its design to become, not only the beloved symbol of our nation's increasing sovereignty, but the living reflection of America's growing heritage.

Today we celebrate the Bicentennial of our flag with this folio of America's flag in its many roles of guardian, historian, and inspiration. Here is Old Glory as it was, as it is — the freest flag of the freest nation in the world.



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