FACTS, FICTION & PHILATELY

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

&

CANADA

CHRISTOPHER L. MURPHY

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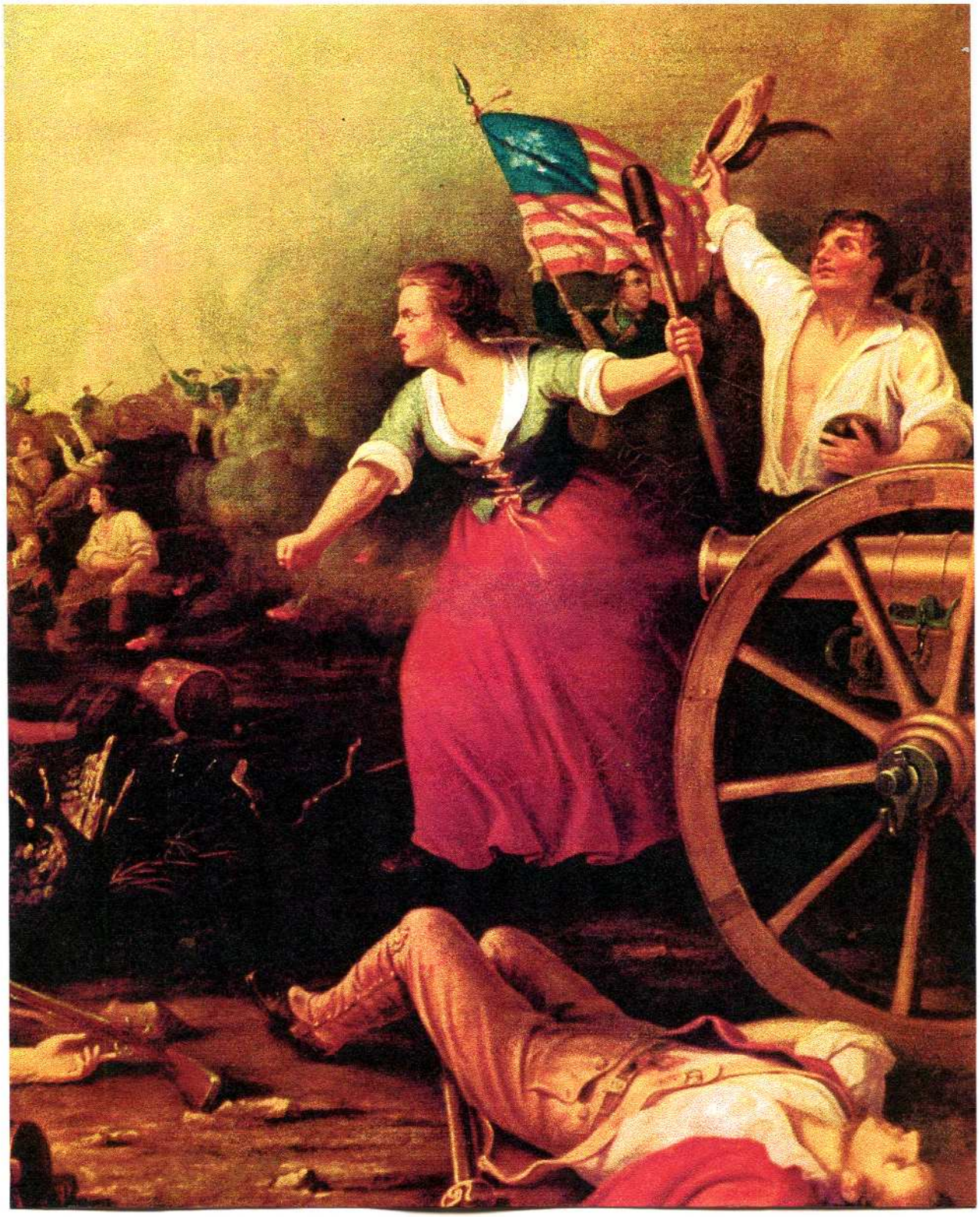
NOTATION ON THIS EBOOK (PDF)

This file was created using the original book mock-up – stamps and photographs affixed to pages with text. Scanners and photo processing software was not available during the years the book was created. Prototype books were printed and hard-bound for example purposes. Had the book gone to publication as planned, then it would have been subjected to more stringent proofing.

The series currently provided in *The Masonic Philatelist* entitled "Murphy's Stamp Rant," is from entries in this book. For this use, the entries have been re-edited and proofed. In some cases, they have been altered.

In cases where information has changed over the last 20 years or so for specific entries, notations are provided.



This remarkable painting by D. W. Carter shows the intrepid Mary Ludwig Hays *(a Molly Pitcher)* in action at the Battle of Monmouth. The painting belongs to the ***Sons of the Revolution*** and it hangs in Fraunces Tavern, New York City. The painting could be used as the basis for a *superior* U. S. postage stamp, honoring both Mary Hays and all American women who have served *(in every sense of that word)* in the time of war. (See story on page 24.)

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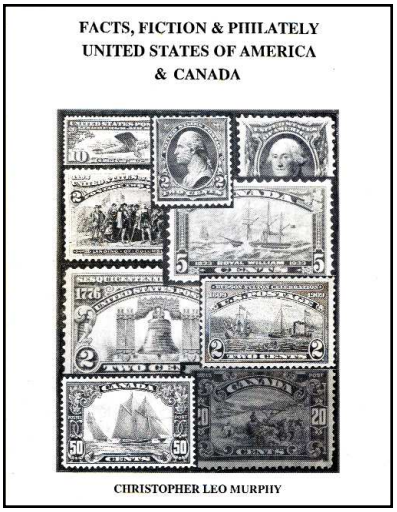
First Printing, 1991
Second Printing, Revised Edition, 2000

NOTE: This second printing had a very limited run. Several copies (prototypes) were printed in full color, and two copies in grayscale; hard-bound. The book was not marketed.

About the title page illustration... (Page iii)

The stamp shown is not an actual stamp. It is just a rendering bringing together the major symbols of the United States of America and Canada. It is intended to express the bond of friendship between these two great countries and the sincere hope that even stronger ties will develop throughout the twenty-first century.



The dust cover for the first printing. It was 145 pages, 8.5" x 11", grayscale, and hard-bound. It was marketed and is in many public libraries.

DEDICATION

To my father

Cyril Wilfrid Murphy

Always a new frontier and another river to cross

My father was an accomplished musician (banjo, guitar, ukulele) and operatic tenor. In his early years, he was with the Ilford Operatic Society, London, England, and performed all over Great Britain. He is seen here with Nellie Mead in what I believe was a Gilbert and Sullivan production. He was also a very good artist and created the illustrations in my book, *Postage Stamps & Freemasonry* (1988).

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The author acknowledges the excellent publications provided by the following organizations and individuals which were the major sources of reference in the preparation of *Facts, Fiction & Philately*

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Encyclopedia Americana
Encyclopedia Canadiana
World Book Encyclopedia
Collier's Encyclopedia
Encyclopedia Britannica
Webster's New World Encyclopedia
Glen Hansen (*The Guidebook & Catalogue of Canadian Stamps*)
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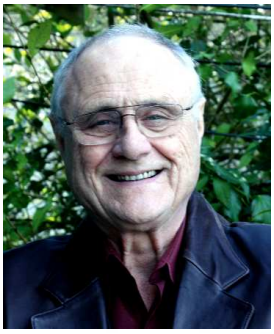
Robinson Low, (*The Encyclopaedia of British Empire Postage* Stamps)
Les Winick (Report - *Living People on U.S. Stamps*)

Acknowledgment is also extended to individual stamp collectors and others who shared their findings on stamps in published articles or on internet pages.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Christopher L. Murphy is a resident of British Columbia, Canada. He is a free-lance writer and publisher. He has been an ardent philatelist since the early 1980's and is currently the President of the Masonic Stamp Club of New York. Chris has authored several books on North American philately: *Postage Stamps & Freemasonry, United States and Canada, Guide & Compendium* (Carlton Press, N.Y., 1988); *Masonic Philately* (Masonic Service Association, Maryland, 1990); *The Masonic Specialist; United States of America and Canada,* (Pyramid Publications, B.C., 1993). A member of the Masonic Order since 1973, Chris was proclaimed a member of the *Society of Blue Friars* (Masonic authors) in 1995. This work, *Facts, Fiction and Philately, United States of America and Canada,* was originally published by Pyramid Publications (limited quantity) in 1991. Many of the entries in the original book were featured in the *Scott Stamp Monthly* magazines. The current work has been significantly revised and up-dated. In 1994, Chris Murphy retired from the British Columbia Telephone Company after over 36 years service in this company. He served in a number of management positions in the company's supply operations function, including purchasing manager and later vendor quality manager. He authored four book on business processes during his career at B.C. Tel.



Times change.

INTRODUCTION

Facts, Fiction & Philately is a collection of historical curiosities that are, or may be, associated with Canadian and American postage stamps. For the stories presented in this work, numerous dusty history books and reference works have been researched for those little gems of information that present the "other side" to generally accepted beliefs and concepts. Very often, historical information is based on what others wish us to believe rather than the truth. Indeed, in many cases the truth is the *direct opposite* to what we have been given to believe. It is only through the passage of time that the shroud of deception wears thin and mouths silenced in death "speak from their graves" in tattered letters and faded diaries. This volume of *unusual* stamp stories adds a new dimension to topical stamp collecting. The book introduces *Philatelic Curiosities* -- strange, unusual and often bizarre facts associated with postage stamps.

SCOPE: This work includes postage stamps issued by the United States of America, Hawaii, Canada and the colonies that now comprise Canada prior to confederation. A few stamps from other countries augment some of the stories.

FORMAT NOTATION: The reader is asked to note that the Scott catalogue number and issue date for the first stamp featured in a story is shown in parentheses at the end of the story. The same information on additional stamps featured within an article is included in the text. The catalogue number is preceded with an abbreviation of the name, or the full name of the country, former country or colony that originated the stamp.

C.L.M.

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