

# Linn's Stamp News

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## Stamps honoring sculptor Louise Nevelson will highlight New York spring mega-event

By Michael Baadke

Five 33¢ stamps commemorating the work of sculptor Louise Nevelson (1899-1988) will be issued April 6 by the United States Postal Service.

The first-day ceremony is scheduled for noon as part of the spring Postage Stamp Mega-Event show in New York City.

The stamp show will take place April 6-9 on Manhattan's west side at the Show Piers (Pier 92) at 54th Street and 12th Avenue.

The show is a presentation of the American Stamp Dealers Association, the American Philatelic Society and the United States Postal Service.

Admission is free to both the show and the stamp dedication and ceremony.

The five Nevelson stamps each will appear four times in a pane of 20, the standard post office selling format.

The stamps show details from larger works by Nevelson: *Silent Music I*, *Royal Tide I*, *Black Chord*, *Nightsphere-Light* and *Dawn's Wedding Chapel I*.

The sculptures are identified by name only in the margin paper along the bottom of the pane, not on the individual stamps.

Each stamp is inscribed only with the name "Louise Nevelson," "USA" and "33."

The stamps will be perforated and will use a water-activated adhesive. They will be available in post offices nationwide April 7.

Along the left margin of the pane will be a full-length photograph of Nevelson in front of a sixth sculpture, *Dawn's Wedding Feast*.

Photographer Arnold Newman, who took the picture of Nevelson in 1980, will be present at the first-day ceremony, along with Postal Service art director Ethel Kessler, who designed the pane. Both will remain after the event to chat with show visitors and sign autographs.

Maria Isak Nevelson, the artist's granddaughter, will speak at the stamp ceremony, and Anita Bizzotto, a USPS vice president, will dedicate the stamps. New York post-

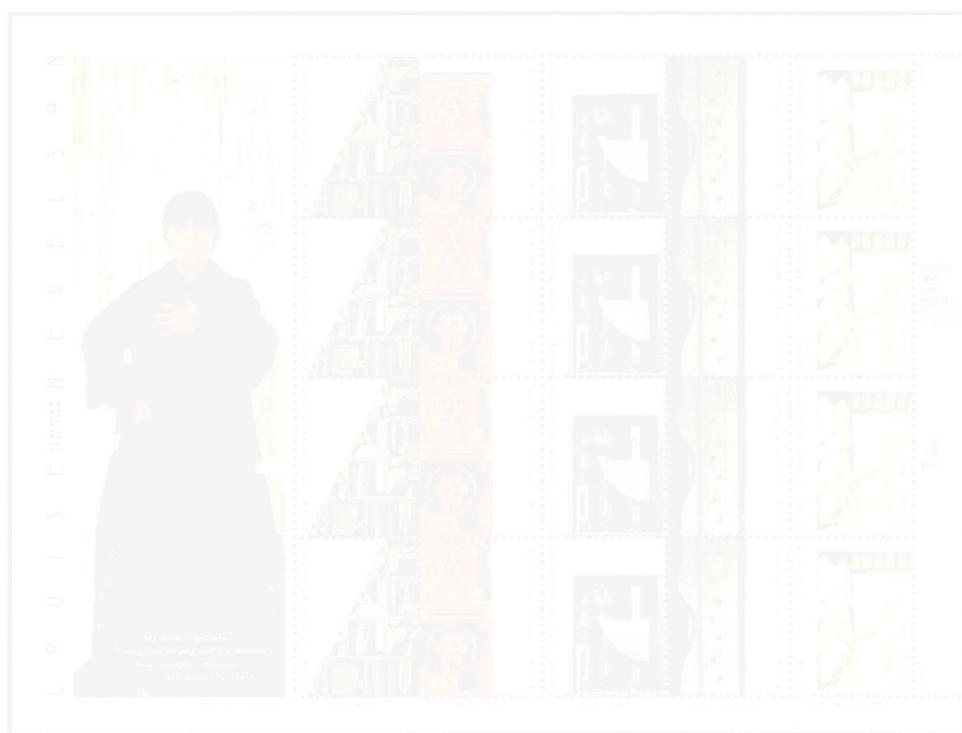
master Vinnie Malloy will host the event.

Other speakers will include Wayne Youngblood of the APS board of directors and ASDA president Jackson Taylor.

Among the guests at the ceremony will be four youngsters whose illustrations will appear on U.S. stamps to be issued in July at the World Stamp Expo 2000 show in Anaheim, Calif.

The Louise Nevelson issue is the second in two years from the United States to honor a prominent American sculptor of the 20th century. Five 32¢ stamps showing works of Alexander Calder (1898-1976) were issued March 25, 1998. The Calder pane is shown on page 2.

Although the Postal Service does not identify the Nevelson issue with any ongoing series, the agency has honored one prominent 20th-century artist every other year since 1994, when paintings by Norman Rockwell (1894-1978) were featured on one 29¢ stamp (Scott 2839) and four 50¢ stamps (2840a-d). In



Five 33¢ stamps honoring artist Louise Nevelson will be issued April 6 in New York City at the Postage Stamp Mega-Event show. Each stamp pictures a detail from one of Nevelson's wall-size wood-sculpture constructions. The five individual stamps are shown on page 2.

1996 the Postal Service issued a 32¢ stamp (3069) picturing *Red Poppy*, a painting by Georgia O'Keeffe (1887-1986). The stamp was issued in panes of 15 with a photograph of the artist in the right margin.

The format of the Nevelson pane closely resembles that of the 1998 Calder issue (3198-202), with 20 stamps of five designs and a photograph of the artist in the left margin.

The Calder and Nevelson stamps are nearly identical in size.

The Calder stamps were also issued in an uncut press sheet of 120 stamps (six panes). The Nevelson stamp will not be available in a press sheet, according to Postal Service representatives.

In its simplest terms, sculpture is three-dimensional art. It is commonly recognized in the form of statues represent-

ing human figures, but it can extend to any representation made of solid materials, including the most abstract images.

Louise Nevelson's life was driven by her unceasing devotion to art in many forms. At age 20 she began to study painting and drawing at the Art Students League in New York City, but she also showed an interest in performing arts. (Please turn to page 2)

## Kosovo issues five stamps for use on civilian mail

The United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and Post and Telecommunications of Kosovo issued five stamps March 14.

A previous announcement about the stamps appeared on the front page of the Dec. 27, 1999, issue of *Linn's*.

The five UNMIK stamps feature the theme "Peace in Kosovo."

Images of the new stamps were not available as this issue of *Linn's* went to press.

The stamps will be on sale at post offices in Kosovo for use on civilian mail.

The stamps eventually will be available from the United Nations Postal Administration's sales offices in New York; Geneva, Switzerland; and Vienna, Austria.

Jill Kearns of UNPA/New York told *Linn's* that UNPA/New York has not received any of the UNMIK Kosovo stamps yet, but it will have a limited supply available to collectors.

Kearns added that the Kos-

vo stamps are not U.N. stamps.

She said, "It's like starting a new country."

According to a source in Kosovo, for the next two months, the stamps can be used to send mail in Kosovo only, through the Post & Telecommunications of Kosovo.

However, in mid-May, international service should be available.

The source also said that the stamps are approved by the Universal Postal Union. They were printed by the French postal service, La Poste.

Also, 8 million stamps have arrived in Kosovo by French military aircraft.

The stamps are denominated in German currency. The denominations are 20 pfennigs, 30pf, 50pf, 1 deutschemark and 2dm.

Kosovo artist Shuqri Nimani won a public competition held in Kosovo to design the stamps. His designs represent aspects of the cultural and historical heritage of Kosovo.

The stamps were produced

in panes of 40. They measure 30 millimeters horizontally by 40mm vertically and are perforated.

The vertical text on the left-hand side of the pane reads "United Nations Interim Administration in Kosovo" in three languages: English, Albanian and Serbian.

On the right are the words "Peace-Paqe-Mir."

According to the Kosovo source, the first-day ceremony was held in the Grand Hotel in Pristina and was hosted by Bernard Kouchner, the special representative of the U.N. secretary-general.

The source also reported that first-day covers will be put on sale in post offices in Pristina, Ferizaj, Prizren, Djakova, Peja, Mitrovica and Gnjilane.

UNMIK has opened 80 of 130 Kosovo post offices, employing 700 staff.

Sixty vehicles donated to the Kosovo postal service by the European Agency for Reconstruction are due to arrive in late April. ■

## Canada Post seeks new method to set rates without approval

Canada Post has applied to the Canadian government to change the way that postage rates are increased in Canada.

Under the proposal, the Canadian government would no longer have to approve domestic postage rate increases.

John Caines, a spokesman for Canada Post, said that Canada Post is asking the government to amend the Canada Post Act so that the rate increase would be set at no more than two-thirds the rate of inflation.

Basically the proposal follows the same formula Canada Post already uses for rate increases, but currently each increase requires government approval.

The amendment would not

mean an automatic rate increase each year, however.

Any increase would also be based on the financial position of the Canada Post Corporation and market conditions.

Any increases under the new arrangement would take effect on Jan. 1 of a given year and only after six month's notice of the new rates has been given.

The last domestic rate in-

crease was Jan. 1, 1999, when the rate went from 45¢ to 46¢ plus 3¢ for the domestic goods and services tax.

All postal rates within Canada are subject to the 7 percent federal goods and services tax because Canada Post is a corporation and not a department of the Canadian government.

*Canadian Stamp News* reported the proposal in its issue dated Feb. 29, 2000. ■

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# First known Celebrate errors found in Illinois

By Michael Baadke

What difference does two inches make?

When it comes to placing perforations on a sheet of stamps, two inches can make the difference between normal stamps and major errors.

The first known error stamps from the United States Celebrate the Century series have been reported to *Linn's Stamp News* by New Jersey stamp dealer William S. Langs.

A vertical perforation shift of two inches on the pane of 15 stamps leaves five stamps fully imperforate, with the remaining 10 stamps punctured by crisscrossing lines of mismatched holes.

The imperforate stamps qualify as major errors, with the rest classified as production freaks.

Because of their relative

scarcity and unusual characteristics, error stamps are sought by many stamp collectors, and they often command a substantial premium value.

The affected pane is the 1910s Celebrate the Century issue, Scott 3182, which went on sale nationwide Feb. 3, 1998.

According to Langs the sheet was found about a year ago by a savvy collector in Illinois, who spotted it on display in a self-service postal store.

The stamps are still sealed in the plastic film the U.S. Postal Service uses to wrap all of its Celebrate the Century panes.

Langs bought the pane from the collector and has plans to sell it himself.

Because the Celebrate the Century stamps are printed by design at an eight-degree an-



Five imperforate Celebrate the Century error stamps are among the 15 misperforated items on a pane of stamps purchased in Illinois. The error stamps in this cropped illustration are the Jim Thorpe stamp at top left, and the four stamps at bottom.

gle from the horizontal, a straight vertical shift in the perforations knocks both the horizontal and vertical perforation holes off alignment from the stamp margins.

In this case, the shift leaves five stamps without any perforations: Jim Thorpe (Scott 3182g), First Crossword Puzzle (3182i), Jack Dempsey (3182m), Construction Toys (3182n) and Child Labor Reform (3182o).

None of the remaining stamps are perforated normally. All have horizontal and vertical perforations intersecting well within the stamp designs.

The stamps were printed and processed by Ashton Potter USA Ltd., a private security printing firm in Williamsville, N.Y.

The 15-stamp panes are printed in larger sheets of 60 stamps (four adjoining panes) that are usually cut apart during processing.

Because of this production method, it stands to reason that at some point at least another three panes existed with an identical shift in the perforations.

What isn't known is whether those panes were spotted and destroyed before

they left the Williamsville processing facility, or if they also made their way into post offices and are waiting for someone to purchase them.

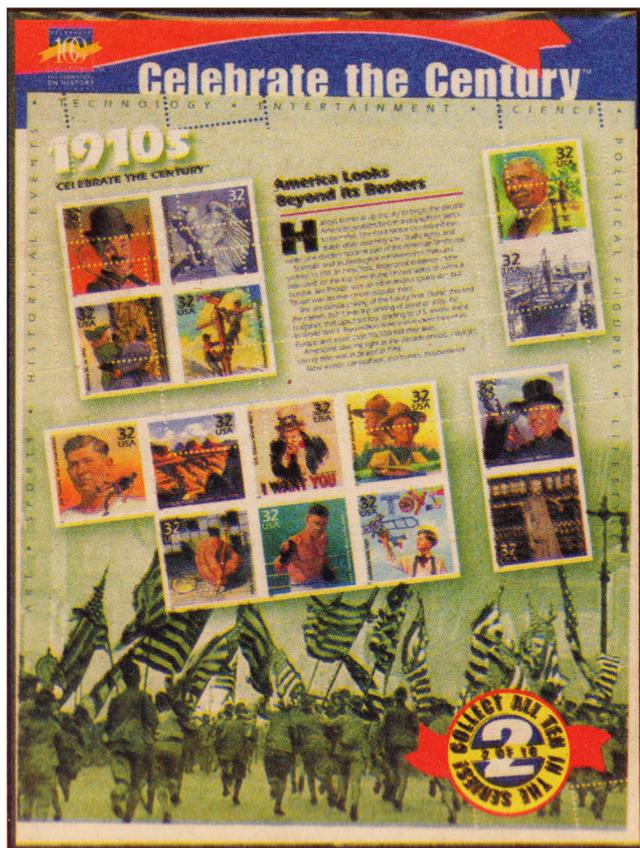
An additional possibility is that more than one 60-stamp sheet suffered the same type of perforation shift.

If the discovery pane of error stamps was purchased a year ago, though, it seems likely that others would have been reported by now if they were out in post offices around the country.

Technically the 1910s Celebrate the Century stamps are

the second set issued in the series, although they were released at the same time as the 1900s set.

A total of 10 different sets are planned for the series. Nine have been issued to date. The final set, honoring the years 1990-99, is expected May 2. ■



Pane of the 1910s Celebrate stamps still in packaging, including five error stamps and 10 misperforated freaks.