

# Synopsis page(s) for: **TWINS OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY** (1959-2000)

**Definition** – “TWIN-JOINT ISSUES” best defined as stamps that are of identical design, being issued by mutual agreement of the postal administrations of two or more nations, (recognized by the Universal Postal Union) on the same date, to honor the same person or event with the only differences being the country's name, stamp denomination and language.

**Statement of Purpose:** This exhibit will illustrate how the United States has *joined* with other nations (in the Twentieth Century) to honor a particular person, place, historical event or scientific discovery by simultaneously issuing postage stamps of similar design on the same day.

**Historical Background:** The groundbreaking for this exhibit began at the World Columbian Stamp Expo 1992 held in Rosemont, Illinois, when I purchased a complete set of souvenir sheets marking the Five Hundredth Anniversary of Italian explorer Christopher Columbus' voyages to the “new world”. The set consisted of six souvenir sheets with remakes of the 16 Columbian 1892 Expo stamps from four different countries: United States, Italy, Spain and Portugal; 24 sheets in all. With my interest triggered, research began to learn more about these *joint issues*. From there I ordered the set of album pages from Amos Publishing in Sidney, Ohio, and began to purchase stamps to fill their album pages. From there I decided that this might make for an interesting exhibit. With that in mind, I ordered as many back issues as possible from *Linn's* newspapers and books to gain more information for this exhibit.

Also, I decided to limit this exhibit by eliminating certain joint issues where the stamps honoring similar achievements where their designs did not resemble each other in any way. By contrast, I added some issues that very closely resembled each other but where their designs were extremely close but were not recognized as official joint issues (non-traditional) for whatever reason.

Such issues are:

- 1939 – Panama Canal Zone frame 1, page 1,
- 1963 – Panama Canal Zone, Alliance for Progress, frame 1, pages 9-10,
- 1965 – United Nations, frame 1, pages 11-12,
- 1975 – Romania, frame 1, page 16,
- 1976 – Great Britain, frame 2, page 3,
- 1988 – New Zealand, frame 3 page 6,
- 1989 – Soviet Union, frame 3, page 9-10.
- 2000 – Canada, frame 5, page 16.

**Treatment:** This exhibit begins with the first joint issue issued in 1959 and concludes with a *non-traditional* issue from the year 2000. Each “twin” issue is illustrated with the joint issued stamps along with a corresponding first day cover franked by both issues. In some cases, additional material was included to illustrate a specific point.

**Knowledge, Study and Research:** Research and development for this exhibit began in February of 1995. Resources of information used for this exhibit were, for the most part, taken from previously issued *Linn's* newspapers and other publications. The idea for narrowing it down to include only “twin” issues for this exhibit came from an article in *The American Philatelist*. (I cannot recall its title or date of publication.)

**Rarity and Condition:** For the most part, “rarity and condition” was not much of a problem since all material was taken from the last half of the Twentieth Century. Even still, there are several items that deserve some special recognition:

**Rarities:**

- |                   |                                                                                                                                                    |
|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Frame 1 – Page 01 | Unofficial first day cover, dual cancelled with Canada.                                                                                            |
| Frame 1 – Page 04 | Canadian postcard to Halfa, Israel.                                                                                                                |
| Frame 1 – Page 07 | Seldom-seen first day cover with Mexico.                                                                                                           |
| Frame 3 – Page 01 | Scarce (27/40) hand-painted “Face of Freedom and Liberty” cachet.                                                                                  |
| Frame 4 – Page 08 | Large machine-printed first day cover with Italy. One of only 30 covers with both cancellations applied in Rome, Italy, and cancelled in blue ink. |

**Oddities:**

- |                   |                                                                                                                              |
|-------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Frame 2 – Page 02 | United States stamp with light blue printing omitted.                                                                        |
| Frame 2 – Page 06 | United States imperforate pair with color ladder on left side of selvage.                                                    |
| Frame 2 – Page 11 | United States strip of four with black printing omitted on first and last stamp.                                             |
| Frame 3 – Page 14 | United States block-of-four with sea creature names “USA” and stamp denominations omitted and color ladder in upper selvage. |

**Presentation:** All key items are framed in a **red box** and side-notes pertaining to these issues are printed **in blue type**.

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## (1959-2000)

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These stamps from our first joint issue in 1959 with Canada clearly illustrate the criteria required for a "twin-joint issue".

**Statement of Purpose** - This exhibit will illustrate the twin-joint issues of the Twentieth Century, plus a few "almost twins" that were discovered along the way. In addition to the stamps, this exhibit will also contain postal cards, first day covers, maximum cards, commemorative coins and aerograms franked by these twin-joint issues. The items on the final page, while not "twins", provide an enlightening conclusion to this exhibit.

**Presentation** - Philatelic side-notes pertaining to these issues are **printed in blue** and all key items are framed in a **red box**.

### POSSIBLE FORERUNNERS?

These three 1939 issues featuring the *USS Charleston* navigating through the Gaillard Locks mark the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of joining the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans to form the Panama Canal.

Perhaps these issues opened the way for future joint issues of the United States with other nations.

#### United States



President Theodore Roosevelt  
and George W. Goethals.

#### Panama Canal Zone



BEFORE



AFTER