

THE JAPOS BULLETIN

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AUTHORS, AND POETS ON STAMPS

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CONGRATULATIONS TO JAPOS MEMBERS:

CYNTHIA SCOTT—whose article on James Baldwin was voted the best JAPOS BULLETIN article of 2022.

Her article should be appearing on the APS website at www.stamps.org/Articles-of-Distinction.

ROB MCGUINNESS—who won the prize for solving the JAPOS QUIZ that appeared on our website. Rob's answers—Gaston Leroux (who wrote the novel *The Phantom of the Opera*) and Rouletabille (Leroux's fictional detective) won him the prize. Check out my article from which the quiz was taken, now on our website: authorsonstamps.org.

MICHAEL HENNESSEY—whose edited volume *Little Poems*, a 256-page collection of brief poems—defined as fourteen lines or fewer—was

published in March 2023. Michael, who received his PhD from Marquette University, has taught English literature at Texas State University and Loyola in Chicago.

Additionally, we must mention that **CYNTHIA SCOTT's** long article "Sam Clemens and Bret Harte in the West," which appeared in ATA's *Topical Time* for Nov.-Dec. 2022, is a tour de force.



*Guest writer **WILLIAM SILVESTER** is a retired printer and active freelance author. He has been collecting stamps for most of his life with varying degrees of intensity. His main topic is Disneyana on Stamps for which he has established the Disneyana on Stamps Society—an ATA Study Unit. Besides Tolkien on Stamps, Bill writes the "New World Issues" column for *The American Philatelist*. He presently resides in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. He can be reached at wgsil60@gmail.com for Disney or Tolkien related questions.

The Camera Sees More in *Twelfth Night*

Cynthia Scott

My favorite play by William Shakespeare is *Twelfth Night, or What You Will*. I liked simply reading it last spring for a literature course but then I discovered the 1996 film *Twelfth Night* directed by Trevor Nunn. I began searching for philatelic material that would represent the scenes in the screenplay. For those of you not familiar with the basic plot and characters of Shakespeare's original, Wikipedia provides a succinct summary:

Twelfth Night, or What You Will is a romantic comedy by William Shakespeare, believed to have been written around 1601–1602 as a *Twelfth Night's* entertainment for the close of the Christmas season. The play centers on the twins Viola and Sebastian, who are separated in a shipwreck. Viola (who is disguised as Cesario) falls in love with Duke Orsino, who in turn is in love with Countess Olivia. Upon meeting Viola, Countess Olivia falls in love with her thinking she is a man.

In addition to this convoluted plot, there are comedic subplots involving Olivia's uncle Sir Toby Belch, her jester Feste, her lady's maid Maria, and the steward Malvolio.

Twelfth Night the movie is a realistic full color production enhanced by orchestral music, scenic outdoor settings, and special effects. The film begins with a severe storm about to crush an 1850s sailing/steam



The ship in the movie might have been like the 1840 Royal Mail Ship Britannia on this 2013 UK stamp

ship against rocks off the coast of Illyria (on Balkan peninsula). Just before the ship crashes, oblivious wealthy passengers laugh and applaud the singing of two performers dressed as exotic harem women who in comedic fashion reveal that one is a man, the twin of his sister. Shakespeare liked stories of twins and, in *Twelfth Night, or What You Will* used them to link with two other favorite themes—false and/or mistaken identities and confused pursuits of love.



A stamp from San Marino depicting the Gemini constellation, twins

The film producers shot scenes in at least two English locations. Duke Orsino—Olivia's persistent suitor, for example, lives on a hill above a town on the shores of what is really a Cornwall outer island named St Michael's Mount and Causeway ("Karrek Loos yn Koos" in Cornish). The impression is that of a spare severe environment with little greenery to soften a stereotypical military fortress.



During the United Kingdom postal workers strike of 1971, Outer Island agents at St Michael's Mount produced this local stamp

Orsino's domain is across a shallow sea from the estate where Olivia lives. The lush green grounds of Olivia's estate feature landscaping in classical Italian

style with shaped hedges, formal paths, and wide expanses of groomed lawn.



A formal garden like the one at Olivia's estate can be found at Cornwall's Castle Cornet depicted on this 2017 Guernsey stamp

Based on the costumes and the ship, this version of *Twelfth Night* might take place in the mid-19th century, a time when Shakespeare's words do not yet sound too out of date. The dresses and aprons worn by kitchen staff, the coats and vests of Sir Toby, Sir Andrew, and Malvolio suggest this period, as well as

the gowns worn by Olivia and uniforms of the men.

Orsini's staff and soldiers wear long black trousers. The conservative style of their black uniform jackets features small stiff collars with rank distinguished only by brass buttons and/or subdued stripes on sleeves. With everyone dressed in black, the movie director keeps focus on the characters' faces.



Still from the last scene of the Twelfth Night movie

The head gear worn by Sebastian and Viola (as Cesario) are garrison caps with visors, which are different from the cylindrical flat-topped shakos worn by others in Orsini's employ. This helps the viewer identify Cesario/Viola when he/she is marching or riding a horse alongside others in a squad across a distant landscape. Practically speaking, garrison caps when not in use are easy to flatten and insert in the wearer's belt, removing otherwise awkward issues of what to do with the hat while filming indoors.



A simple military uniform appears on this 1985 Australian stamp honoring the Royal Victorian Volunteer Artillery



This style of military hat is called a "shako," worn by the 53rd Foot soldiers in 1815. This St. Helena stamp, one of four in a se-tenant issued in 1973, features two hats and two swords or scenes



At left, Viola's (aka Cesario) garrison cap worn by actress Imogen Stubbs

Viewing this film made me appreciate the open-source nature of Shakespeare's work. By "open-source" I mean a quality found in software apps made freely available to any user who wants a basic algorithm but plans to add his own coding ideas for his own purposes. By not specifying the details of every stage set, costume style, blocking arrangement, or how players should recite their lines, Shakespeare's work invites creativity on the part of modern directors and producers. In *Twelfth Night*, Trevor Nunn picked his own settings, changed the order of scenes, omitted lines, added music, employed cinematographic special effects, used flashbacks, and expanded character profiles (especially Sebastian's friend Antonio) to enhance the story quality of the play. All those creative options increased my appreciation and understanding of the original version. I invite you to watch this film too. And to let me know if you find other stamps illustrating what I have tried to share here.

J. R. R. Tolkien on Stamps

William Silvester

Few stamps have been issued dealing with the life of J. R. R. Tolkien (pronounced Tol-keen) himself. John Ronald Reuel Tolkien was born in Bloemfontein, Orange Free State (now a province of South Africa), on January 3, 1892. His parents were Mabel, née Suf-field and Arthur Reuel Tolkien, a bank manager from England recently promoted to head the Bloemfontein branch of the bank he worked for. A younger brother to the boy the family called Ronald, was born in 1894, and named Hilary Arthur Reuel Tolkien.

The hot weather of southern Africa was not good for Ronald's health and in November 1894, Mabel took her children on an extended vacation to England. Arthur stayed behind to attend to his bank's business and died there in 1896 of rheumatic fever. Without an income, Mabel moved with her boys to Kings Heath in Birmingham to live with her parents. In time they moved about the area, living in a number of villages and towns from where Ronald explored the countryside and gained inspiration for places in his future writings. Mabel home schooled her boys and Ronald developed a particular fondness for botany and languages. Ronald could read and write at an early age and in time attended King Edward's School in Birmingham.

Mabel lost all financial assistance from her family when she converted to Roman Catholicism in 1900. Four years later she died from diabetes at the age of 34. Her boys came under the assigned guardianship of Mabel's close friend Father Francis Xavier Morgan. John Ronald was 12 and now grew up in the Edgbaston area of Birmingham and continued to attend King Edward's School where he developed an interest in constructed language while studying Anglo-Saxon and Latin. One of the earliest examples of his invented languages was a sixteen-page notebook from 1910 called "The Book of the Foxrook".

A year later he formed the Tea Club and Barrovian Society (TCBS) with three of his friends Rob Gilson, Geoffrey Bache Smith, and Christopher Wiseman. That summer he went on a holiday in Switzerland and his experiences in that journey with twelve others later found their way into Bilbo's description of his adventures in the Misty Mountains.

Returning to England, Tolkien commenced his studies in Exeter College, Oxford, with classical stud-

ies later changing to English language and literature, graduating with first-class honors in 1915.

On his 21st birthday he proposed to his long-time sweetheart, Edith Bratt, a Protestant girl he had met when he was 16 and whom Father Morgan had forbidden him to have any contact with. She was engaged to another, but he managed to convince her that he was the one and she broke her engagement and married John Ronald at St. Mary Immaculate Roman Catholic Church, Warwick, on March 22, 1916, despite his having "no job, little money, and no prospects except the likelihood of being killed in the Great War."

Edith bore their first child, John Francis Reuel Tolkien on November 17, 1917, followed by Michael Hilary Reuel Tolkien on October 22, 1920, Christopher John Reuel Tolkien on November 21, 1924, and Priscilla Mary Anne Reuel Tolkien on June 18, 1929. Devoted to his children, Tolkien often sent them letters that he had illustrated himself ostensibly from Father Christmas.

After his WW1 experience, Tolkien obtained a position with the Oxford English Dictionary which led to a post as English language reader at the University of Leeds. Here he collaborated with E.V. Gordon on a definitive edition of *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* which was published by Clarendon Press in April 1925. The same year he returned to Oxford as Rawlinson and Bosworth Professor of Anglo-Saxon, with a fellowship at Pembroke College. In May, 1926, he met C.S. Lewis and they became friends.

Beowulf: A Translation and Commentary was translated by J. R. R. Tolkien between 1920 and 1926; it was edited by Tolkien's son Christopher and published posthumously in May 2014 by HarperCollins.



The Beowulf Dragon (Jersey Sc# 1816)

In the spring of 1930, Tolkien composed a large part of *The Fall of Arthur* and probably began work on *The Hobbit* one day early in the summer. Legend has it that while he was marking School Certificate papers, he came across a blank page. Inspired, he wrote the words, "In a hole in the ground there lived a hobbit." He finished the story in late 1932 and passed the manuscript to several friends, including C. S. Lewis, author of *The Chronicles of Narnia*, and Elaine Griffiths, a student of Tolkien's. From Griffiths, the manuscript went to Susan Dagnall, who worked for the publisher George Allen & Unwin. While awaiting publication of *The Hobbit*, Tolkien delivered lectures on 'Beowulf the Monsters and the Critics' to the British Academy in London and saw the work published in July 1937 shortly before *The Hobbit* hit the presses.



Bilbo Baggins and the Smaug (Great Britain Sc# 1820)

Wanting to build on the popularity of *The Hobbit*, his publishers persuaded Tolkien to begin work on a sequel. In response he sent them several stories he had previously written along with a draft of *The Silmarillion*. With the exception of *Farmer Giles of Ham*, his publishers were not interested, they wanted more Hobbits. Tolkien started the sequel in December 1937 and in time it developed into *The Lord of the Rings*. Future editions of *The Hobbit* had to be revised to correspond with the events in *The Lord of the Rings*. For example, in the original version, the ring simply made its wearer invisible, only taking on sinister powers in the subsequent books.

In the Autumn of 1940, Tolkien rewrote many sections of *The Fellowship of the Ring* before taking the characters beyond Balin's tomb in Moria. Late in 1941, Tolkien began work on the early chapters of *The Two Towers*.

As WW2 drew to a close, Tolkien moved to Merton College, Oxford, where he became the Merton Pro-

fessor of English Language and Literature. Due to his fulltime position at Merton College, writing of *The Lord of the Rings* was slow, abandoned during most of 1943 and part of 1944 due to his university duties, work as an air-raid warden plus other distractions and not getting a major effort until 1946. Early drafts were sent to his son, Christopher, serving in the Royal Air Force in South Africa. From February to October, Tolkien typed and edited *The Lord of the Rings* and sent the final draft, with revisions, to his publishers in 1949. In April 1952, after a great deal of stalling, Collins, the publishers, declined to publish *The Lord of the Rings* due to its length and the rising cost of paper. In November, Allen & Unwin confirmed that they would like to publish *The Lord of the Rings* on a profit-sharing basis.



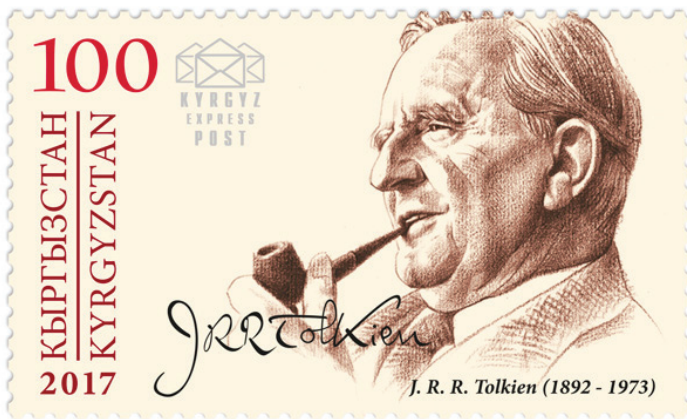
Sir Gawain and the Green Knight (Great Britain Sc# 4496)

In the early spring of 1953, his translation of *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* was completed and the Tolkien family moved to Sandfield Road in Oxford.

Though conceived as a single volume, *The Lord of the Rings* was to be published in three parts and the subtitles *The Fellowship of the Ring*, *The Two Towers*, and *The Return of the King* were chosen for individual volumes in August 1953; in July of the next year *The Fellowship of the Ring* was finally published, followed in November by *The Two Towers*, and in October 1955 of *The Return of the King*.

Tolkien did not receive any royalties until the books had broken even in sales. Thereafter, he received a large share of the profits. In time, he would become one of the bestselling authors of all time with over 600 million copies of all of his works sold by 2021.

Tolkien retired in 1959 amidst increasing literary fame and public attention. He did not enjoy being a



J. R. R. Tolkien (Kyrgyz Express Post Sc# 76)

cult-figure and he and Edith eventually moved to the seaside resort of Bournemouth to escape. Though he worked on a number of pieces over the ensuing years, it was not until 1962 that *The Adventures of Tom Bombadil* was published. Edith passed away on November 29, 1971, and Tolkien returned to Oxford where Merton College gave him rooms nearby. In 1972, he was awarded Commander of the Order of the British Empire and Oxford gave him an honorary Doctorate of Letters. He died on September 2, 1973, and was buried in the same grave as Edith at Wolvercote Cemetery, Oxford.

The 50th anniversary of the publication of the first volume of *The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the*

Ring was commemorated by Royal Mail with a block of ten se-tenant stamps on February 26, 2004. The stamps feature a series of paintings and sketches created by J. R. R. Tolkien while he was writing *The Lord of the Rings*. Many of the images are cropped from the original drawings. Only one, the Map of Middle Earth, was drawn by his son, Christopher Tolkien. Tolkien's original artwork gave many people the first opportunity to view scenes from *The Lord of the Rings* as Tolkien imagined them himself.

If reading this article has awakened an interest in beginning or continuing to collect Tolkien on stamps, you should know that several Tolkien on stamps collectors have formed the Tolkien Philatelic Society. (On January 26, 2023, TPS officially became a Study Unit of the American Topical Association.) Membership is free. TPS is solely online with a website which anyone can access and a newsletter, *Middle-earth Musings*, a comprehensive checklist, and in time a Collector's Handbook. In addition to the stamps shown above, *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings* films postage stamps issued by New Zealand Post, Isle of Man, Portugal, and others will also be included. In the hope that you are interested in joining the Tolkien Philatelic Society, please contact the author of this article at wgsil60@gmail.com.

[Note: This article was edited for length - C.D.]



The Lord of the Rings 50th anniversary stamps (Great Britain Sc# 2183–2192)

Beethoven's Symphonic Political Notes

William D. Pederson

Historians, like the French themselves, tend to be divided over the legacy of Napoleon Bonaparte (1769–1821). Ironically, it may be German-born Ludwig van Beethoven (1770–1827) who provided the keenest evaluation of Napoleon, based on his shift in perspective about the conquering hero. Beethoven initially supported Napoleon based on the ideals embodied in the French Revolution (1789–1799), the first major democratic revolution of modern times. The youthful composer so admired Napoleon and the ideals Napoleon represented that he dedicated his new opus, Symphony No. 3, the Eroica Symphony, to Napoleon. But the dedication was dropped after Napoleon crowned himself emperor in 1804. Beethoven realized that Napoleon had abandoned democratic ideals and devolved into a dictator. Napoleon's installation of himself as emperor was only one manifestation of

how power corrupted his earlier ideals. He continued his military campaigns disregarding the countless lives lost and he is the only European head of state that reinstated slavery in the New World.

Beethoven's music seems to confirm the validity of Susanne K. Langer's *Philosophy in a New Key* (1942) thesis that the non-discursive symbolism of art (e.g., music, dance, painting, etc.) is of equal merit to discursive symbolism found in language and science. Beethoven, of course, was not a philosopher but his insight into Napoleon's transformation into an autocratic leader was perceptive if not prescient.

Still revered today, Beethoven was memorialized in 2020, the two hundred fiftieth anniversary of his birthday, with postage stamps issued by approximately a quarter of the world's nations. Stamps were issued by nations in Latin America, Africa, Asia, and Oceania. European nations released the largest number of Beethoven stamps. Among them, his native Germany was the only country to issue a philatelic trifecta: a stamp, a souvenir sheet, and a booklet.



250th anniversary of Beethoven's birth, 2020 (Germany Sc# 3145)

Though he was born in Bonn, Beethoven spent his final thirty-five years in Austria as an outsider, composing primarily for the emerging middle class rather than for the nobility and the clergy during an era when the forerunners of modern concert halls began to emerge.



*Portrait of Beethoven, 2020
(Austria Sc# 94)*

France saluted Beethoven’s legacy on the two hundred fiftieth anniversary of his birth with a stamp and a souvenir sheet.

In the end, perhaps the triumph of Beethoven’s continued democratic ideals over Napoleon’s abandoned ones was best symbolized when the European Union selected his Ninth Symphony (1825) as its anthem. Journalists and authors, especially poets,

may particularly appreciate Beethoven’s incorporation of Friedrich Schiller’s poem, the “Ode to Joy” (1785), in the last movement of the Ninth Symphony. The genius that enabled him to celebrate democratic values through his compositions prevailed over self-aggrandizing politics, economics, and military values, as well as his own loss of hearing. Decades before psychologist Abraham Maslow identified the concept, Beethoven self-actualized through composing.

Two score and three after Beethoven died, Abraham Lincoln was elected President of the United States and became the touchstone of democratic political leadership in world history. He demonstrated his commitment to democratic ideals by holding the 1864 presidential election during the United States Civil War despite his full awareness that he might lose. He won and when he was sworn in, Lincoln enunciated a one-of-a-kind modern inaugural address that emphasized a conciliatory “with malice toward none” approach to healing the torn nation. Similarly in the world history of music, Beethoven advocated democratic values by using his gift of composition to communicate those values and instill hope through the international language of music. Lincoln defies neat labels because he was both conservative and liberal. Beethoven likewise was complex, embracing and projecting his democratic values without being a political extremist. His enduring music is a reminder to audiences today that Beethoven not only was a giant among composers but also a democratic pioneer.



Souvenir sheet, 2022 (France Sc# 5929)