

THE JAPOS BULLETIN

THE NEWSLETTER OF JOURNALISTS,
AUTHORS, AND POETS ON STAMPS

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CONTENTS

JAPOS News / Clete Delvaux
Jules Verne's 80-Day Adventure / Clete Delvaux
Gandhi: The Writer / William D. Pederson
Rachel Carson: Did Her Books Change the World? / Rene Mares & Clete Delvaux

JAPOS News

Clete Delvaux

My thanks to JAPOS Secretary/Treasurer CHRISTOPHER COOK for stepping so seamlessly into the shoes of Jeff Dugdale in setting up the BULLETIN for emailing and printing. I'm sure all JAPOS members would agree the spring issue was up to standards in its colorful, interesting reading! And like Dugdale, Chris even contributed a short, interesting article on Ukrainian author Lesya Ukrainka including six stamp images!

Congratulations to JAPOS member JAMES BYRNE, whose article "The Dumas Family on the Stamps of Haiti" was voted the best JAPOS article of 2021! James' article has been submitted to the American Philatelic Society's annual best article competition and now appears on the APS website. Members will be able to check out James' article at www.stamps.org/collect/clubs/articles-of-distinction.

Sec./Treas. Christopher Cook, who proctored the vote, informs me that very few JAPOS members participated in the vote. WHY? Perhaps, most members

don't hold on to the past year's four issues so they can't review them to vote for the best article. Your editor has a sneaking suspicion that many members may not bother reading the front page of the BULLETIN? And yet we are told that the main reason for a newsletter is to foster communication among members.

This communication worked well in the spring issue of the BULLETIN, where I asked if any member had experience with setting up a website and whether it was worth the time and expense. JAPOS member CYNTHIA SCOTT emailed me that she could help set up a JAPOS website, but her caveat that she had had to take down a website because of problems keeping it updated convinced me to delay setting up a JAPOS website for now.



Sc# UN 1227. See page 6.

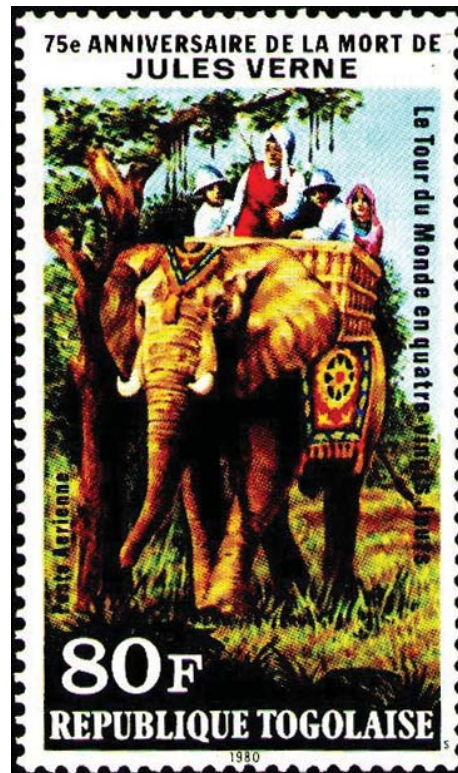
Jules Verne's 80-Day Adventure

Clete Delvaux

On Sunday, January 2, 2022, my wife and I watched the first episode of Jules Verne's *Around the World in 80 Days* on PBS. The new end-of-2021 film promised to be a spectacular epic production.

I had already been primed for this 150th anniversary of the publication of Verne's classic by my *The Timetables of History*. I use this source as a reference to literary anniversaries to research articles for The JAPOS BULLETIN. In this case, *Timetables* said that 2022 marks the 150th anniversary of the publication of *Around the World in 80 Days* in serial form in 1872. It was published in book form in 1873.

The story starts at London's Reform Club, where the well-to-do gentlemen are reacting to a newspaper article that claims that with the finish of a central section of a railroad from Bombay to Calcutta, India, it would now be possible to travel around the world. One of the gentlemen, a Phileas Fogg, bets \$20,000 that he can do it in eighty days. The bet is taken up by a scoffer, and Fogg and his new valet, Passepartout, begin their first day of the journey. In a subplot, they are tailed by private detective Fix, who mistakenly believes Fogg is a bank robber. (In the TV version Mr.



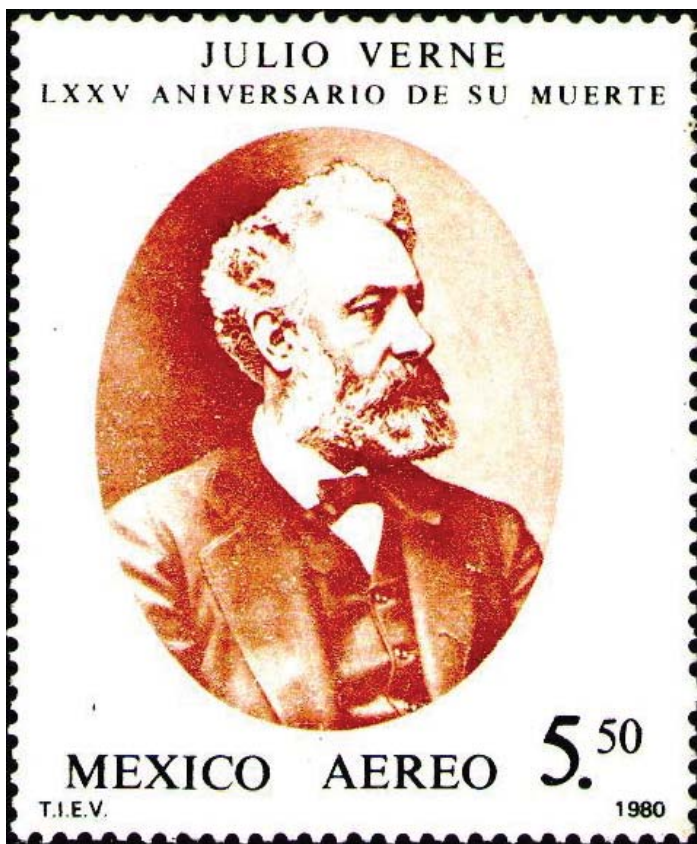
Togo, 1980

Fix is changed to Miss Fix, a newspaper reporter. Ah, yes, movie makers will often change many things from the book.)

(According to Wikipedia, the inspiration for "Phileas Fogg" was an American adventurer and author William Perry Fogg. In 1868, this Fogg began what he became most famous for: his travels around the world, during which he became one of the few Americans to travel through the interior of Japan.)

Fogg and Passepartout, trailed by Detective Fix, cross three continents and two oceans. Wikipedia shows a map of their world route and an itinerary of their means of transportation. Delays and death-defying exploits abound. Wikipedia's means of transportation is limited to trains and steamers. Yet, when they proceed to cross India from Bombay to Calcutta by rail, they find that, contrary to London newspaper reports, the railroad's central section is not complete. Therefore, they must hire a howdah and his elephant to travel the gap in the railroad. This part of their journey is shown on an 80F airmail stamp issued by Togo (Sc# C423) to commemorate the seventy-fifth anniversary of the death of Jules Verne in 1980.

If you look carefully at the stamp, you will see three riders besides the elephant driver. The third character is Aouda, a female that Fogg and Passepartout earlier rescued from a fiery death. She was the victim of an old Hindu practice in which a widow is sacrificed by



Mexico, 1980

sitting atop her deceased husband's funeral pyre.

Together the trio have numerous exciting adventures which come to an abrupt end when Fogg, back in England, is arrested by Detective Fix. Although Fogg is quickly exonerated of the crime, the delay caused by his false charges appears to have cost Fogg to lose his \$20,000 wager. However, Passepartout discovers that Fogg has miscalculated their travel time. Fogg did not take into consideration that because they had crossed the Pacific Ocean from west to east, they gained a day when they crossed the International Date Line. They had not missed the deadline after all. The trio hurry off to the Reform Club just in time for Fogg to win his bet. Fogg splits his profits with Passepartout and Fix and marries Aouda.

Jules Verne (1828–1905) was a French novelist, poet, and playwright. He collaborated with the publisher Pierre Jules Hetzel to create *Voyages extraordinaires*, a series of best-selling adventure novels, including *Journey to the Center of the Earth* (1864), *Twenty Thousand Leagues under the Seas* (1870), and others. According to Wikipedia, Verne “has been the second most translated author in the world since 1979, ranking between Agatha Christie and William Shakespeare.” “In the 2010s, Verne was the most translated author in the world.”

Elizabeth Cochran Seaman (1864–1922), better known as Nellie Bly, was an American journalist. In 1888, Bly suggested to her editor at the *New York World* that she take a trip around the world, attempting to turn Verne's *Around the World in Eighty Days* into fact for the first time. Just over 72 days after her departure from Hoboken, NJ, Bly was back in New York. Her book, *Around the World in 72 Days* became a best seller.

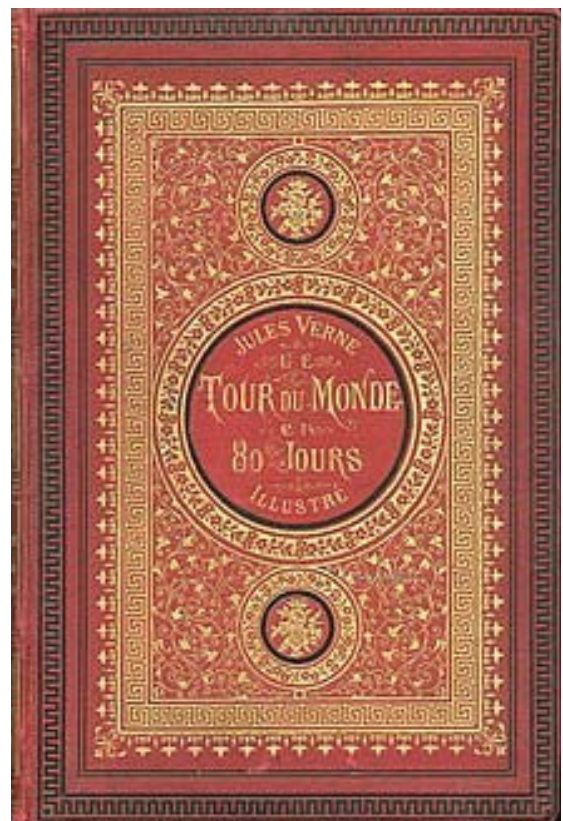


Monaco, 1955

Bly was one of four woman journalists honored with a U.S. postage stamp in a 2002 “Women in Journalism” USPS set. The other three female journalists to appear on the 37-cent issues were Ida M. Tarbell, Ethyl L. Payne, and Marguerite Higgins. These three sound interesting? Is any JAPOS member willing to research and write an article on any one of these journalists?



United States, 2002



Gandhi: The Writer

William D. Pederson

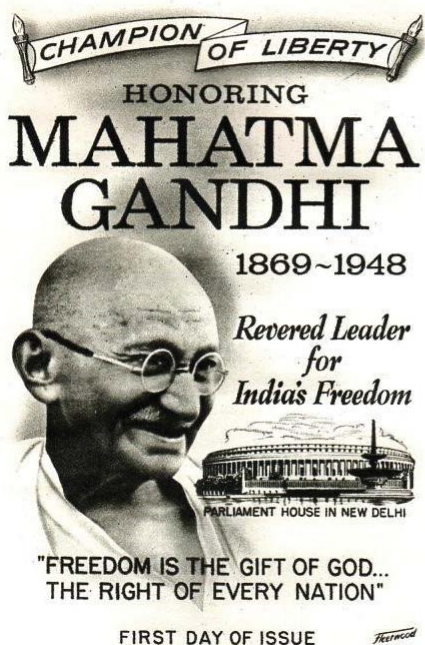
Educated in England as a lawyer, Mahatma Gandhi (1869-1948) initially became known as a journalist and newspaper editor in South Africa rather than as a lawyer. His two best-known works are *Hind Swaraj or Indian Home Rule*, a short booklet published in 1910, and *An Autobiography: My Experiments with Truth* (1948). He was a prolific author as evidenced by the more than 100 volumes of *The Collected Works of Mahatma Gandhi*.

Many lawyers build their professional careers in law or politics, or a combination of both, like Abraham Lincoln, who influenced Gandhi. Gandhi's enduring legacy is the moral philosophy of non-violence that he pioneered and which led to India's independence from British colonialism in 1947, two years before the Chinese revolution ended. Gandhi's commitment to political activism baffled fellow former journalist Winston Churchill, who was defeated in the 1945 prime minister election, in part because of his attitude about colonialism. The election was the first postwar prime minister after Churchill had successfully guided Britain to victory over Nazi Germany. Churchill remained a staunch proponent of the British colonial empire *status quo* at a juncture when Indians as well as most of the British colonials desired self-fulfillment instead.

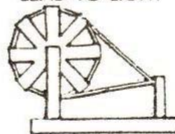
The longer-term success of Gandhi's philosophy is reflected in philately. During the three-year commemoration of the sesquicentennial of his birth nearly half the world's nations honored Gandhi with stamps, souvenir sheets and first day covers. In keeping with its mission as international peacekeeper/promoter, the United Nations, chartered shortly before Gandhi's death, recognized him as a moral leader. Advocacy for social change as modeled by Gandhi, the champion of non-violence who was influenced by the Great Emancipator Lincoln, in turn, influenced strategies of late 20th-century activists Martin Luther King, Jr., and Nelson Mandela, both modern day champions of democratic government. A half-dozen philatelic examples memorialize Gandhi's non-violent philosophy.

Gandhi in the United States

A former British colony in its infancy, the United States' first Gandhi stamp in 1961, "Champion of Liberty," was issued during the U.S. Civil Rights movement led by Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr. King, a student of Gandhi's non-violence philosophy, had visited India in 1959. Although Winston Churchill worked closely with Franklin D. Roosevelt during the World War II American/British alliance against the Nazi regime, Roosevelt did not share Churchill's positive view of British colonialism.



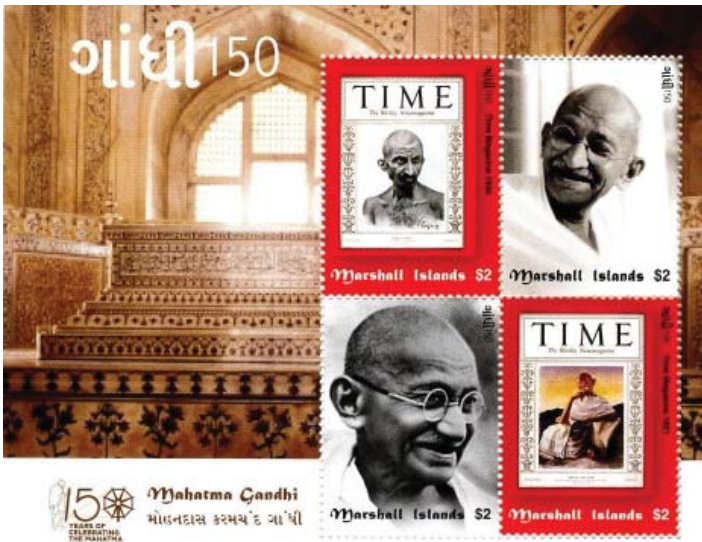
"FROM DARKNESS
LEAD TO LIGHT"



Sc# United States 1174

Gandhi in the Pacific

One of the most original Gandhi souvenir sheets appeared in 2018. Issued by the Republic of the Marshall Islands (near the Philippines), it showed the 1930 and 1931 *Time* magazine covers featuring Gandhi. In 1986 the Republic of the Marshall Islands finally emerged as a parliamentary democracy after successive colonial rulers across centuries: Spanish colonialism in the early 16th century, German colonialism in 1885, and Japanese colonialism 1914-1944 followed by a U.N. trusteeship under the United States from 1946-1958.

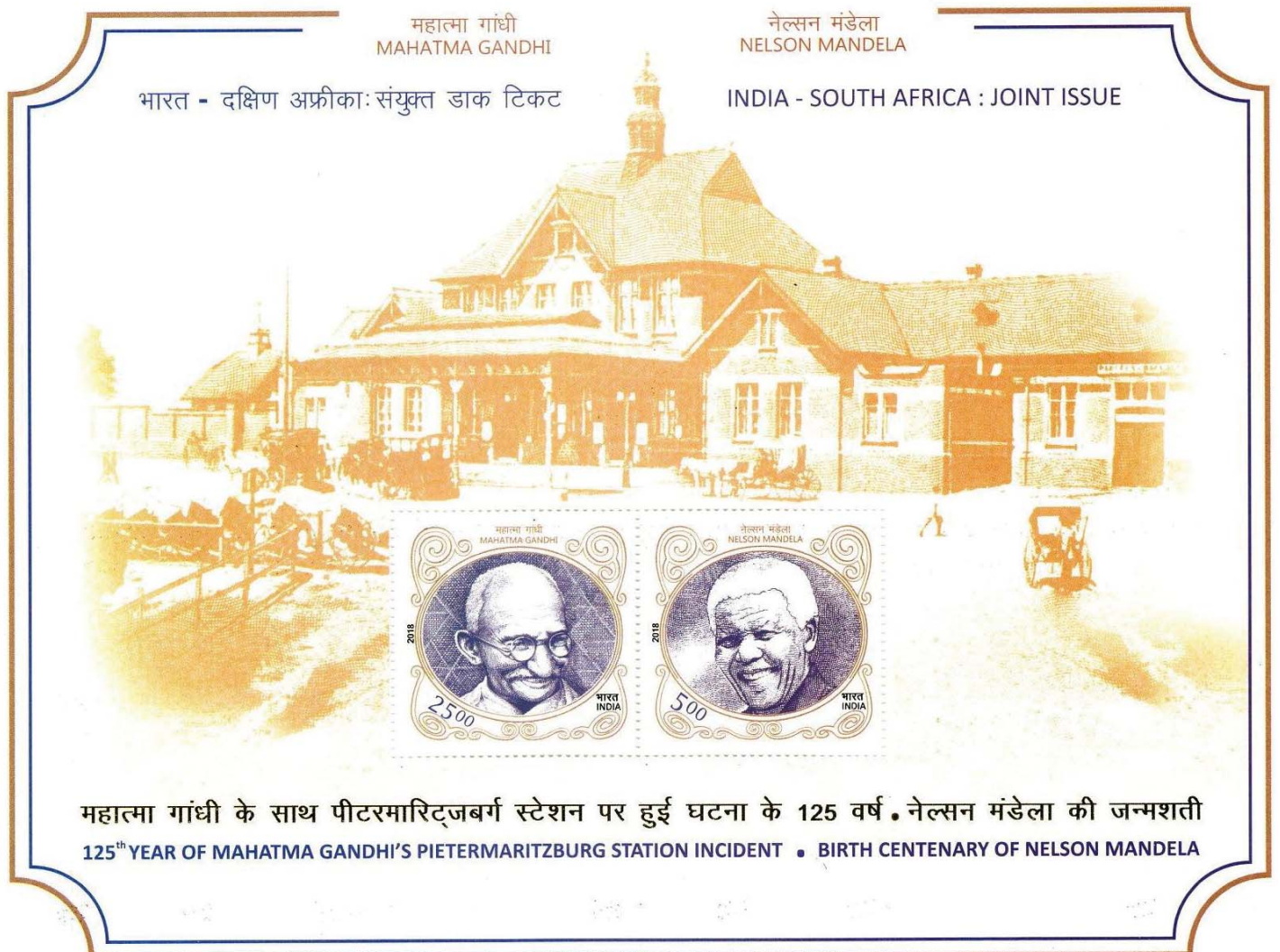


Republic of the Marshall Islands, 2018

Gandhi in Asia/Africa

Perhaps the most hypocritical aspect in the philatelic history of Gandhi originated from India. It issued the largest number of Gandhi stamps—a dozen souvenir sheets and stamps—during his sesquicentennial observance of any nation. The public showing of phila-

Sc# India 3043a

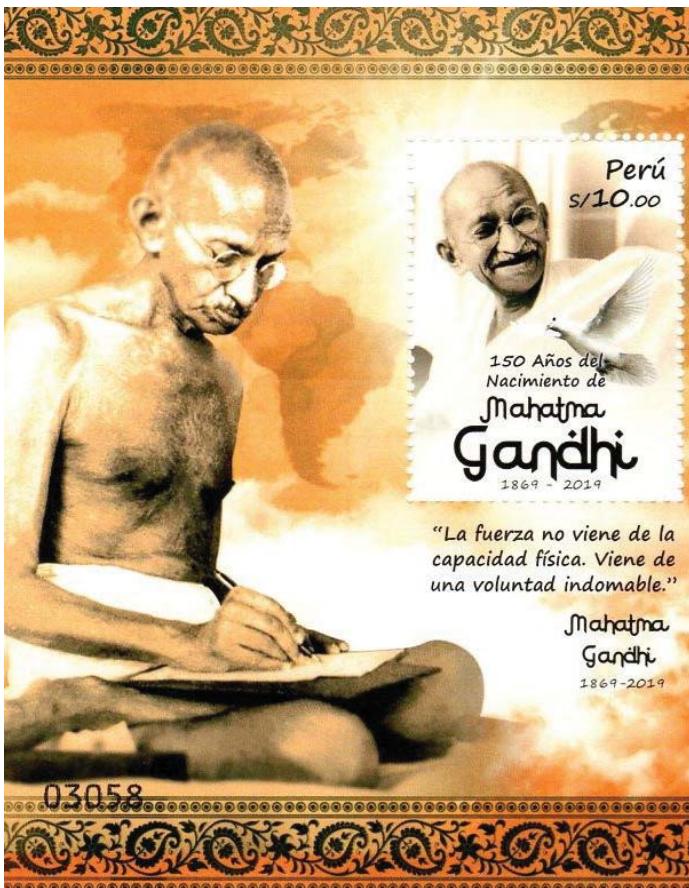


telic homage to Gandhi is at odds with the fact that the present government, the most extreme Hindu nationalist regime in the country's history, can be linked to the Hindu fanatic who assassinated Gandhi in 1948!

Nonetheless, in 2018 India issued the largest souvenir sheet showing Gandhi. It also commemorates the centennial of Nelson Mandela's birth, coinciding with the 125th anniversary of Gandhi being pushed off a train at South Africa's Pietermaritzburg Railway Station in 1893 for occupying a seat in the white-only section. The incident was dramatized in *Gandhi*, Richard Attenborough's 1982 film.

Gandhi in South America

Peru is among a dozen South American nations that issued a Gandhi stamp during the sesquicentennial celebration. Early in the 16th century it became a harshly ruled Spanish colony until it achieved independence in 1879. Peru's indigenous population, the largest in South America, was traditionally excluded from the ruling class. It is unsurprising that the government would promote Gandhi after its indigenous population participated in a Marxist uprising



Sc# Peru 2000

(the Shining Path), since denial of any kind of equality encourages rebellion.

Gandhi in Asia/Africa/North America and the Pacific

Located in the Pacific Ocean between the Philippines and Australia, Palau was controlled by the Spanish until 1899 when Spain sold it to Germany. After World War I, Palau became a League of Nations mandate under Japan; later it became a U.N. trust territory under the United States. In 1984, it became the last trust territory to achieve independence, although the United States continues to assist Palau financially. Palau's 2004 souvenir sheet honoring the United Nations' International Year of Peace pictures Gandhi, Mandela and King.



Conclusion

It is appropriate that Gandhi, who had supported the British and organized an ambulance corps during the Boer War (1899-1902), the same war in which young Winston Churchill was a journalist, would be honored posthumously in 2019 by the United Nations. The international peacekeeping organization honored Gandhi for having obtained independence for India through the peaceful approach he pioneered. Gandhi, years before in a newspaper article (reprinted in *Abraham Lincoln Abroad*, vol. 25, 2015, pp. 21-33) had named Lincoln as the only American among the eight individuals in history who had influenced him. Like Lincoln before him and both Martin Luther King, Jr., and Nelson Mandela who came after him, Gandhi defied traditional labels. The quartet shared a common humane approach in dealing with those who used violence to oppose their peaceful quests for equality.

Rachel Carson: Did Her Books Change the World?

Rene Manes and Clete Delvaux

I own a thin book by Robert Downs entitled *Books That Changed the World: The Mighty Power of the Printed Word*. It describes sixteen great books that changed the course of history. They range from Copernicus and Harriet Beecher Stowe to Darwin, Freud, Einstein, etc. I'd like to propose a more modern addition to Downs' list of books: *Silent Spring* by Rachel Carson (1907–1964). Much of this article was written in 2007 by JAPOS member Rene Manes, who died over a decade ago from cancer—just as Carson did in 1964.



Sc# United States 1857

In 1980, Rachel Carson was one of 26 people honored in USPS's Great Americans series; she was one of four writers (Sc# 1857) recognized in the group, which included Walter Lippmann, Pearl Buck, and Sinclair Lewis. [Editor's Note: I would welcome an article on any of the other three by a JAPOS member-writer.] In 1999, Palau issued a souvenir sheet (Sc# 447–448) celebrating environmentalists. Sc# 447a shows Carson with a pelican in the background. In 2000, Marshall Islands and Zambia also issued stamps honoring Rachel Carson.

Carson was born in western Pennsylvania, where she explored the forests and streams around the family farm. During her college years, she changed majors from English to biology, continued with graduate work at Johns Hopkins University, and then studied marine biology at Wood Hole, Massachusetts.

Her early studies in English stood her in good stead when she was employed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, where she was often assigned to write guide books, pamphlets, and bulletins—plus doing radio scripts on marine life. From 1941 to 1957, she wrote three books about the sea, one of which, *The Sea Around Us* (1951), attained best-seller status and by 1962 had been published in 30 languages. The other two books were *Under the Sea Wind* (1941) and *The Edge of the Sea* (1955). These three books were distinguished by Carson's scholarship, her lyrical prose, and her ability to inspire her readers with her own love of nature.

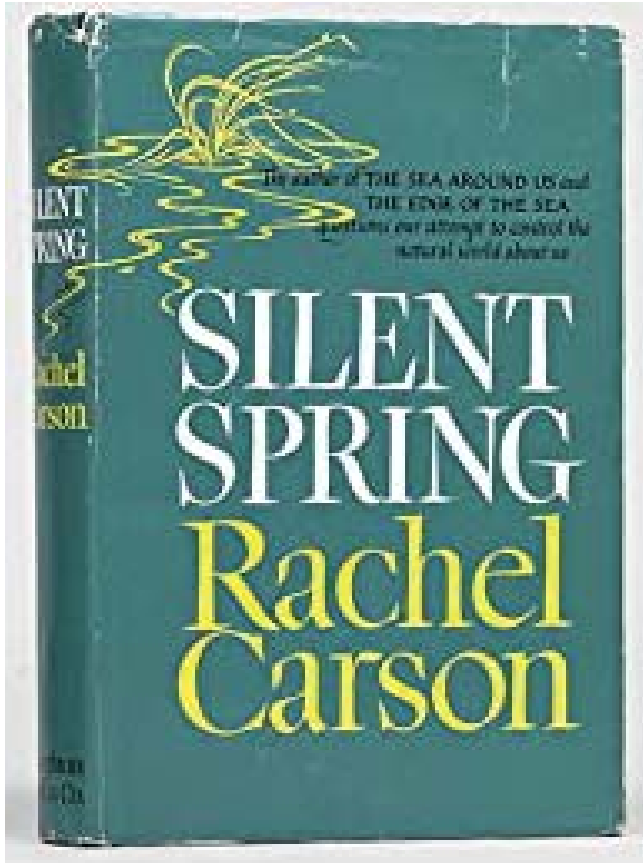
With newly gained financial independence, Rachel Carson left her government job and retired to a farm. In 1962, friends urged her to write her last and most controversial book, *Silent Spring*. In this book, which was an immediate success, she aggressively exposed the dangers of excessive reliance on pesticides, especially the damage done to birds and wildlife by uncontrolled use of DDT spraying. The title, *Silent Spring*, was inspired by a line in John Keats' poem "La Belle Dame sans Merci," which contains the lines "The sedge is withered from the lake / And no birds sing."

The chemical industry, the agriculture sector, the USDA, and even well-regarded media such as *The New York Times* joined forces to immediately counter-attack the book. Lawsuits were threatened, Carson's conclusions were questioned and her scientific credibility challenged. Both sides of the intense debates



Sc# Marshall Islands 711e

that followed were guilty of exaggeration and outright error. But, the important environmental issues had been brought to the public's attention and have never been forgotten.



First edition cover.

The overarching theme of *Silent Spring* is the powerful and often negative effects that humans have on the natural world. The book closes with a call for a biotic (that is, caused by living organisms) approach to pest control as an alternative to chemical pesticides. The book had a powerful impact on the environmental movement of the 1960s and led to the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) during the Nixon Administration in 1970.

Carson's *Silent Spring* has been featured in many lists of the best nonfiction books of the 20th century, "named one of the 25 greatest science books of all time," and "designated a National Historic Chemical Landmark." Naturalist David Attenborough has stated that *Silent Spring* was probably the book that had changed the scientific world the most, after *On the Origin of Species* by Charles Darwin.

I was impressed by a couple of Carson's remarks taken from the acceptance speech for her National Book Award for Nonfiction: "The aim of science is to discover and illuminate truth. And that, I take it, is the

aim of literature, whether biography or history or fiction. It seems to me, then, that there can be no separate literature of science..." And "The winds, the sea, and the moving tides are what they are. If there is wonder and beauty and majesty in them, science will discover these qualities. If they are not there, science cannot create them. If there is poetry in my book..., it is not because I deliberately placed it there, but because no one could write truthfully about the sea and leave out the poetry." RACHEL CARSON'S BOOKS DID INDEED CHANGE THE WORLD!



Zambia, 2000



Palau, 1999