

## **Abraham Lincoln on Stamps**

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1 (Title). Abraham Lincoln is one of the most honored persons on US stamps. This program will illustrate some of the types of material available. You can form a nice collection at low cost. But there are also many great rarities which are both expensive and difficult to find. This slide show is in part based on an excellent article by Eliot Landau which appeared in the February 2009 issue of Scott Stamp Monthly. One of the Lincoln stamps issued in 2009 is based on a photo by Matthew Brady.

2. The first items to picture Lincoln are illustrated campaign covers. There are many varieties and Dr. James Milgram has written an entire book on Lincoln covers of 1860 to 1865. Shown here are 3 versions showing Lincoln as a rail splitter.

3. The first regular postage stamp to picture Lincoln is this 15 cent black stamp issued in April 1866 one year after his death. This might be considered the first commemorative stamp issued by the U.S. The design is based on a photo by Matthew Brady.

4. This same design was used on the 90 cent stamp of the 1869 pictorial issue. This is certainly an attractive stamp. It is expensive but not that difficult to find.

5. The 25 cent stamp issued in 1989 for World Stamp Expo reproduces the famous 90 cent 1869 stamp in its original colors.

6. The so-called large bank note stamps of 1870 to 1889 are a very complicated bunch of stamps with many varieties. They are called bank note stamps because they were printed by the National, Continental, and American Bank Note Companies. You need to be a specialist to distinguish all the differences in paper, secret marks, grills, shades, and reengravings.

7. In 1890 American Bank Note reduced the size of the stamps and pictured Lincoln on the 4 cent. In 1894 the Post office Department began printing U.S. stamps. The same basic design was retained but small triangles were added in the top corners.

8. The next Lincoln stamp was part of the series of 1902 known as the second Bureau issue. The 5 cent stamp paid the basic foreign rate. It was also issued imperforate and the imperforates are known with various private perforations and also as an experimental coil. Dangerous fakes exist of these imperforate varieties.

9. The 1909 2 cent commemorated the centennial of his birth. Again there are imperforates and privately perforated varieties.

10. This was one of the first U.S. stamps to be widely used on First Day covers.

11. The next stamp to picture Lincoln was the 3-cent of 1923. There are major perforation varieties of this stamp.

12. You can collect this as a First Day Cover.
13. It was also overprinted for use in Kansas and Nebraska as an experiment to foil post office robberies.
14. The \$1 stamp in this issue shows the Lincoln Memorial.
15. Lincoln next appeared in 1938 on the series known as “prexies” in which the president pictured on a stamp had the same value as the number of the President. Thus Lincoln appeared on the 16 cent. This stamp did not pay any basic postal rate and correct single use on a cover is rare.
16. This 1940 stamp notes the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment which abolished slavery.
17. The 4 cent Emancipation Proclamation stamp of 1963 shows 4 links of heavy chain with one link broken.
18. The 4 cent stamp of the 1954 Liberty series could be the subject of an exhibit in itself. It was in use for 12 years, issued in several forms, has many varieties, and was used through a period when postal rates changed.
19. The Prominent American series of 1965 to 1978 includes 4 cent Lincoln stamp in both sheet and coil format. This stamp did not see much use because the first class rate was 5 cents.
20. Lincoln is shown on several Mount Rushmore stamps. The 3 cent commemorates the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the completion of the monument.
21. The 29 cent coil of 1991 occurs in 2 major varieties.
22. A flat rate priority mail stamp again used Mount Rushmore.
23. The 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Lincoln’s birth was noted in 1959 by a set of 4 stamps.
24. A 4 cent stamp with a Lincoln quotation was a part of the 1960 American Credo series.
25. The 1948 3 cent notes the 85<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Gettysburg address and the last sentence of the address is part of the design.
26. In 1942 a 5 cent stamp was issued as part of World War II propaganda efforts to support China’s war resistance. Abraham Lincoln is shown with words from the Gettysburg address. Chinese. President Sun Yat-sen is shown with the same inscription in Chinese characters. Paying the basic foreign rate, covers to many destinations can be found.

27. The 22 cent Flag Over Capitol stamp of 1985 again features the end of the Gettysburg address.
28. A 25 cent airmail stamp of 1960 paid the basic ½ ounce for much foreign mail.
29. You can find many special event cancels like Lincoln Stamp Club used in 2009.
30. A stylized profile of Lincoln in black along with George Washington in white appears on the 1984 stamp honoring the National Archives.
31. The 1984 Nation of Readers stamp features a design based on a photograph of Lincoln with his son Tad looking at a book. In the actual photo, they are looking at a picture album rather than reading a book. This is the only U.S. stamp which shows Lincoln with another family member. But later we will see a foreign stamp with almost identical design.
32. Heading to what are known as “back of the book” issues, in 1865 Lincoln appeared on a 25 cent newspaper stamp. This is actually the first stamp to depict Lincoln, being issued only 5 months after his death.
33. Official stamps were issued for the departments of the federal government in 1873. Lincoln appeared on the 6 cent stamp of each of the 8 departments. It would be nice to have these used on the covers of each Department but some like the Agriculture and Executive are very rare on cover.
34. Several stamped envelopes, beginning in 1870, depict Lincoln. Postal stationery depicting Lincoln is too complex a subject to covered in any depth in this presentation.
35. Postal cards provide another area to explore.
36. First day covers also exist for these items.
37. A postal card for the 5¢ rate.
38. If you like revenue stamps, there are many Lincoln items. These may be stamps like this documentary tax stamp.
39. Or there is Revenue stamped paper.
40. Lincoln even appeared on Beer tax stamps.
41. Then there are poster stamps, or cinderellas, in this case urging you to vote Republican.

42 .Finally, Lincoln has appeared on many foreign stamps. Unfortunately I know of no complete listing of those stamps. Note that one stamp in the souvenir sheet at upper right has an almost identical design as the U.S. stamp showing Lincoln reading to his son Tad.

43. Liberia has perhaps issued more Lincoln stamps than any other country other than the U.S.

44. Here is another Liberia set.

45. Colombia has a nice set.

46. Lincoln is especially popular in African countries. Here is a Ghana stamp.

47. And another Ghana.

48. Not surprising, Obama is pictured on many new issues in Africa. Here we see him included with Clinton and Lincoln.

49. Another issue shows Lincoln with Obama and King.

50. There are many more stamps and the subject is almost endless.

For more information on U.S. stamps, any relatively recent Scott's US Specialized would be useful. Do see if you can find a copy of that wonderful article by Eliot Landau. And a great project for someone with the time would be to prepare a list of World stamps depicting Lincoln.