



Watercraft Philately



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Christmas seals: collectable or not?



By Dan Rodlie

Christmas is upon us once again, and with it, comes all the hustle and bustle of getting things ready for the holidays. Many of you will dig out last year's bundle of Christmas cards so not to miss anyone you need to send cards to this year.

Some may already have cut the stamps off the envelopes and added them to your ever-increasing pile of 'soakers'. But, what about those 'pesky' labels, stickers, or what we call "Cinderellas?" Most serious collectors ignore them as they are not a 'legal' stamp. But should we ignore them?

In the APS Philatelic Dictionary we find this definition:

Cinderella: *A stamplike label that is not a postage stamp. Cinderellas include seals and bogus issues, as well as revenue stamps, local post issues and other similar items.* Cinderellas can also be local stamps, telegraph stamps, railway stamps, revenues/fiscals, forgeries, bogus and phantom issues, Christmas seals, Red Cross, TB and other charity seals, registration labels, advertisement and exhibition labels, and much more.

Label: *Any stamplike adhesive that is not a postage stamp or revenue stamp.*

When researching this article, I learned that there are more clubs, affiliates and organizations dedicated to these topics with more members than ALL known clubs or Units that collect ships on stamps or any nautical related themes.

Unfortunately, over the past few years, we have seen several nautical philatelic organizations cease publication of their newsletter, or fold altogether. Sad to see this happening. But maybe we can learn something from the ones which fold and the successful ones that are still afloat. Maybe we should broaden our field of interest. Maybe those 'pesky' stickers can teach us something?

With just a quick look in my "Cinderella" box, I found several hundred Christmas Seals, stickers and labels, many of them with fantastic nautical connections.

A quick search on the Internet provided lots of information as well as catalogues for just about anything. A couple of interesting ones are:

The **Christmas Seal & Charity Stamp Society** founded in 1931, publishes the quarterly 50+ page *Seal News*. American Philatelic Society affiliate #101 and ATA.

The CS&CSS also publishes a large catalog of seal-collecting literature. Keeping Society literature current and making it more useful is a primary goal of the CS&CSS. Green's Catalog was first published in 1930, and it remains the Bible of Christmas Seal collecting. It is divided into three parts, U.S. National Christmas Seals, U.S. Local TB Seals, and Foreign TB Seals. Raymond Mosbaugh wrote the catalog of Worldwide Red Cross Fundraising seals, as well as the All Fund Cata-

Inside this issue:

Christmas seals	33
New Listings	37
Falklands fisheries	39
Service & rescue	41
French islands	44
Ferries	45