

Carriers and the mail make news online

Mail-centered stories frequently appear on social media and online news sites. The following are a few that have come to NALC's attention recently. If you find a story you'd like us to consider featuring, send it to postalrecord@nalc.org.

Now you can smell a famous French baked good worldwide

While sitting outside and enjoying coffee at a cafe in France, the mouthwatering smell of freshly baked baguettes wafts from a nearby bakery. For many French, this is just an average day. Upon returning from a trip from France, one can only describe the smell of the country's most famous bread. So, France's postal service imagined a solution—scratch-and-sniff baguette stamps, bringing that delicious smell to people around the world.

In the listing for the stamp, the French postal service boasted about baguettes, saying they are the “bread of our daily life, symbol of our gastronomy, jewel of our culture.”

The stamp can be used to send 0.7-ounce letters internationally, and costs about \$2.14.

The French postal service debuted the stamp on May 16, the feast day of the patron saint of bakers, Saint Honoré, according to *The New York Times*.

The stamp features a baguette wrapped in a blue, white and red ribbon in homage to the Paris Olympic Games set for the end of July.

Postal Museum welcomes stamp artist for summer program

Closer to home, the National Postal Museum—a Smithsonian museum—in Washington, DC, will host postage stamp artist Katie Kirk for its summer

Artist Katie Kirk and one of her stamp illustrations



Guest Artist Program. The museum will hold five events, giving its visitors the chance to learn about the design process that goes into creating a USPS stamp.

The five events will explore the themes in her work and each will cater to adults, children or families: “Shapes in Nature,” “A Love Story: Expressions of Love on Stamps,” “Behind the Design: The Art of the Stamp,” “Holiday Stamps Family Festival” and “Spooky Soirée.” Some will be virtual and some will be in person.

Kirk is based in Minneapolis, MN, and is known for her bold colors and geometric shapes, while still maintaining the simplicity that is required in 1-inch size pieces of art. As a co-founder of her creative studio Eight Hour Day, she has worked with clients such as Amazon, Google, IKEA, *The New York Times*, Target and Apple.

“Ever since first traveling to Washington, DC, on a family vacation as a child and visiting all the amazing Smithsonian museums, I couldn't have imagined one day being asked to be a guest artist at the National Postal Museum,” Kirk said in the museum's press release.



The new French scratch-and-sniff stamp

ANSEL ADAMS

photographer, 1902–1984



Postal Service honors the beauty of Ansel Adams photography

In mid-May, Ansel Adams, a black-and-white photographer and environmentalist, was honored by USPS, which immortalized his work on a sheet of 16 Forever stamps.

With a career spanning more than seven decades, he received three honorary doctorates, from universities. His work was featured in retrospective exhibits in both the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Museum of Modern Art in the 1970s. He even received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Jimmy Carter in 1980.

Not only did he use his photography to demonstrate the power and beauty of nature, he also used them as lobbying tools to influence U.S. environmental policy.

The images displayed on the Forever stamps span much of his career, with the oldest being taken in 1934, and the most recent being taken in 1964. Throughout his career, he did more for the field of photography than just shooting photos. Adams advanced the discipline of photography to one regarded as a fine art. He helped open the first museum photography department at the Museum of Modern Art and taught lectures and workshops to thousands of students there and elsewhere.

Tiles mailed back to Polish building 80 years later

More than 300 years ago, a beautiful Baroque bathing pavilion in Warsaw, Poland, was commissioned to be constructed by Stanisław Herakliusz Lubomirski, a Polish nobleman and writer. The bathing pavilion was laden with decorative blue and white Dutch ceramic tiles decorated with shepherds and trees.

In 1764, it was bought by the king of Poland and renamed “Palace of the Isle.” Centuries later, Nazi forces ignited the building in flames and some of the tiles went missing.

Fast-forward to 2024, and the building is home to Warsaw’s Royal Łazienki Museum. Just before the opening of a new exhibit, it received a package from Canada containing 12 of the original tiles.

The tiles have been given a new purpose as part of “The Art of Thinking Well: The Legacy of Stanisław Herakliusz Lubomirski,” an exhibition in the museum.

It is still unknown how the tiles ended up in Canada, but museum officials were able to find out that the sender was dying and wished for them to be sent back before he died. **PR**

The new Ansel Adams stamps

The returned tiles (below) from the Palace of the Isle (bottom)

