

The History of the American Glass Stamp

Photos Courtesy of Brian Shultis
Account Courtesy of Mark Vuono

Richard Sheaf, formerly of Massachusetts, was a stamp designer for the US Postal Service. Richard was also an avid antique glass collector specializing in blown three mold glass.

Richard amassed quite a collection of rare pieces including numerous pieces of extremely rare BIM whimsies.

One day he contacted my father and I and told us he expressed an interest in designing an American Glass stamp. He knew my Dad had some flasks and I had some three mold glass. He also contacted Norm Hecker and the owner of the purple Moscow, Ohio blown three mold sugar bowl. He arranged a photo shoot at a professional photographers in Massachusetts where we all met and brought some glass. The purple sugar bowl was sent...the owner not being present. We took numerous pictures with each picture containing about 8-9 pieces of various pieces of glass. After the photo shoot, we all waited anxiously for the results.

Numerous months passed without any word from



Here are two postmarked stamps showing the historical bottles and glass



This is what an uncut sheet would look like

Dick. Dick finally called me and told me the Postal Service did not like the stamp. They thought it was too cluttered with different pieces. Dick said he had to narrow it down to four pieces of glass on each stamp. He told me he was going to use Norm's Callahan's Old Cabin Whiskey, the purple Moscow Ohio sugar bowl and my blue blown three mold decanter.

He needed some flask that was green and tall to complete the stamp. I immediately recommended the green hearts and flowers flask. Dick agreed and said "The stamp is made."

The rest is history as they say. The stamp was issued in the late 1990's at the Corning Museum of Glass. It is interesting to note that all the other pieces of glass on the stamp are from The Corning Museum of Glass.

The stamp with the four pattern molded pieces of glass is the only stamp with pieces from private collections. Needless to say, it was quite an honor for both my father and I to be able to contribute two pieces for the stamp. So now you know "The rest of the story."

