

NEW STUDY UNIT

The **Gastronomy on Stamps Study Unit** is being organized to bring together those who love food and stamp collecting. This is also an area that relates to our own area of study. There are very few things we ingest that are not biological. The new unit currently has about 30 Charter Members working to bring the Study Unit to life. The first issue of their quarterly journal, *The Philatelic Gourmet*, will be published in January 2018.

See their website (<http://www.gastronomystamps.org/>) for membership information and applications. Dues for electronic delivery are \$5 per year. Dues for hardcopy to US addresses is \$20 per year, to Canada \$24 per year, and elsewhere \$28 per year. For more details, contact David Wolfersberger (dewolf2@swbell.net), or by mail at 5062 NW 35th Lane Rd, Ocala, FL 34482.

FLOWERS FROM THE GARDEN ISSUE

The US Postal Service issued four new Forever (49c) stamps on 16 August 2017, at the Mary Jo Wegner Arboretum and East Sioux Falls Historic Site in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

The edition features four still-life paintings of flowers that come from typical American gardens. One stamp features red camellias and yellow forsythia in a yellow pitcher. On the second there are white peonies and pink tree peonies in a clear vase. An arrangement of white hydrangeas, white and pink roses, green hypericum berries, and purple lisianthus in a white vase graces the third stamp, while blue hydrangeas in a blue pot appear on the final one.

The stamps use existing art that had been created by American artist Elizabeth Brandon of Franklin, Tennessee. The designer for the issue was Derry Noyes. Brandon said, "What an honor and privilege it is for me to have my artwork of florals selected for a grouping of United States Forever Stamps."

These paintings were inspired by floral still-lives created by Dutch and Flemish artists of the 17th and 18th centuries. Each stamp features one of four of Brandon's paintings of flowers from the garden artfully arranged in a container.

The stamps were printed by Banknote Corporation of America and issued in double-sided booklet panes of 20 and also in coils of 3,000 and 10,000. The colors used were cyan, magenta, yellow, and black on phosphor tagged paper with pressure sensitive adhesive. A plate number appears on every 28th stamp of the coils.

These stamps are not soakable in water, so if you want to save a used copy for your album, the best way is to trim them closely and leave them on the paper.

I know several die-hard traditionalists who insist in using various chemical compounds to try to remove these types of stamps from the paper. I think this is unwise for a couple reasons. First of all, no one knows the long term effect that these compounds will have on the stamps. They may appear OK after they are removed, but this new adhesive has not been around long enough for the ultimate results of these methods to become evident.

Second, a neatly trimmed used copy looks perfectly fine in an album. Perhaps it would be even better to save the entire cover, which shows the postal history and confirms the proper usage of the items.



Flowers From The Garden
Digital Images and Paintings © Elizabeth Brandon