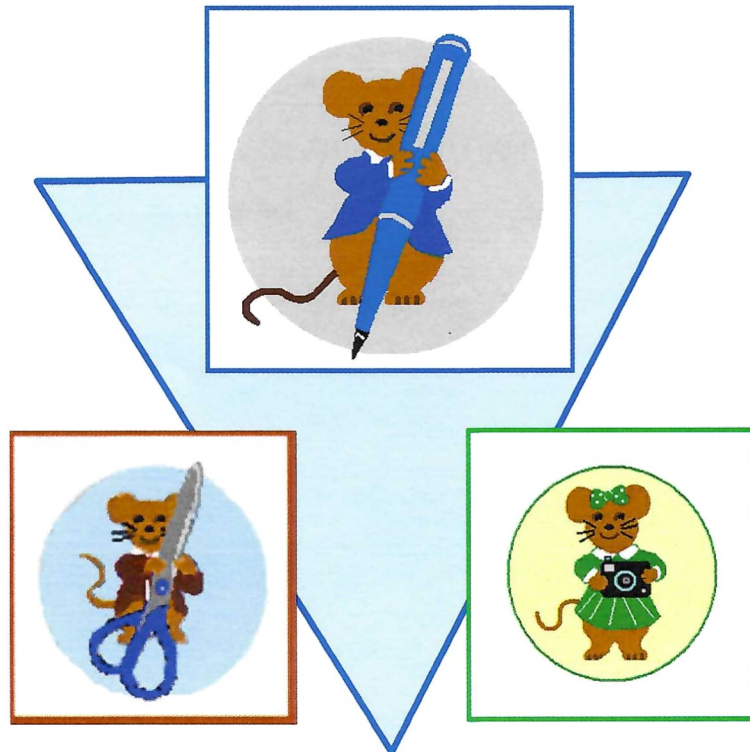


“How Now Brown Mouse?”

The Evolution of Anon E. Mouse Cachets



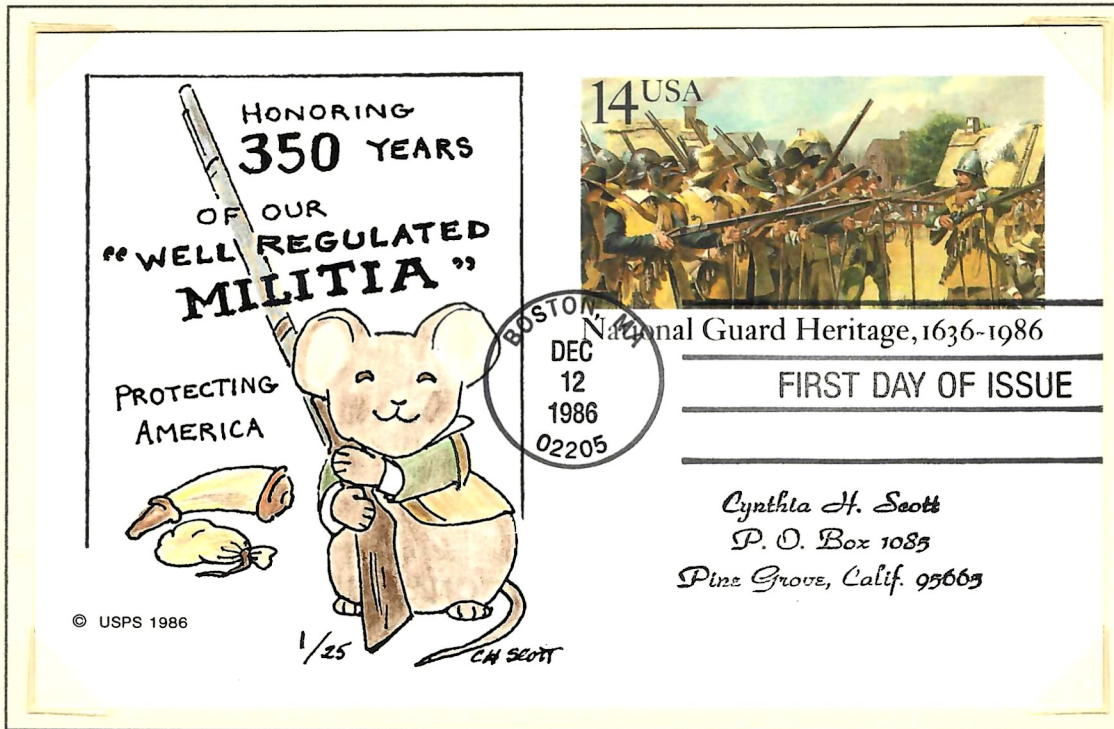
Cynthia Scott
4505 Chapel Dr
Columbus, IN
47203

Frame

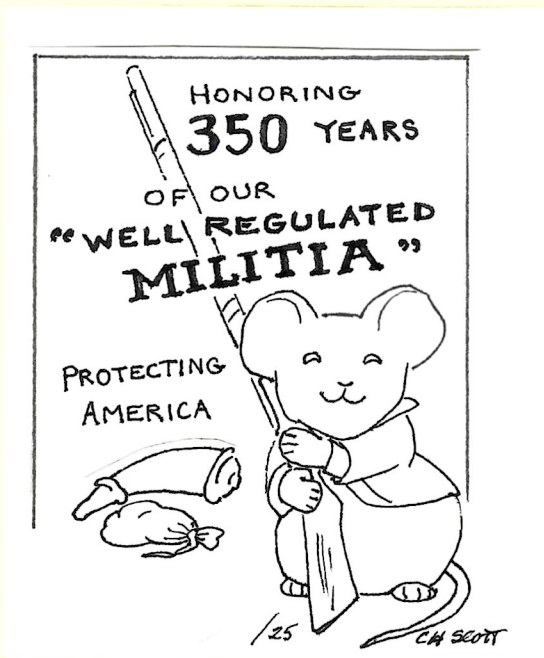
4

C.3. Copies to Other Items

C.3.a. Copy to Postal Card



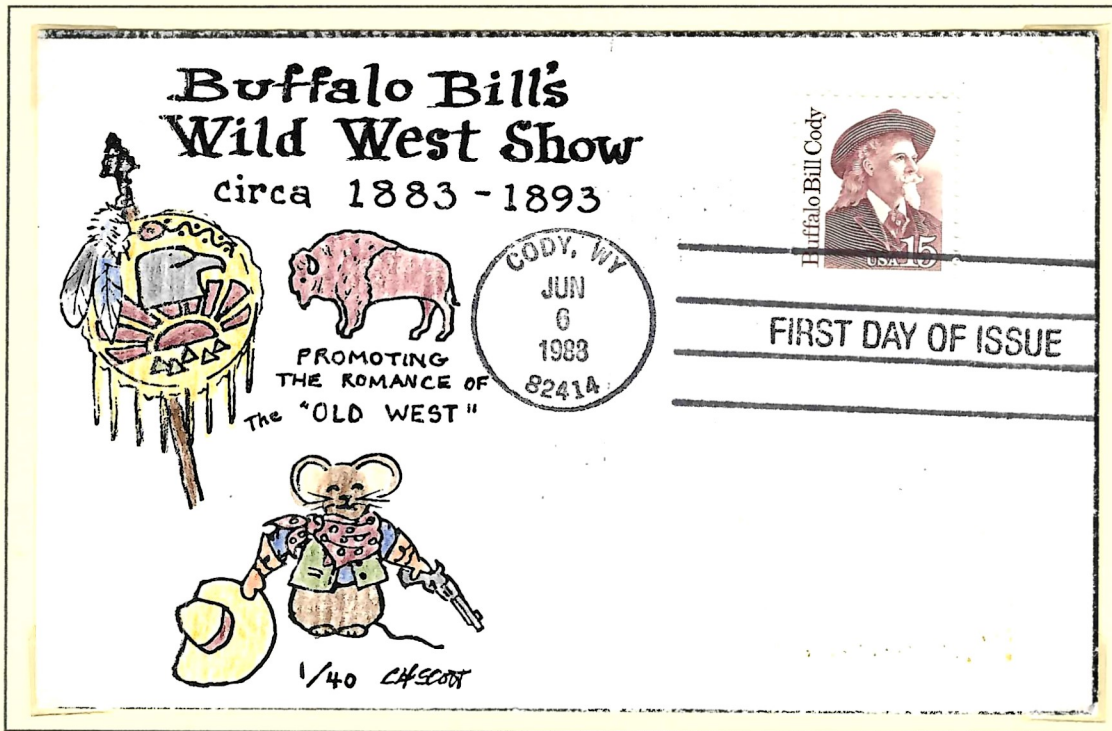
This is the FIRST (and only to date) Anon E. Mouse cachet on a postal card. National Guard Heritage postal cards were hand fed one at a time through a small photocopy machine twice each, once for the cachet and once for the back.



The back of the card identifies the Nevada Air National Guard. Nevada established a flying unit of the Civil Air Patrol in 1946, but the unit was not federally recognized and converted to an Air National Guard squadron until 1948. Printing "40 Years" of Nevada Air National Guard on this card was a bit premature.

C.3. Copies to Other Items

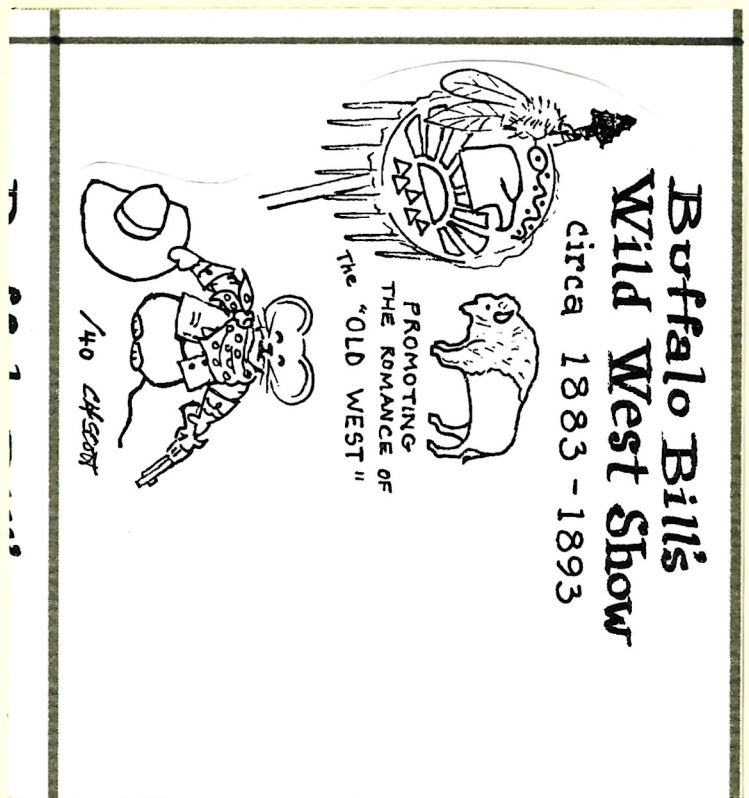
C.3.b. Copy to Post Card



Four post cards can fit on a sheet and then be cut after reproduction. This makes them easier to design and pass through a copy machine than single postal cards.

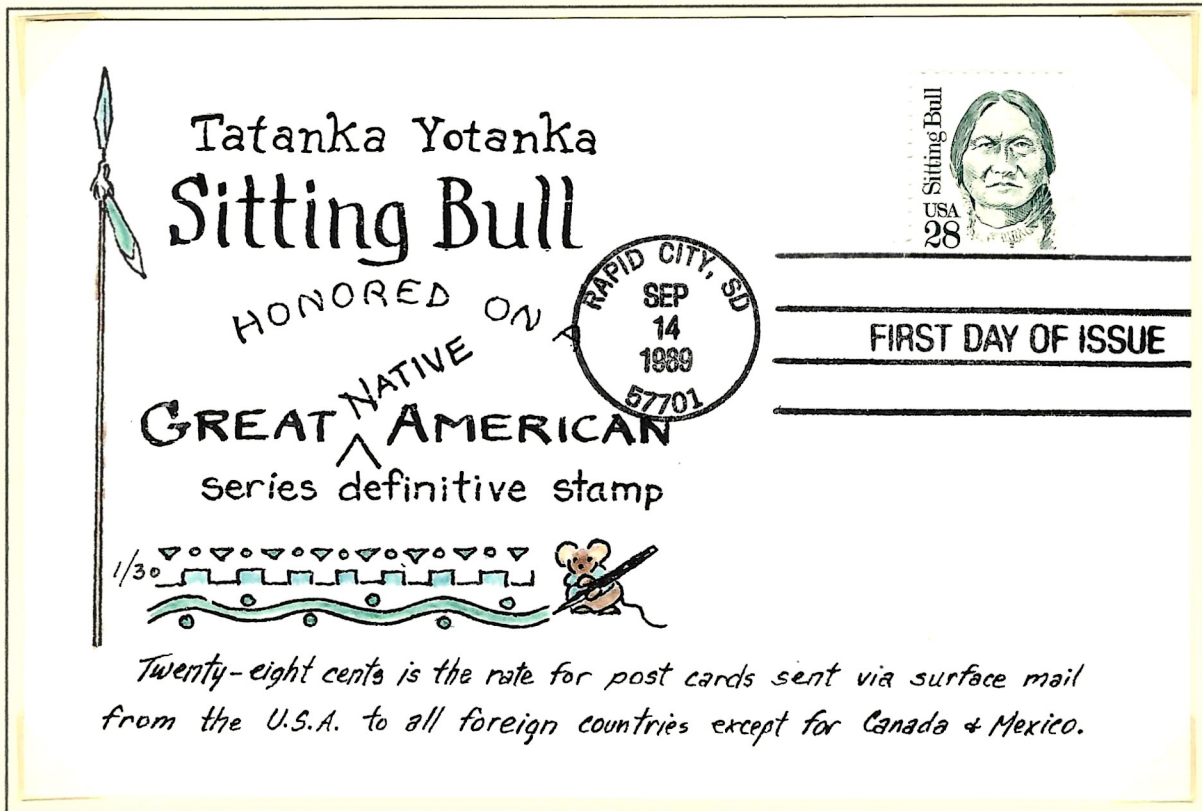
This cachet was photocopied and then pasted to the card layout, which made the end product a copy of a photocopy.

Thick border lines were a mistake. They are difficult to cut evenly enough so that some border shows on every edge of every card.



C.3. Copies to Other Items

C.3.b. Copy to Post Card



These post card cachets were applied one at a time through a copier, on pre-cut card stock. Even though it took some patience, this process eliminated problems with borders or cutting lines.



C.3. Copies to Other Items

C.3.c. Copy to a Label for a Postal Envelope

Here is a cachet photocopied to an adhesive label. It was prepared in advance of the Love (no. 9) issue date and applied to the new envelopes on their First Day.

It would have been smarter to "tie" the cancel to the label. Without the cancel touching, the label could be mistaken for an add on.



D. Computer Drawn

D.1. Design Only

This graphic is the FIRST drawn with a Personal Computer “mouse” for Anon E. Mouse Cachets. It has a Tagged Image Format (.tif) file created in Paint Show Plus. This “tif” file was also the FIRST to be exported to another application and printed together with a computer-drawn envelope pattern.



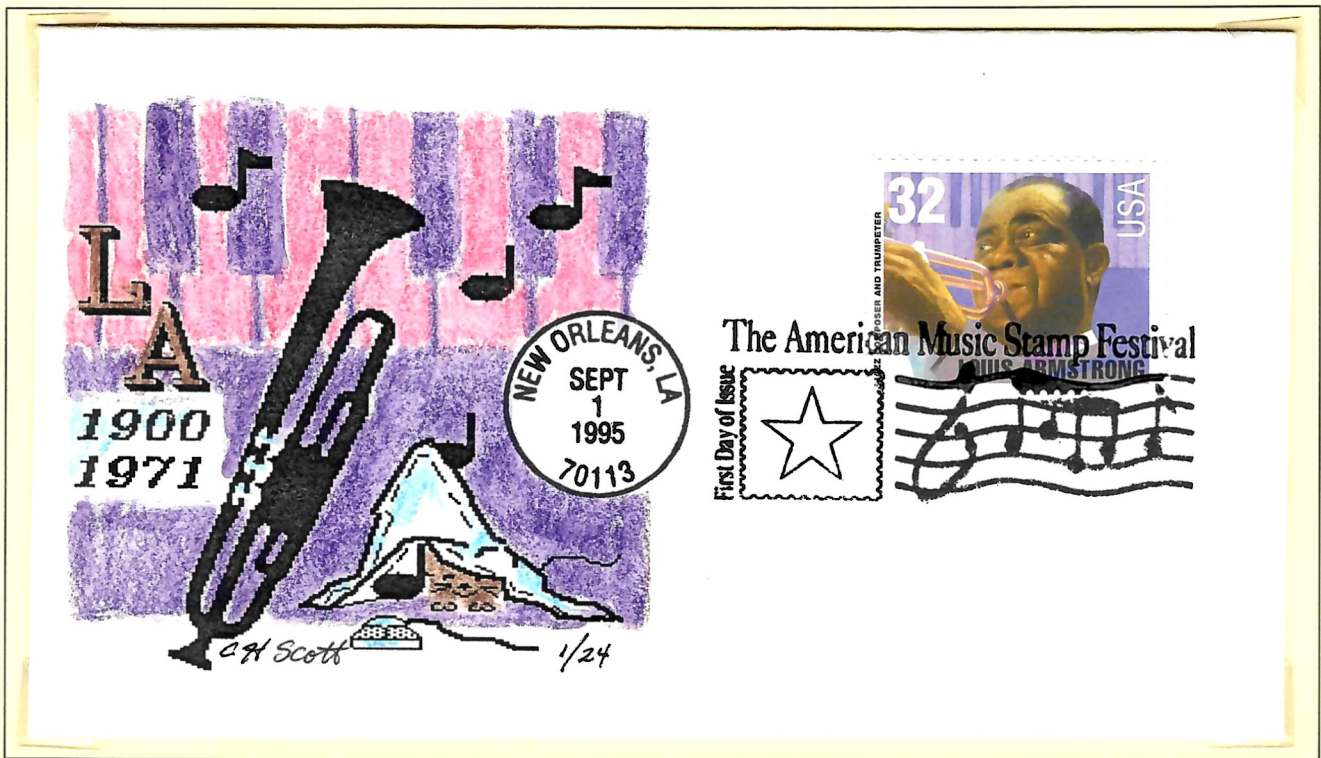
Even though the computer was used for a “drawing pad,” some hand lettering, paste-up work, and hand coloring were still needed. After that, a single clean mock-up was then photocopied to cotton bond paper to make thirty covers.

Color are usually tested on a clean photocopy, but this time it looks like colors were applied to the master paste-up.



D. Computer Drawn

D.1. Design Only



Saw-tooth edges indicate this drawing was done in a “bargain” computer application. Notice the placement of a PC (Personal Computer) “mouse.” Starting with this cachet, the artist inserted one in every cachet drawn with that tool, through 1999.

Coloring pencils used after the covers were serviced are the kind that can be washed with water to give a water-color paint appearance.

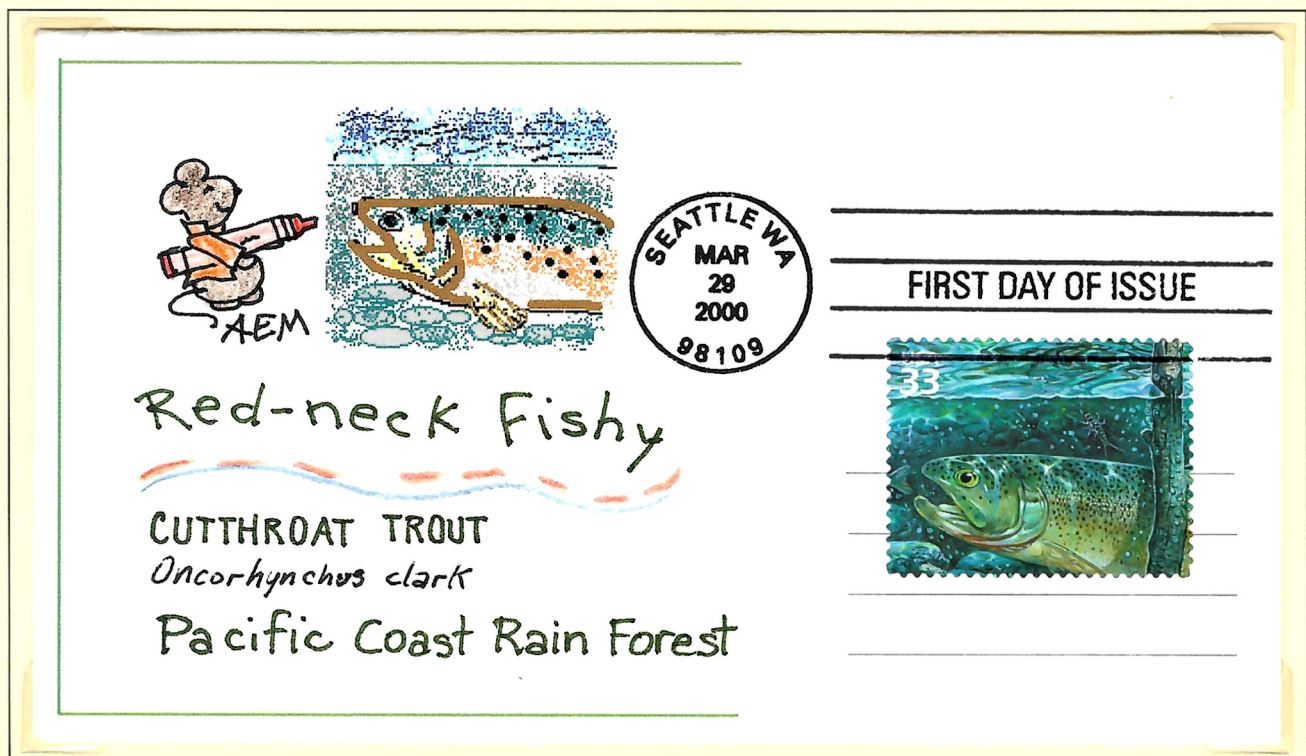
The cachet itself is “generic” in order to avoid copyright infringement for the use of Louis Armstrong’s name.



D. Computer Drawn

D.1. Design Only

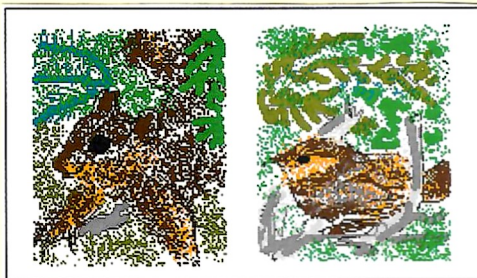
Using the air brush tool in the Microsoft Windows accessory "Paint," Cynthia imitated small speckled versions of 10 animals on the Pacific Coast Rain Forest pane. The mouse and text were hand scribed and colored. Only two sets were made this way, as a child workshop demo.



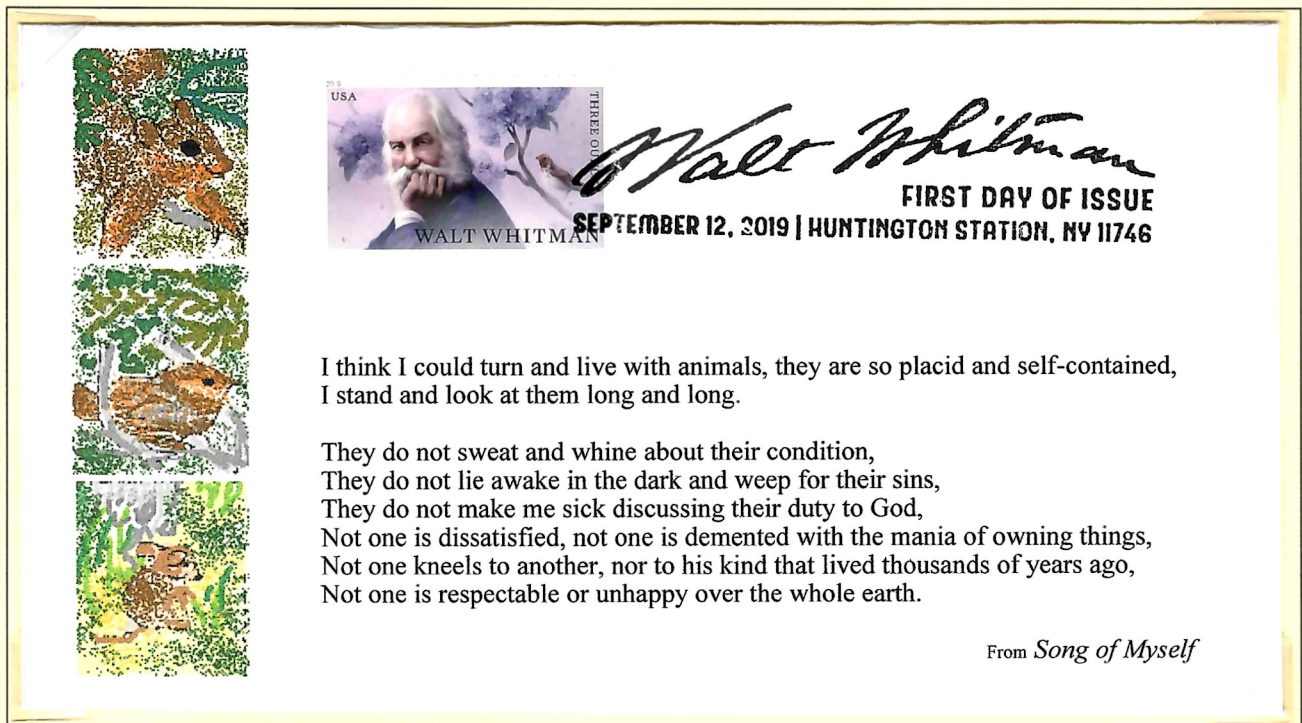
D. Computer Drawn

D.1. Design Only

These speckled spray brush drawings are the rest of the small images created for the eight other cachets on the Pacific Coast Rain Forest FDCs.



Two were repurposed in 2019 on this Walt Whitman cachet. Both were flipped horizontally. A new one (the field mouse) represents Anon E. Mouse.



D. Computer Drawn

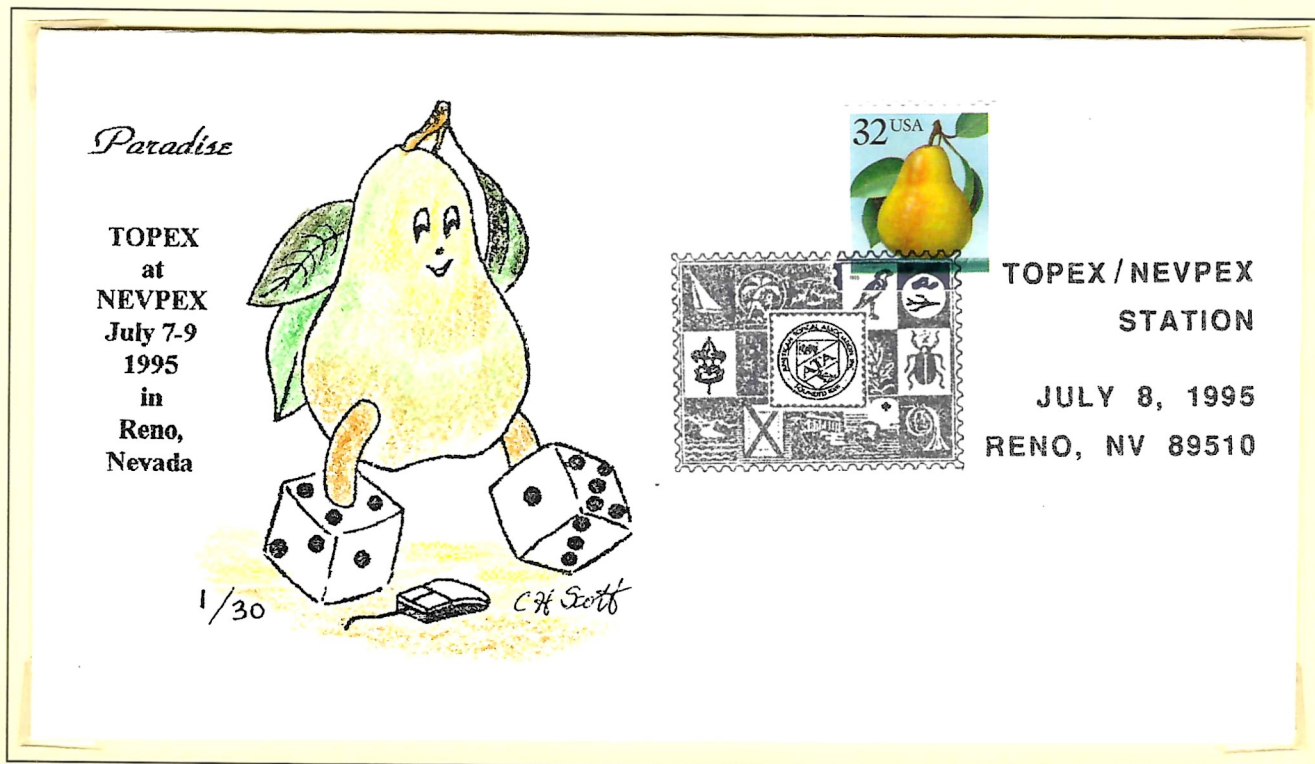
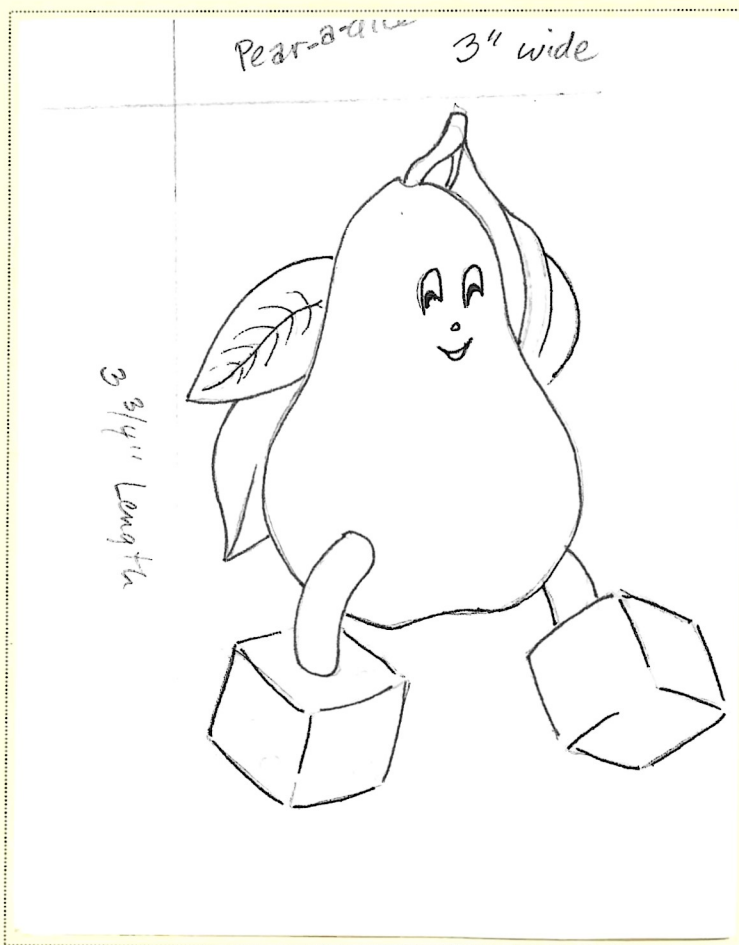
D.1. Design Only

D.1.a. Using a Scanner

This is the original drawing for the Pear FDC below. The pencil lines at the left side and top were guidelines for a hand-held scanner. The scanned image had to be preset for size before the scan began, which is why there are notes about length and width.

After scanning, the .tif file thus created was further enhanced with spots on the die, a P.C. mouse, and text. The end result was glued to an envelope template for photocopying and pencil colors were added by hand.

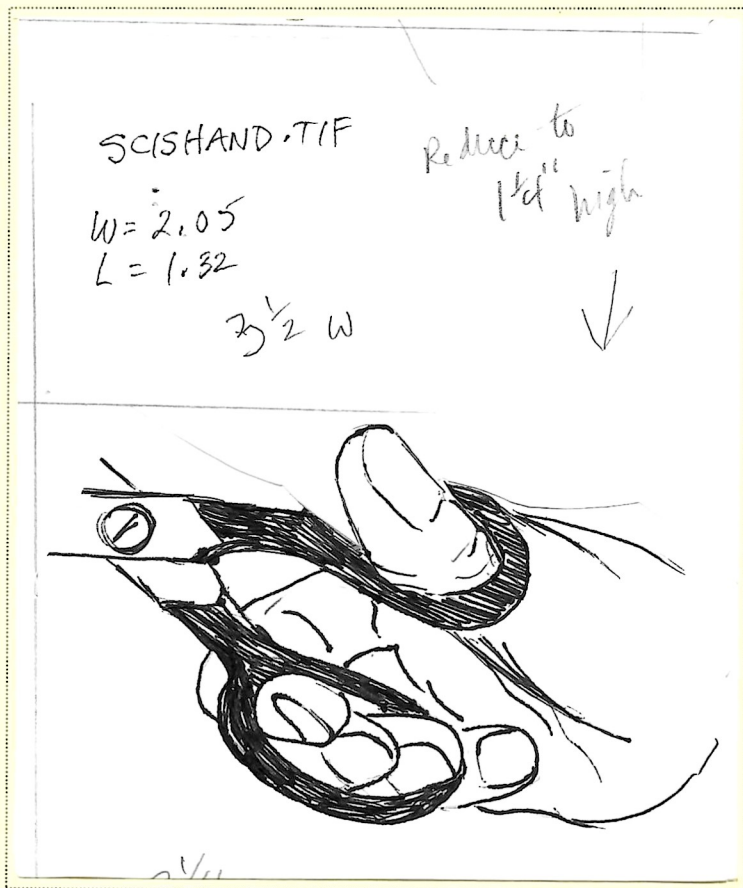
The Peach and Pear booklet stamps were issued at the American Topical Association convention, also known as "TOPEX."



D.1. Computer Drawn

D.1. Design Only

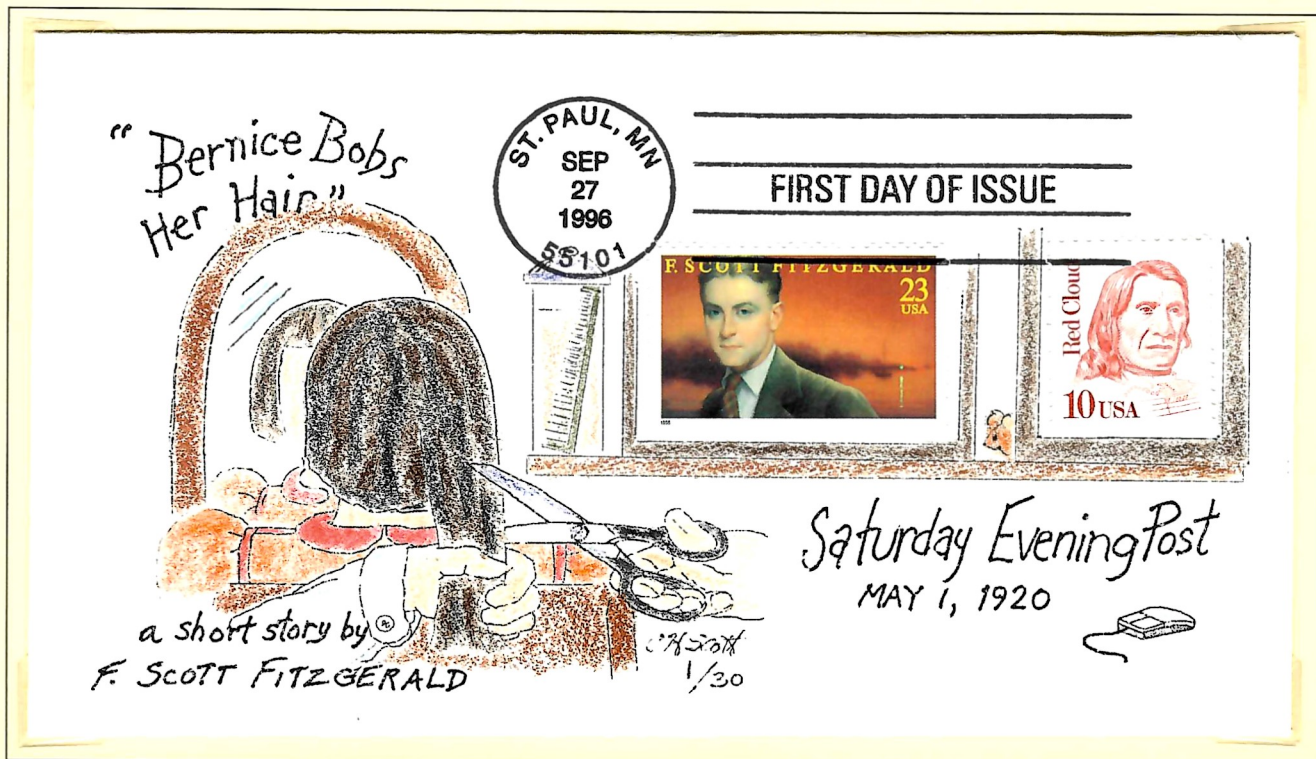
D.1.a. Using a Scanner



The cachet for the F. Scott Fitzgerald stamp is a combination of hand drawing, hand lettering, PC-mouse drawing, and scanning. The composite was pasted to an envelope template for photocopying.

The artist used her own hand (holding scissors) as a model to draw this pencil and ink sketch. After scanning and refining, the resulting .tif file was PC-copied into the mouse-drawn hair part of the cachet.

This 23-cent issue was meant for use as second-ounce postage. It is combined with the 10-cent Red Cloud to "make up" the correct first-ounce rate. The Red Cloud stamp was selected because of its color.



D. Computer Drawn
D.2. Design and Color
D.2.a. Stamp in Scene

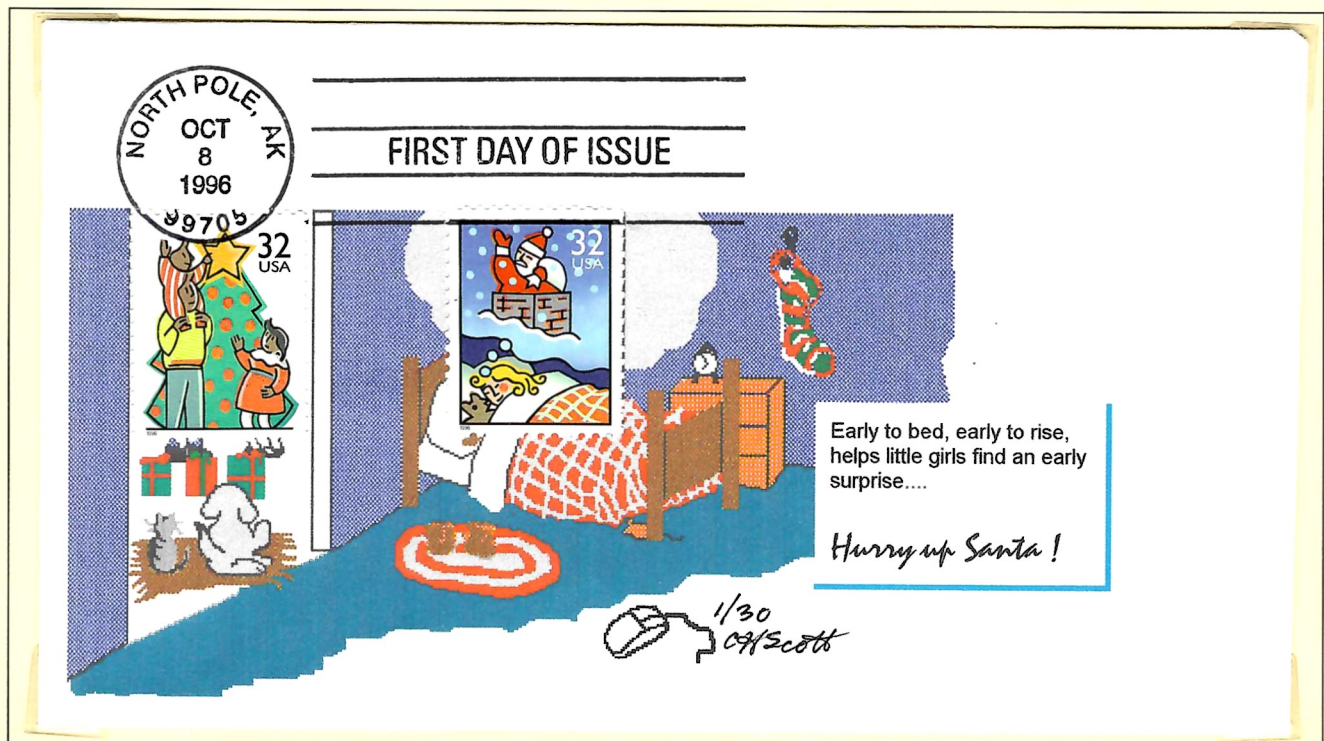
The FIRST cachet created and printed entirely with a desktop computer for *envelope fabrication** was for the 32-cent Decorating Tree stamp and the Dreaming of Santa Clause stamp, both issued October 8, 1996.

A scene was drawn around the two stamps to let them tell the story.

*An all-computer designed/printed cachet was also done on a *postcard* in August the same year, for the 20-cent Blue Jay self adhesive.



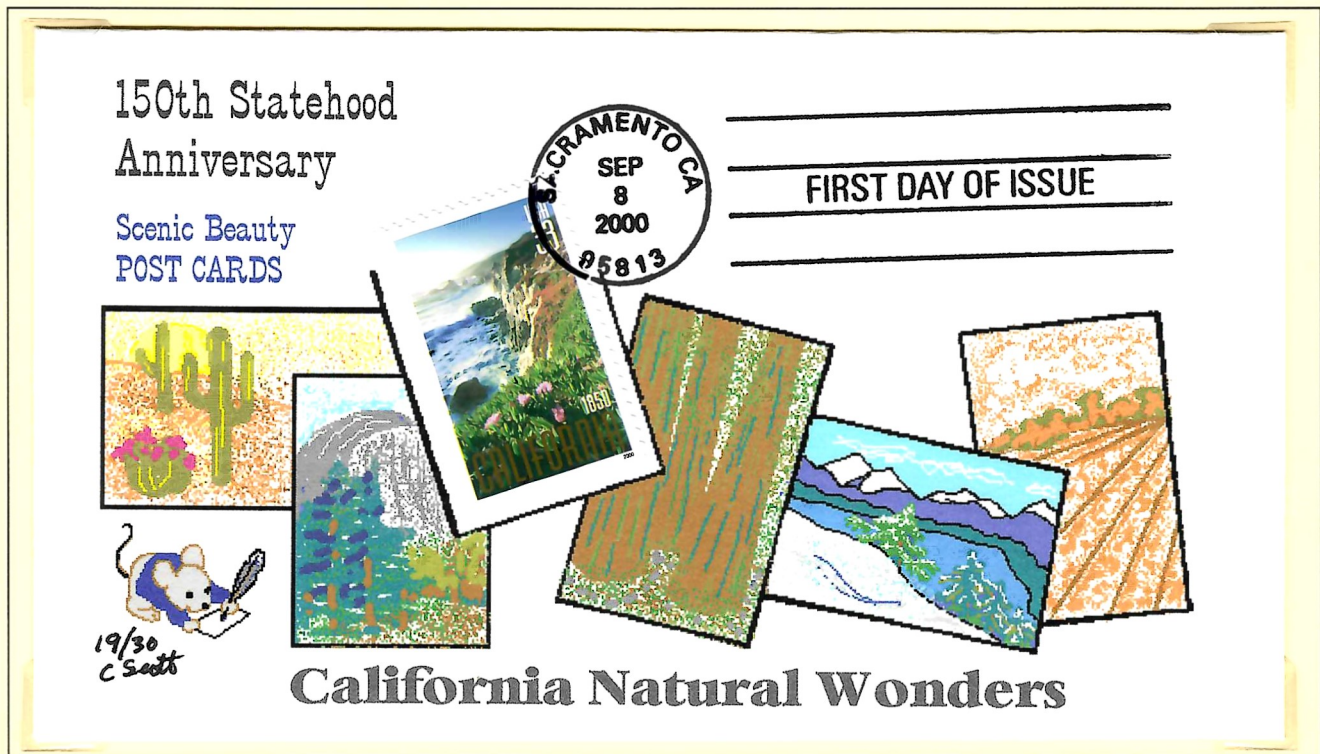
This “brown bed” test print is one of three different variations tested and discarded before settling on the final design.



D. Computer Drawn

D.2. Design & Color

D.2.a. Stamp in Scene



D. Computer Drawn

D.2. Design and Color

D.2.a. Stamp in Scene

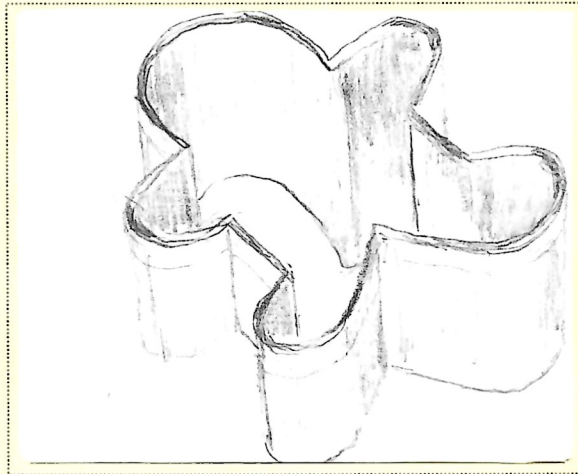


D. Computer-Drawn

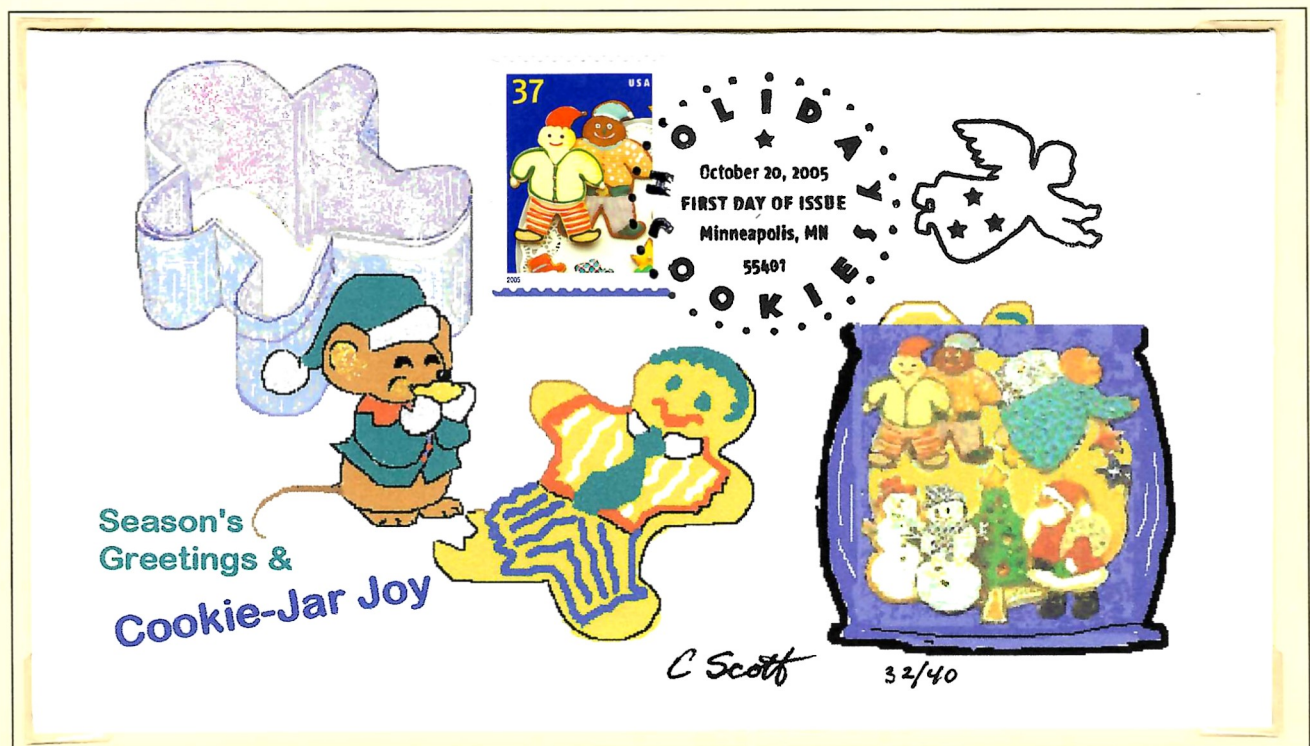
D. 2. Design and Color

D.2.b. Working with Pieces

This pencil sketch of a cookie cutter was scanned to the Windows Paint app for coloring. The elf-mouse was then added, in the same image file.



The 2005 Holiday Cookie stamps were scanned and then manipulated in Windows Paint to make a composite image for the cookie jar.

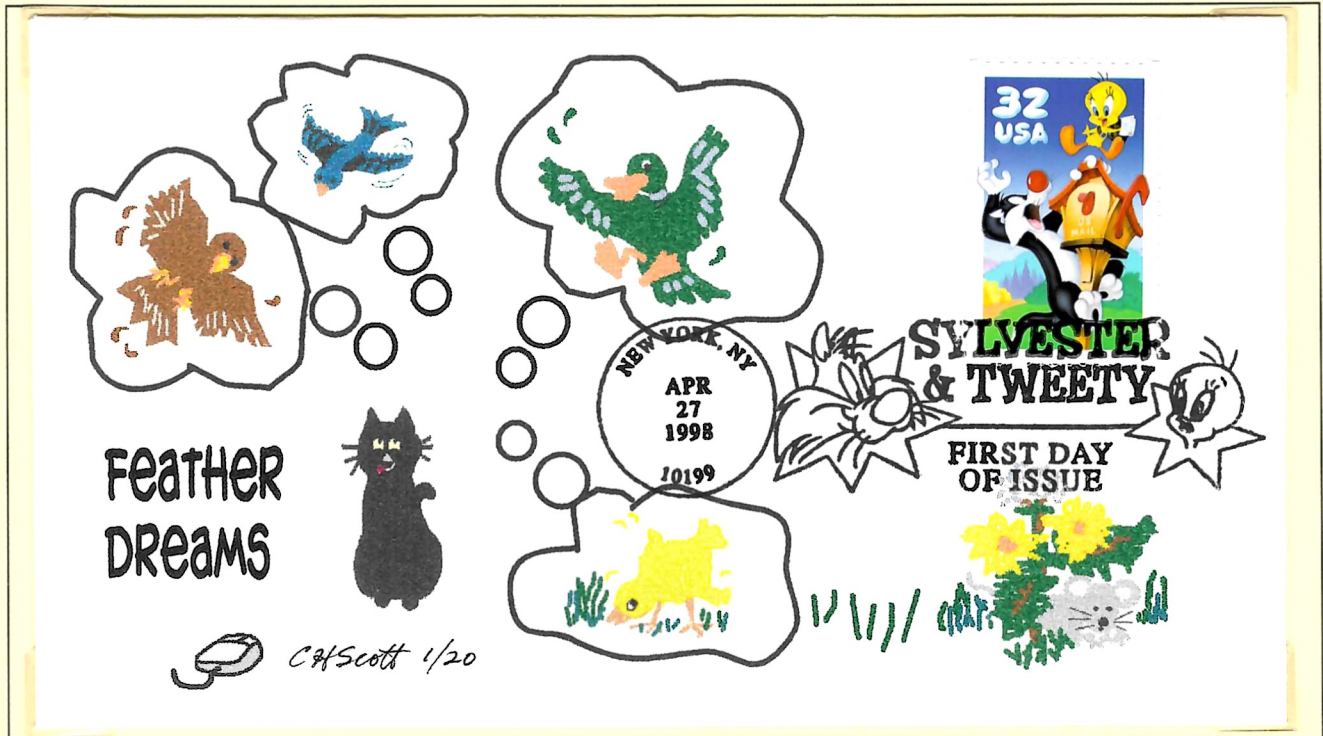


D. Computer Drawn

D.2. Design and Color

D.2.b. Working with Pieces

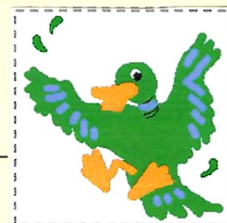
Seven different Bitmap Image (.bmp) files came together for this Sylvester & Tweety cachet: one for each “critter” in the picture and one for the PC mouse symbol. The dream bubbles and text were created in two layers of the Print Studio application where everything combined. Layering is a common feature of computer drawing and publishing applications -- even a relatively inexpensive (\$50) one like this “Micrografx Windows Draw.”



How the pieces
came together:



Rotated



Each feathered friend was
mouse-drawn in the Windows 98
accessory “Paint Brush.”

D. Computer Drawn
D.2. Design and Color
D.2.c. Stamp Style Imitation

Using the computer drawing and coloring app to imitate the style of the stamp art.

