

THE JAPOS BULLETIN

THE NEWSLETTER OF JOURNALISTS, AUTHORS, AND
POETS ON STAMPS

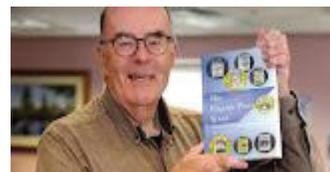
The JAPOS BULLETIN is published quarterly. DUES are \$7. Remit dues to the JAPOS Secretary-Treasurer (address below) by December 31 to subscribe for the following calendar year. JAPOS is a study unit of the American Topical Association, an affiliate (#68) of the American Philatelic Society, and a chapter (#54) of the American First Day Cover Society.

WINTER 2022

Whole Number 184

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JEFF DUGDALE MEMORIAL ISSUE



Although I have a couple of Jeff's articles left, JAPOS will soon miss the inimitable articles that he produced for every issue. Also, Jeff must have accumulated a vast amount of stamps that celebrated JAPOS material, for he seemed to be able to supply extra stamp illustrations for my and others' articles in the BULLETIN.

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Choosing the best JAPOS article of 2021 for APS's Articles of Distinction. VOTE for your favorite 2021 JAPOS article from the list below by sending your choice to cdcook2@gmail.com.

Winter 2021

- The Romantic Poets
- The Dante Club by Matthew Pearl
- Edgar Rice Burroughs

Summer 2021

- Sci-Fi Tales Part 1
- Gulliver's Travels on Stamps
- Will Rogers: An American Treasure

Spring 2021

- Criteria for Postal Recognition
- The Dumas Family on Stamps of Haiti
- Plays from the Old Vic
- Father Brown: Chesterson's Detective

Autumn 2021

- Sci-Fi Tales Parts 2 & 3
- The Legend of William Tell

William Pederson's "Abraham Lincoln as Journalist/Author/Poet," voted best JAPOS article of 2020, now appears on the American Philatelic Society's website at www.stamps.org/Articles-of-Distinction. Check it out!

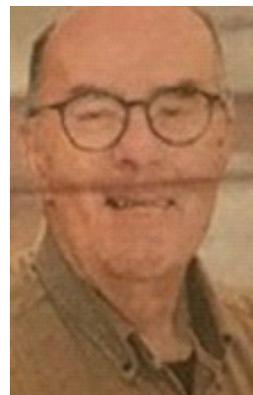
A Philatelic Salute to Jeff Dugdale

I first met Jeff around 2000, when he began to contribute high-grade articles to the JAPOS BULLETIN. As editor of the JAPOS (Journalists, Authors, and Poets on Stamps) BULLETIN, I now depend on Jeff for at least 50 percent of the content of our eight-page quarterly. Some of his excellent articles I must cut in half or thirds. Otherwise, he would take up whole issues. And what an editor loves, Jeff's articles are well-illustrated with his own stamps, etc., and need no editing. Some recent contributions include "Fiction Detective: Spotting Scene and Character in Shakespeare Stamps (4 parts)," "I'm Hans Christian Andersen," "Fictional Detectives on Stamps," an 8-page article on the Harry Potter books, and a series on fairy tale compilers.

Even more importantly, Jeff contributed to topical collecting as an editor in his own right. Since the mid-1990s, Jeff was the editor of ORBIT, the journal of the

Astro Space Stamp Society. Each issue of the quarterly ORBIT is a whopping 40 pages long! ORBIT has won medals at competitions in Chicago and Glasgow.

As has been said many times, the life blood of an ATA study unit is its journal. And the life



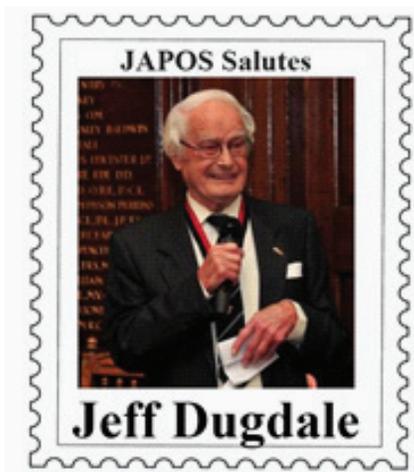
blood of a topical journal is its editor. Jeff Dugdale was the aorta to the heart of the two study units mentioned above.

Jeff was also a leading contributor of articles to ATA's TOPICAL TIME and the British glossies *Stamp* and *Spaceflight*. He belonged to his local philatelic society in Elgin, Moray, Scotland. He maintained extensive collections of Great Britain (mainly QE2), Scotland on Stamps, World Literature, Cinema, Opera and Ballet, Mythology, Folk and Fairy Tales, and of course Manned Space Flight.

Jeff was a full-time English teacher who loved teaching at Elgin High School in northeast Scotland while he was contributing prolifically to topical collecting. He had recently retired from teaching. He left a wife, Eve Archer, and two children, a daughter, and a son.

Most of the foregoing was submitted by Clete Delvaux, JAPOS president and editor of the JAPOS BULLETIN, to the American Topical Association as Jeff's qualifications to receive its Distinguished Topical Philatelist of 2009.

The fictional stamp to the left was created by JAPOS MEMBER James Byrne.

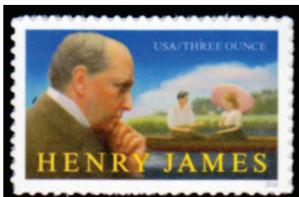


2021 JAPOS Officer Election Results

President — Cletus Delvaux
Vice-President — Mark Winnegrad
Secretary-Treasurer — Christopher D. Cook

The Great American Novel Jeff Dugdale 11.2020

“The Great American Novel” is a term applied to a work of high seriousness which is perceived to embody the quintessence of America and American character. The term is about 150 years old and was first attributed to the essayist J.W. De Forest (pictured) writing in *The Nation* when he



suggested that *Uncle Tom's Cabin* might well fall within the parameters referred to above. The term became much more widely used when Henry James (USA 2016) abbreviated it to “G.A.N.”

and it has since been nuanced by many critics.

There is no definitive, undisputed list of G.A.N.s but the term has been used very sparingly. In considering whether or not such and such a novel is a G.A.N. perhaps we should remember the Latin aphorism *de gustibus non est disputandum**.

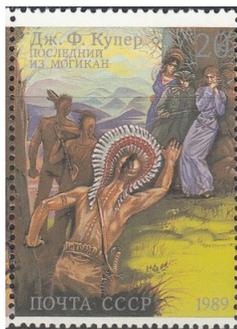
The following is a chronological ordering of G.A.N. candidates from a small number of sources—with a little about them, some argument regarding why they might qualify and an indication what stamps have been issued to honour them.

The Last of the Mohicans (1826)

This popular historical novel by James Fenimore Cooper (USA 1955) is set in 1757 primarily in the area of Lake George, New York, and details the transport of Alice and Cora Munro (daughters of an Army Colonel) to a safe destination at Fort William Henry. Dark-haired Cora is the daughter of a mixed race mother and Alice is her blonde half-sister.



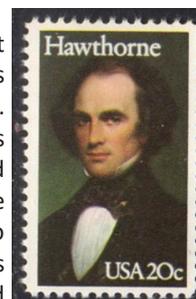
On the journey the women are protected by frontiersman Natty Bumppo, aka Hawk-eye, who is one of the most famous creations in American fiction, Major Duncan Heyward, and Mohican Indians Chingachgook and his son Uncas. These characters—most of whom are shown in one of the six stamps issued for Cooper by the Soviet Union in 1989—are sometimes seen as a microcosm of the budding American society, particularly with regard to their racial composition, hence the G.A.N. claim.



The plot involves a thrilling but ultimately tragic and gory series of captures and escapes, and acts of heroism and betrayal.

The Scarlet Letter (1850)

Nathaniel Hawthorne's historical tale is set in the Puritan Bay Colony in Massachusetts in the middle of the Seventeenth Century. Hester Prynne, apparently a widow, has given birth to a child out of wedlock and struggles throughout her life to live with the indignity that accompanies that fact, so allowing Hawthorne (USA 1983) to discuss illegitimacy, shaming, stigmatisation, sin and guilt.



Following her public humiliation of having to stand on a scaffold for three hours, Hester, who refuses to divulge the identity of her daughter's father is required to wear a red letter “A” (for Adulteress) on her dress for the rest of her life. In the crowd observing her shame is her long-lost husband, who adopting the new identity of Dr Roger Chillingworth vows to discover the father of his wife's child so he too can be punished. He visits Hester in prison and forces her not to reveal the truth about their relationship.



On release from prison Hester and daughter Pearl are largely shunned so live quietly, performing charitable acts by way of penance. As Pearl matures she become very wilful and the community consider removing her from the care of her mother, but with the help of parson Arthur Dimmesdale, Pearl is allowed to stay in the family home.

Chillingworth, lodging with the ailing Dimmesdale begins to realise that he is the likely father of Hester's child, a suspicion greatly enhanced by his observing a faint red “A” on the minister's chest. Eventually Dimmesdale confesses in public and dies in Hester's arms. Soon after Chillingworth also passes leaving Hester his substantial estate. When she dies she is buried close to Dimmesdale and they both share a tombstone with the red letter “A” engraved on it.

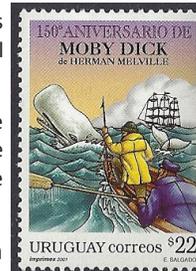
Moby Dick (1851)

This great novel by Herman Melville (USA 1984) has been referred to as “the grandfather of the Great American Novel”. Certainly the main character trait of its anti-hero Captain Ahab, obsessive determination is one that has informed The American Dream in the cases of tens of thousands of successful citizen-entrepreneurs across the years.

Captain Ahab having lost part of one leg in a previous encounter with the Great White Whale—Moby Dick—spends the entirety of the novel forcing the crew of the *Pequod* to seek out and destroy the beast in his fanatical quest for revenge. In a series of gams or rendezvous with other sailing ships Ahab is getting forever closer until finally they encounter Moby Dick, who is attacked by the *Pequod's* harpooners in small boats. (Uruguay 2001).



On the final fateful day all but Ishmael, the narrator, perish in the quest to kill the whale. He survives to tell the tale, which begins, “Call Me Ishmael”...



Stamps can be also found from the Solomon Islands, French Polynesia, The Isle of Man, Sierra Leone, Guinea and Niger.

*In a matter of taste there can be no disputation

Uncle Tom's Cabin (1852)

The famous anti-slavery but sentimental novel by Harriet Beecher Stowe (USA 2007) was first serialised in *The National Era*, the Washington anti-slavery weekly journal. Focussing public interest on slavery it was very controversial and some argue it prepared the country for The Civil War. Apocryphally, on meeting her President Lincoln declared, "So this is the little lady who started this great war". The novel was certainly an agent for social change.

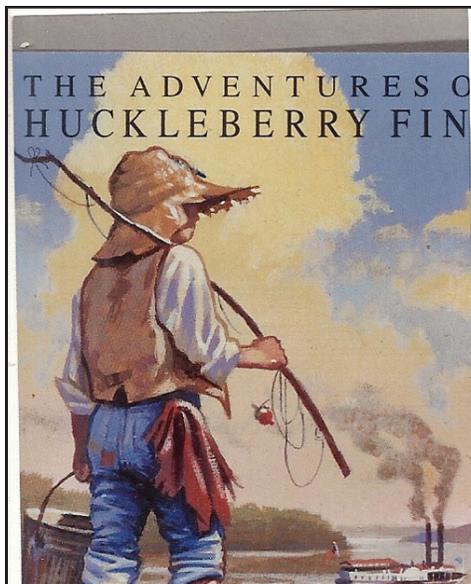


Uncle Tom's Cabin graphically tells the story of the treatment of the middle-aged long suffering slave mentioned in the title, but also shows that Christian love can mitigate even something as awful as slavery. When you consider that only around 3,200 copies of *Moby Dick* were sold in Melville's life time the fact that *Uncle Tom's Cabin* sold 300,000 in its first year of publication alone is witness to its astonishing effect.

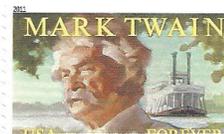
As the novel's central plot opens, debt-laden Kentucky farmer Arthur Shelby has reluctantly decided to sell two of his slaves (Tom and Harry) so separating them from their families. Their new owner is the coarse slave trader Haley, but before Tom can be presented at a market he has been purchased by New Orleans based Mr St Clare whose little daughter Eva he had saved from drowning on the voyage down the river. St Clare also purchases Topsy asking his cousin Ophelia who is racially prejudiced to educate her. (Topsy is particularly well known for her statement "I s'pect I growed. Don't think nobody never made me.")

Two years on, little Eva is dying and shares a vision of heaven which influences characters round about her to alter their ways, including Ophelia who changes her attitude to blacks. However St Clare dies after a stabbing and Tom is sold on again to the vicious Simon Legree and taken with others to Louisiana where he is regularly beaten by his new master to stop him believing in God. When Tom refuses to divulge information about the escape of a group of fellow slaves, Legree has Tom beaten to death. Arthur Shelby's son, George, arrives too late to buy Tom's freedom. George goes on to free all his own slaves and urges them to remember all the sacrifices Tom had made in his life. He determines to live the rest of his life in the pious way Uncle Tom had.

For such an unhappy tale, it's little surprise there are no stamps.



The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn (1884)



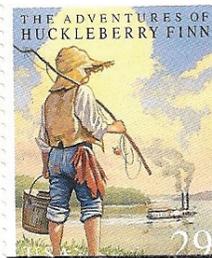
FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

As the first sequel to Mark Twain's *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, this book provides a social panorama of society along the banks of the Mississippi and is narrated by Tom's best friend Huck Finn. The novel is full of local colour—including a lot of controversially "coarse language" (!) - which helped preserve American regional identities while also contributing to domestic reunification efforts after the Civil War and is a scathing satire on outdated attitudes, particularly racism.

As the picaresque narrative begins we learn that Tom and Huck have quite a lot of money at their disposal because of what had happened at the end of the first novel, but Huck is unhappy at being under the thumb of The Widow Douglas. When he escapes her attentions he runs into his profligate alcoholic father who kidnaps him, hoping to get at Huck's money.

"Pap" imprisons Huck in a remote cabin deep in a forest, but Huck stages his own "death" and sets off downstream in a long canoe. Settling on Jackson's Island Huck meet's up with the runaway slave Jim, who is planning to get to the free state of Illinois. Initially Huck is not sure about supporting Jim's illegal behaviour but a bond grows between the two and Jim effectively becomes Huck's new guardian. They survive by plundering parts of houses that float down the river past them.

Huck learns that both Pap and Jim may have been responsible for his mother's death and that people are out looking for them. In their adventures Huck and Jim come across a grounded steamer and overhear two thieves plotting a further murder which they confound by sinking their boat. Huck tries to pretend to Jim that the whole thing was a dream and his relationship with the slave is affected by this deceit.



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

When the pair are separated by a passing steamship, which damages their raft, Huck befriends Buck Grangerford, the son of a wealthy family engaged in a blood feud with a rival family. Huck witnesses the murder of Buck along with all his male family members and is glad to be reunited with Jim who has repaired their raft. They then encounter two travelling hoboos (the duke and the king) who fantastically claim noble blood in order to conduct a series of complicated con tricks.

Huck learns that the duke and the king have sold Jim to a family who plan to return him to his original owner. This gets Huck's blood up and resolves to free Jim for good. Reunited with Tom Sawyer, Huck is able to get rid of the swindlers and they plan an elaborate scheme to free Jim. During the escape Tom is shot in the leg but Jim decides to stay with him, risking recapture. With the arrival of Tom's Aunt Polly all is resolved: Pap is known to have died and Huck decides to head into the hinterlands of the Wild West...

Today, some critiques regard the novel as racist, mainly because of the way the undereducated Jim is portrayed. Huck himself is a complex character. Twain, publicly admitted that "a sound heart is a surer guide than an ill-trained conscience" and went on to describe the novel as "...a book of mine where a sound heart and a deformed conscience come into collision and conscience suffers defeat".



As collectors will know there are many stamps celebrating Mark Twain and his books, for example further portrait stamps from USA (1940), Hungary (1949) and USSR and Romania (1960). There is large number of purely philatelic issues celebrating Tom Sawyer, including several Disney sets.

The Great Gatsby (1925)

This novel by F. Scott Fitzgerald (USA 1996) is one of the slimmer books to whom the term Great American Novel can be applied, yet it is accurate nevertheless.



The society depicted in the novel is that of the bright young things living in two fictional townships on Long island in the Summer of 1922.

Young and enigmatic millionaire Jay Gatsby is desperate to reunite with his former passion Daisy Buchanan. In describing how he goes about this the novel exposes extravagance, decadence, idealism etc during the Roaring Twenties as touched on in USA



1998: Celebrate the Century with its allusions to expensive limousines and rich young things seeking the good life.

Bond salesman Nick Carraway rents a bungalow in the village of West Egg close to Gatsby's mansion Nick dines with Daisy Buchanan, to whom he is distantly

related, and her former Yale footballer Tom in East Egg, who live across the bay from Gatsby. At a party in Gatsby's house Nick meets Jordan Baker, a childhood friend of Daisy's who tells him that Tom Buchanan is an adulterer.

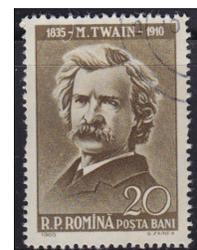
Later that week Nick accompanies Tom on a journey into New York and they stop at a garage run by George Wilson, the husband of Tom's mistress, Myrtle. In a party later that day Tom assaults his wife when she mentions Daisy Buchanan.

Nick is invited to a party at Gatsby's, but finds out he knows no-one, until he re-encounters Jordan. Gatsby himself insists Nick and he have a common past having served in the same regiment in the war, which puzzles Nick a little but he goes along with Gatsby's assertion.

Later Nick and Gatsby meet and the millionaire is keen to impress Nick with anecdotes from his past. Nick learns from Jordan that Gatsby is desperate to be part of Daisy's life again and through a compromised Nick stages a reunion which leads to an affair. Two months later when Tom discovers the affair Daisy declares her love for her husband, who tells her Gatsby is a swindler who has made his money by bootlegging alcohol. Tom insists Gatsby drive Daisy home and on the way their car strikes and kills Tom's mistress Myrtle. Gatsby claims it was Daisy who was driving but he will take the blame. When Tom discovers this claim he kills Gatsby and then himself.

At Gatsby's poorly attended funeral Nick realises that everything he has been associating with in the past year has been tinsel and trash which he must abandon to return to a more worthwhile life. The novel ends with Nick staring at out across the bay.

The Great Gatsby received mixed reviews and sold poorly with only 20,000 copies shifted in the first year. Fitzgerald died in 1940, believing himself to be a failure and his work forgotten but the novel experienced a revival during WW2 and was popularised with numerous stage and film adaptations in the following decades.



In Part Two:

Absalom, Absalom!, *The Grapes of Wrath*, *The Catcher in the Rye*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Beloved* and a clutch of others

Dante Septicentennial Stamps

by Christopher D. Cook

Last year, 2021, was the 700th anniversary of the death of medieval Italian poet Dante Alighieri, author of the *Divine Comedy* and other works. Italy issued the first Dante commemorative stamps one hundred years ago and over the past century similar occasions related to the poet have given rise to a multitude of “Dantean” stamps and philatelic items. Several

countries took advantage of last year’s septicentennial to issue Dante stamps including three that had never previously honored the poet in philately: Czech Republic, Georgia, and Liechtenstein. Dante’s death is believed to have occurred on September 14, 1321, and the September issuance of half of the year’s stamps reflects this observation.

May 31 – Sovereign Military Order of Malta



The Sovereign Military Order of Malta—recognized as a stamp-issuing body by the Sassone catalog—was the first entity to issue Dante stamps in 2021. The first stamp shows an anonymous illustration of Mount Purgatory found in a fifteenth-century Florentine manuscript (Ms. BR 215, 78v) of the *Divine Comedy* now in the Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale, Florence,

Italy. The second stamp features Raphael’s portrait of Dante in a detail from the artist’s fresco painting *The Parnassus*. The third shows Paradise depicted in a fifteenth-century manuscript in the Vatican Library. Three thousand sets of the stamps were printed on numbered mini-sheets by Cartor, La Loupe, France.

June 1 – San Marino



The Republic of San Marino issued three stamps designed by Davide Pagliardini in a print run of 30,000. The stamps feature quotations from Dante’s *Inferno*: “Amor ch’a nullo amato amar perdona” (Love, which pardons no one loved from loving in return), *Inferno* 5:103; “Fatti non foste a viver come bruti” (You were not made to live like brutes), *Inferno* 26:119; and “E quindi uscimmo a riveder le stelle” (And thence we came forth to look again at the stars), *Inferno* 34:139.

September 6 – Liechtenstein

Liechtenstein issued a set of two stamps to honor Dante. Koninklijke Joh. Enschedé of Haarlem, Netherlands, printed the stamps using the steel engraving process to reproduce the original pen and ink drawings of Swiss designer Thomas Giger. One stamp shows a youthful portrait of Dante and the other a hand holding a quill pen.



September 8 – Czech Republic



Czech graphic artist Marina Richterová provided the artwork for the first Dante stamps issued by the Czech Republic. One stamp shows a portrait of Dante in color and the other a full-length portrait, in black and white, of the poet holding a book. Thirty thousand sets were printed.



September 8 – Vatican City



The Vatican City stamp, designed by Gabriele Dell'Otto, shows Saint Peter and Dante. Twenty-six thousand sets of four stamps (104,000 stamps total) were printed on mini-sheets by Cartor, La Loupe, France.



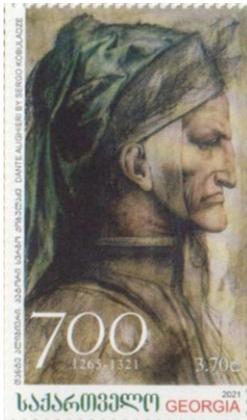
Vatican City first day cancel,
September 8, 2021

September 14 – Italy



Poste Italiane describes this set of three stamps as follows (translated by the author): *Inferno*: Detail from a work by the painter Corrado Veneziano titled *Inferno, Evoking Buffalmacco*; *Purgatorio*: The figure of a man, whose features recall the poet Dante Alighieri, who stands on the platform of a subway station; behind him restless figures appear hypnotized by luminous screens, some books float around; *Paradiso*: The work of Paolo Bocci titled *The Passing of the Baton* in which a young man, with his head encircled by laurel leaves, iconography that has always been representative of the poet Dante Alighieri, rejoices in an acrobatic jump while holding a pen in one hand, surrounded by letters and sheets of paper. The *Inferno* stamp was designed by Corrado Veneziano, *Purgatorio* by Francesco Di Pietro, and *Paradiso* by Paolo Bocci. Three hundred thousand sets were printed in Rome by the Istituto Poligrafico e Zecca dello Stato.

October – Georgia



Like the Czech Republic and Liechtenstein, the Republic of Georgia issued its first Dante stamp in the septicentennial year of 2021. The stamp features a portrait of the poet by Georgian painter and illustrator Sergo Kobuladze (1909–1978).

November 24 – Uruguay

This stamp issued by Uruguay features a design by Daniel Pereyra of Dante and Virgil watching Charon in his boat on the River Acheron from *Inferno* 3:82–84. Five thousand stamps were printed by Sanfer S.R.L. in Montevideo, Uruguay.

