

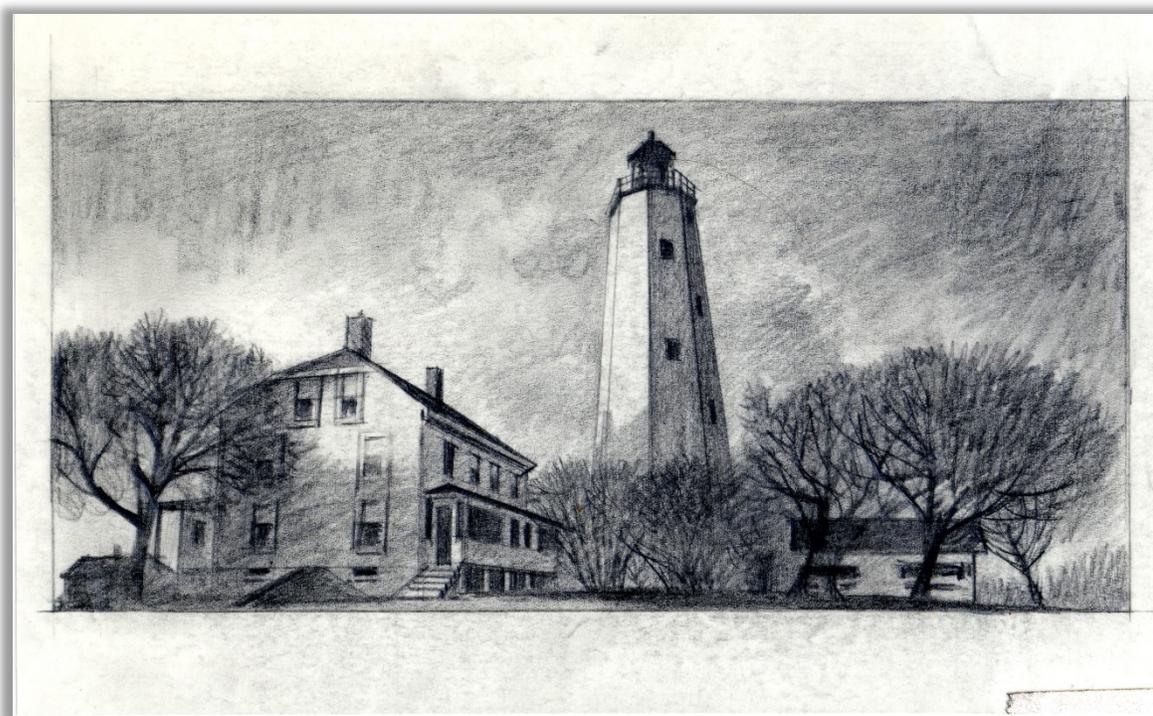
---

# Howard H. Koslow Collection

---

## FINDING GUIDE

Prepared by  
Daniel A. Piazza, Curator of Philately  
with the assistance of Michael Devaney



*Unadopted, original conceptual artwork by Howard H. Koslow for the 1990 Sandy Hook Lighthouse commemorative.*

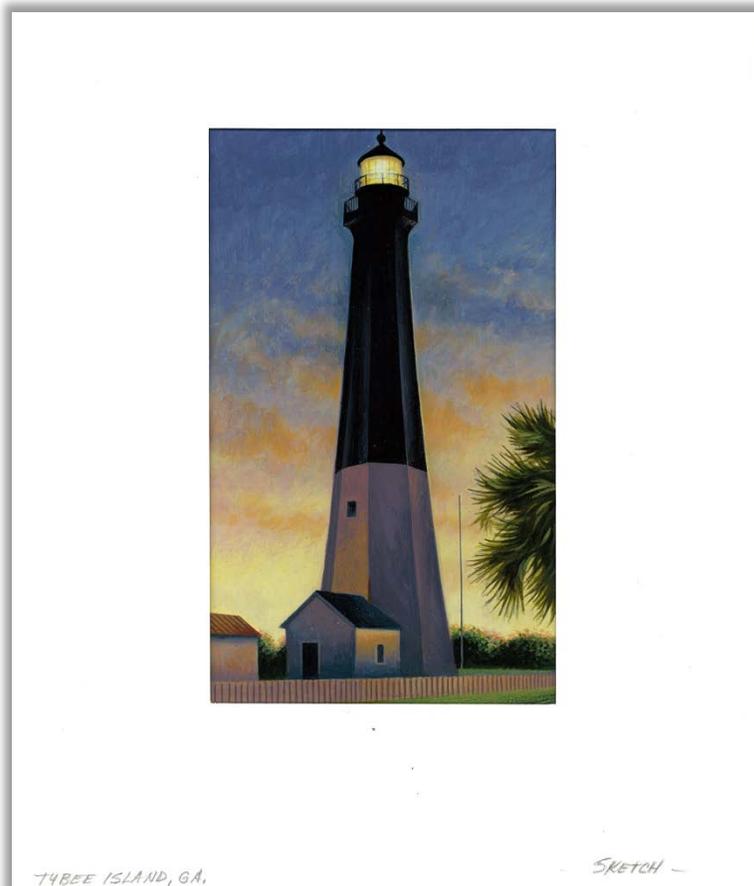


Smithsonian  
National Postal Museum

This revision was published July 2013.  
This finding guide is available online at  
<http://www.postalmuseum.si.edu/findingguides/index.html>  
Check online to be certain you have the latest revision.

# Table of Contents

Collection Scope & Content.....	3
Provenance .....	3
Narrative Description .....	3
Container Inventory.....	3
Bibliography .....	5
Credits & Acknowledgments.....	5



*Original conceptual artwork by Howard H. Koslow for the 2003 Tybee Island Lighthouse commemorative; very similar to the issued stamp.*

---

## COLLECTION SCOPE & CONTENT

---

The Howard H. Koslow Collection of modern U.S. stamp art consists of one box of forty-eight folders containing pre- and post-production materials for nearly every stamp Howard Koslow designed. The folders are arranged into three series. The first series comprises stamp art, mainly highly developed pencil sketches and acrylic paintings for accepted and unaccepted stamp designs. The second series comprises Koslow's artwork for his private cachets. The third series comprises correspondence and additional reference material such as photographs and newspaper clippings.

---

## PROVENANCE

---

Howard H. Koslow graduated from Pratt Institute in New York in 1944. After an apprenticeship to Jean Carlu, the French poster artist, Koslow studied painting at the Cranbrook Academy of Art in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan and the School of Visual Arts in New York. Over his lengthy career, he developed a reputation for historical accuracy, which led to commissions from the U.S. Air Force, NASA—for whom he created official paintings of the Apollo 15 mission and the first launch of the Space Shuttle *Endeavour*—the National Park Service, and the U.S. Coast Guard. He received his first stamp commission from the U.S. Postal Service in 1971 for a stamp to mark the tenth anniversary of the Antarctic Treaty. Over the next four decades, Koslow designed sixty stamps for the USPS. Although he is best known for his series of thirty stamps featuring lighthouses of the United States, other notable stamps included issues for the bicentennials of the signing and ratification of the U.S. Constitution, Jazz Singers in the Legends of Hollywood series, and the Brooklyn Bridge.

Koslow donated this collection to the National Postal Museum in 2012 (Accession #2012.2036).

---

## NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

---

The Howard H. Koslow Collection is an important collection of original production material for U.S. stamps that complements the Postmaster General's Collection. It includes original artwork not found in the PMG collection, as well as material related to stamps that were never issued. Unissued stamps are grouped together at the end of the first series.

---

## CONTAINER INVENTORY

---

### Series One: Stamp Art – 24 folders

- 6¢ Wolf Trap Farm, 1972 (Scott 1452)
- 20¢ Brooklyn Bridge, 1983 (Scott 2041)
- 20¢ Tennessee Valley Authority, 1983 (Scott 2042)
- 22¢ Rural Electrification Administration, 1985 (Scott 2144)
- 22¢ Signing of the U.S. Constitution, 1987 (Scott 2360)
- 25¢ Constitution Bicentennial Series, 1989-1990 (Scott 2412-2415)
- 25¢ Lighthouses, 1990 (Scott 2470-2474)
- 29¢ Jazz Singers, 1994 (Scott 2854, 2856, 2858, 2860)
- 32¢ Great Lakes Lighthouses, 1995 (Scott 2969-2973)
- 33¢ 1940s Celebrate the Century, 1999 (Scott 3186)

- 37¢ Southeastern Lighthouses, 2003 (Scott 3787-3791)
- 41¢ Pacific Lighthouses, 2007 (Scott 4146-4150)
- 44¢ Gulf Coast Lighthouses, 2009 (Scott 4409-4413)
- Forever (46¢) New England Lighthouses, 2013 (Scott TBD)
- 39¢ Aviation Pioneers airmail (Lawrence and Elmer Sperry), 1985 (Scott C114)
- 50¢ Antarctic Treaty 30th Anniversary airmail, 1991 (Scott C130)
- 45¢ Letter Sheet for Foreign Postage, 1989 (Scott UC53)
- 19¢ Carnegie Hall Centennial postal card, 1991 (Scott UX154)
- 19¢ Ellis Island Immigration Museum postal card, 1992 (Scott UX165)
- 19¢ Washington National Cathedral postal card, 1993 (Scott UX166)
- 20¢ Princeton University postal card, 1996 (Scott UX263)
- 20¢ City College of New York postal card, 1997 (Scott UX280)
- Unissued 10¢ Constitution Hall postal card, c. 1980
- Unissued American Textile Industry series, c. 1984

### **Series Two: Cachet Art – 18 folders**

- 6¢ Wolf Trap Farm, 1972 (Scott 1452)
- 20¢ Brooklyn Bridge, 1983 (Scott 2041)
- 20¢ Tennessee Valley Authority, 1983 (Scott 2042)
- 22¢ Rural Electrification Administration, 1985 (Scott 2144)
- 22¢ Signing of the U.S. Constitution, 1987 (Scott 2360)
- 25¢ Constitution Bicentennial Series, 1989-1990 (Scott 2412-2415)
- 25¢ Lighthouses, 1990 (Scott 2470-2474)
- 29¢ Jazz Singers, 1994 (Scott 2854, 2856, 2858, 2860)
- 32¢ Great Lakes Lighthouses, 1995 (Scott 2969-2973)
- 33¢ 1940s Celebrate the Century, 1999 (Scott 3186)
- 37¢ Southeastern Lighthouses, 2003 (Scott 3787-3791)
- 41¢ Pacific Lighthouses, 2007 (Scott 4146-4150)
- 44¢ Gulf Coast Lighthouses, 2009 (Scott 4409-4413)
- 39¢ Aviation Pioneers airmail (Lawrence and Elmer Sperry), 1985 (Scott C114)
- 19¢ Carnegie Hall Centennial postal card, 1991 (Scott UX154)
- 19¢ Washington National Cathedral postal card, 1993 (Scott UX166)
- 20¢ Princeton University postal card, 1996 (Scott UX263)
- 20¢ City College of New York postal card, 1997 (Scott UX280)

### **Series Three: Additional Reference Materials – 6 folders**

- Koslow—Photographs
- Koslow—Biographical Material
- Koslow—Correspondence—General
- Koslow—Correspondence—USPS
- Koslow—Correspondence—Blattner Letters
- Signed First Day Ceremony Programs

---

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

---

Much information technical and background information on Howard H. Koslow's issued stamps may be found in the *Linn's U.S. Stamp Yearbooks*, edited by George Amick and published annually from 1983 to 2010. The National Postal Museum Library possesses a complete set.

---

## CREDITS & ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

---

This finding aid was prepared with the assistance of Michael Devaney.

Images are from the Smithsonian National Postal Museum's Howard H. Koslow Collection of modern U.S. stamp art, Accession #2012.2036.



*Unadopted, original conceptual artwork by Howard H. Koslow for the 1994 Billie Holiday commemorative in the American Music Series.*