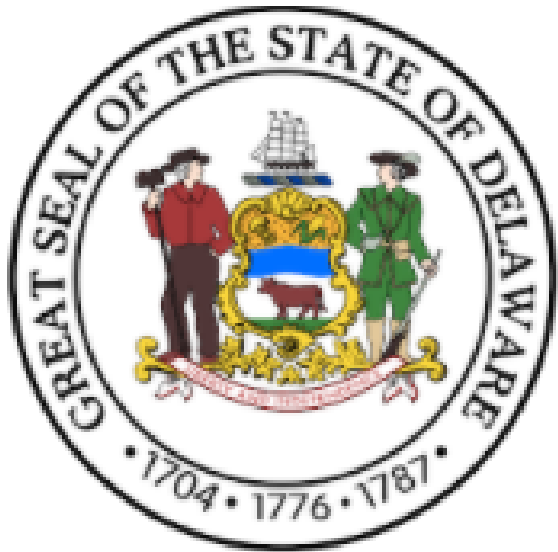




DELAWARE  
ON  
UNITED STATES  
POSTAGE

# *Delaware on United States Postage*



This handbook is a compilation of all the United States postal issues with some relation to Delaware, to the best of my knowledge. The date and city of issue, Scott catalog numbers, illustrations and a short description of their relevance to the State of Delaware are included. A simplified checklist is attached at the back of the book.

Information on items not included or corrections would be appreciated by me for future updates, and should be sent to me at [jcgraper@comcast.net](mailto:jcgraper@comcast.net) or by mail to:

John C. Graper, 2624 Grendon Dr., Wilmington, DE 19808

## Declaration of Independence



Scott Catalog Number: **120** Issue Date: April 7, 1869 (first recorded usage)  
City of Issue: Unknown

The definitive issue of 1869 was the first use of subjects other than portraits. The subject of the vignette on the 24¢ value of the series is a painting by John Trumbull, *The Declaration of Independence, 4 July 1776 at Philadelphia*. At the right side of the stamp, behind John Hancock seated at the desk are three identifiable members of the Delaware delegation, George Read, Thomas McKean and John Dickinson. (See enlargement on page 8.)

The series had a short life, as the public felt the illustrations were "undignified," and later issues returned to portraits.

## 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Landing of William Penn



Scott Catalog Number: **724** Issue Date: October 24, 1932  
Cities of Issue: Wilmington, DE, Chester, PA, Philadelphia, PA

Born in London, England in 1644, William Penn became a Quaker in his teens and was sent to Ireland by his father. He was imprisoned on several occasions for his religious writings in both the Tower of London and Newgate Prison. After his release, he obtained through his father a royal grant to land in America. He landed at New Castle, Delaware in 1682 and negotiated a treaty with the local Indian tribes. He planned and named Philadelphia, and later returned to England to aid Quakers.

The state of Delaware under Penn's administration was actually the three lower counties of Pennsylvania until it gained self-government in 1704, before the Revolutionary War.

## Commodore Thomas MacDonough



Scott Catalog Number: **791** Issue Date: January 15, 1937  
 City of Issue: Washington, DC

A native Delawarean, Thomas MacDonough was a hero of the Siege of Tripoli, being a volunteer who helped burn the captured *USS Philadelphia* while serving under Stephen Decatur, and was in command of a squadron at the Battles of Plattsburg and Lake Champlain in the War of 1812. His portrait appears along with that of Stephen Decatur on the 2¢ denomination of the Navy series of stamps issued from 1936 through 1937.

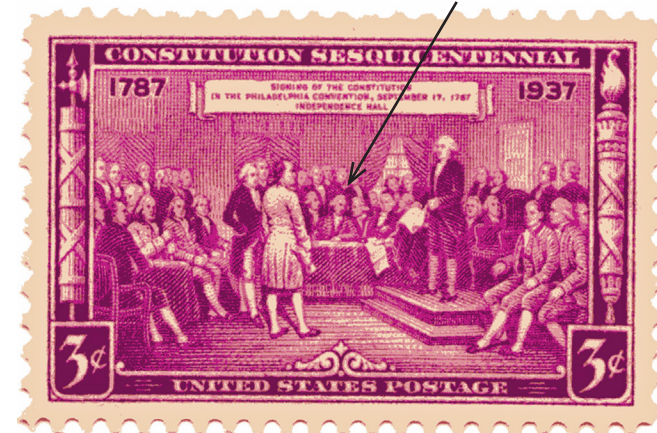
## Signing of the Constitution



Scott Catalog Number: **798** Issue Date: September 17, 1937  
 City of Issue: Philadelphia, PA

The painting shown on the stamps pictures the thirty-nine assembled representatives of the thirteen states as they prepared to sign the Constitution of the United States on September 17, 1787 in Independence Hall in Philadelphia. The painting is Junius Brutus Stearns' 1856 "Statesmanship", part of his series of paintings of George Washington, who is shown addressing the convention. George Read of the Delaware delegation signed for fellow Delawarean Thomas McKean, as McKean was ill on the day of the signing and could not attend. Delaware delegate John Dickinson is the center figure at the table. (See next page)

John Dickinson



In the Stearns painting shown on the stamp, one of the figures identifiable is John Dickinson, a Delaware delegate. He is the central figure seated at the table in the middle of the stamp.

## 150th Anniversary of the Constitution Ratification



Scott Catalog Number: **835** Issue Date: June 21, 1938  
 City of Issue: Philadelphia, PA

The proposed Constitution of the United States of America had to be ratified by the delegations of two thirds of the states before it became effective. Delaware's nickname, "The First State", derives from the fact that it was the first to ratify the document, on December 7, 1787, celebrated as "Delaware Day". The date chosen for the date of issue of the stamp is the anniversary of ratification by New Hampshire which, being the ninth state to do so, made the Constitution the law of the land. It was not until May 1790 that the last holdout, Rhode Island, made ratification unanimous.

## Swedes & Finns Landing Tercentennial



Scott Catalog Number: **836** Issue Date: June 27, 1938  
City of Issue: Wilmington, DE

The first stamp issued by the United States specifically honoring Delaware was for the 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the landing of the Swedes and Finns at "The Rocks" in Wilmington. Led by Pieter Minuit, a small group of Swedish and Finnish settlers disembarked from the *Kalmar Nyckel* and *Fogel Grip* and founded New Sweden. The painting shown now hangs in the library at the University of Delaware in Newark, Delaware.

## Volunteer Firemen 300th Anniversary



Scott Catalog Number: **971** Issue Date: October 4, 1948  
City of Issue: Dover, DE

The first volunteer fire brigade in the United States was organized by the Dutch governor of New Amsterdam, (now New York,) Peter Stuyvesant. His picture is in the oval frame on the stamp. In 1653, in an effort to strengthen Dutch rule in Delaware, Stuyvesant came south with an armed force and established Fort Casimir on what is now the northern outskirts of New Castle, Delaware, and proclaimed it a Dutch colony, no longer Swedish. Later the Dutch were displaced by the British. Thus the first day ceremonies for the stamp took place in Dover. Fort Casimir was the center point of the circle defining the northern border of Delaware.

## Christmas - American Holly



Scott Catalog Number: **1254** Issue Date: November 9, 1964  
City of Issue: Bethlehem, PA

The American Holly is the official state tree of Delaware. Although holly has appeared on other stamps as a detail, this is the first stamp to make it the main subject. It was issued in both tagged and untagged form, and is the first United States stamp to be issued in a se-tenant format.

## John Bassett Moore



Scott Catalog Number: **1295** Issue Date: December 3, 1966  
Cities of Issue: Smyrna, DE

John Bassett Moore was born in Smyrna, Delaware and became a judge at the International Court of Justice in The Hague, Netherlands. He is honored on the \$5.00 value of the Prominent Americans series of definitive stamps. This stamp is unusual in modern times in that the denomination is printed only in words, with no numerals. It also comes in two varieties, as it was re-issued later with fluorescent tagging. His birthplace, Smyrna, Delaware was the site of the first day ceremony.

## Delaware State Flag

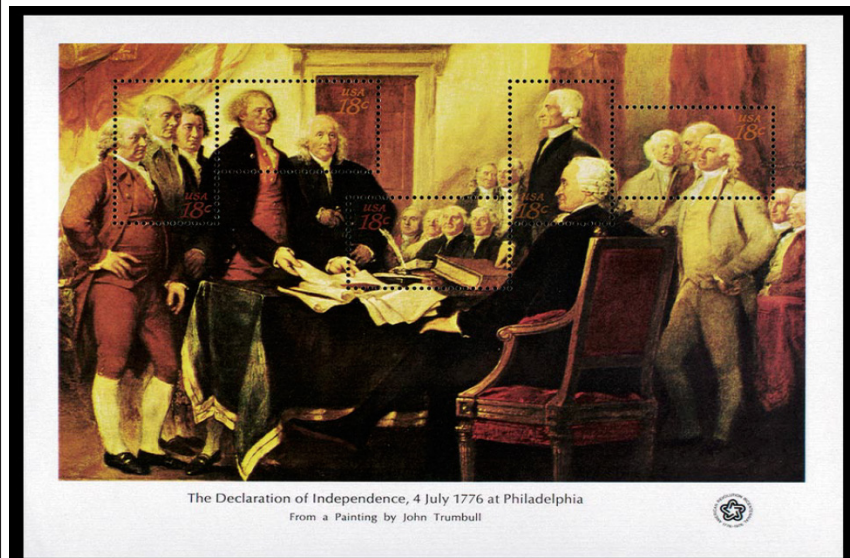


Scott Catalog Number: **1633** Issue Date: February 23, 1976  
 City of Issue: Dover, DE

The stamp showing the Delaware state flag is part of a pane of fifty stamps, comprised of the flags of each state in alphabetical order. The issue is part of the celebration of the U.S. bicentennial.

## Declaration of Independence Souvenir Sheet

Scott Catalog Number: **1687** Issue Date: May 29, 1976  
 City of Issue: Philadelphia, PA



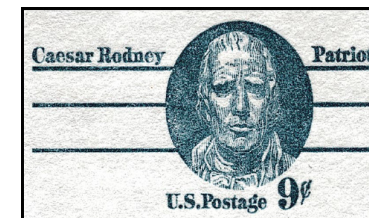
## Declaration of Independence Souvenir Sheet

The souvenir sheet on the previous page one of a set of four depicting well-known paintings of the War of Independence. Each sheet contains 5 stamps, with denominations of 13¢, 18¢, 24¢ and 31¢, perforated to assist removal. The Delaware delegation was composed of five men, George Read, John Dickinson, John Barrett, Jacob Broom and Thomas McKean. Of those, Read, Dickinson and McKean are identifiable in the painting. The enlargement below from the side of the sheet shows their locations.



## Caesar Rodney Postcard & Reply Card

Scott Catalog Number: **UX70 & UY27** Issue Date: July 1, 1976  
 City of Issue: Dover, DE



This post card and the reply card associated with it are part of the Patriot Series showing notable personages of the American Revolution. Caesar Rodney is noted for his horseback ride from Dover to Philadelphia to cast the deadlocked Delaware delegation's vote in favor of independence from Great Britain, even though suffering severely from facial cancer.

## Declaration of Independence Se-tenant Strip



Scott Catalog Number: **1694a** Issue Date: July 4, 1976  
 City of Issue: Philadelphia, PA

This strip of four stamps in a continuous design shows John Trumbull's painting of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. The Delaware delegation of five was composed of John Dickinson, Jacob Broom, Thomas McKean, Richard Bassett and George Read. Of these, Read, Dickinson and McKean are depicted in the grouping at the right side of the stamp behind John Hancock on the podium. (See detail in same painting on page 8)

## Harriet Tubman



Scott Catalog Number: **1744** Issue Date: February 1, 1978  
 City of Issue: Washington, DC

Harriet Tubman was born as a slave in Maryland and named Araminta Ross. She married a free black man, John Tubman, in 1844, and escaped to the North in 1849. In her zeal to help other slaves to gain their freedom, she made at least 19 trips back to Maryland to guide escapees as a "conductor" on the "Underground Railroad". Safe places to rest en route were established in Kent County, DE and in Wilmington by abolitionists sympathetic to her efforts. The Tubman-Garrett park in Wilmington is named after her and a Quaker who provided temporary housing for the slaves on the trip north.

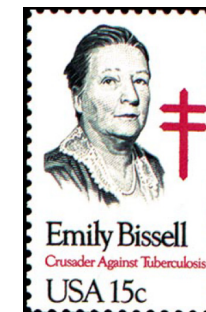
## French Alliance



Scott Catalog Number: **1753** Issue Date: May 4, 1978  
 City of Issue: York, PA

Issued as part of an extended series commemorating the U.S. Bicentennial, this stamp depicts King Louis XVI of France in a meeting with Benjamin Franklin. Although issued in York, Pennsylvania, the original unglazed porcelain figurine is at the Winterthur Museum in Wilmington.

## Emily Bissell



Scott Catalog Number: **1823** Issue Date: May 31, 1980  
 City of Issue: Wilmington, DE

Emily Bissell has been honored by a stamp commemorating her efforts to treat and eradicate tuberculosis, an epidemic disease in the United States at the time of her crusade. A hospital founded by her in the northwest suburbs of Wilmington for treatment of tuberculosis was the site of the first day ceremony for this stamp. Outside of Delaware, she is perhaps best known for the creation of Christmas Seals, sold to help finance the research on the disease.

First sold only in Delaware, later nationwide, they are now sold in many nations to combat tuberculosis.

## State Birds and Flowers



Scott Catalog Number: **1960** Issue Date: April 14, 1982  
 City of Issue: Washington, DC

In a fifty-stamp format similar to that of the state flags, the official state bird and state flowers were recognized in this issue. The artist for the issue, Arthur Singer, expressed some doubt as to whether the breed had ever existed, alleging that it hadn't been seen in 200 years. Bob Carpenter, former owner of the Philadelphia Phillies, refuted the statement in an article published in the June 13, 1982, *Wilmington (DE) News Journal*, noting that he among others has a breeding stock of them.

## Treaties of Paris & Versailles



Scott Catalog Number: **2052** Issue Date: September 2, 1983  
 City of Issue: Washington, DC

The stamp below commemorates the signing of the treaties of Versailles and Paris, officially ending the Revolutionary War. The Treaty of Versailles was signed between Great Britain, France and Spain on September 2nd, and the Treaty of Paris signed by Great Britain and the United States on September 3rd. The painting on the stamp is by Benjamin West and now hangs in the Winterthur Museum in Wilmington, Delaware. It depicts the American treaty commissioners in preliminary peace negotiations. S.C. Laurens of South Carolina, later a President of the Continental Congress, was edited out of the painting for the stamp, and the British delegates refused to pose for the artist.

## Stamp Collecting Booklet



Scott Catalog Number: **2201a** Issue Date: January 23, 1986  
 City of Issue: State College, PA

This booklet issue honoring stamp collecting has several Delaware connections, all but one on the third stamp from the left. First, it shows the Swedes and Finns Tercentenary issue under the magnifier, then has a Wilmington, Del. cancel in the lower left corner. The two Swedish stamps at the top were issued in conjunction with the tercentenary, and lastly, the booklet cover reproduces part of the same stamp. The issue is also noted for several missing color errors, notably black.

### Detail

1938 Swedish Tercentenary Stamps



#836 - Swedes & Finns Tercentenary  
 Wilmington, Del. cancel

## Constitutional Convention Bicentennial Postcard



Scott Catalog Number: **UX116** Issue Date: May 25, 1987  
City of Issue: Philadelphia, PA

This postal card was issued to celebrate the convening of the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia on May 25, 1787. While no personages from Delaware are shown, they were most definitely in attendance at the convention. Shown on the card are George Mason, Gouverneur Morris, James Madison, Alexander Hamilton and Charles C. Pinckney.

## North American Wildlife - Lady Bug



Scott Catalog Number: **2315** Issue Date: May 23, 1987  
City of Issue: Toronto, Ontario, Canada (at CAPEX 1987)

This stamp was issued as part of a fifty-stamp pane showing the fauna and flora of the nation. Although not explicitly described as such by the USPS, the insect, *Coccinellidae Hippodamia Convergens* is the official state insect of Delaware.

The pane was issued at the CAPEX 1987 exhibition in Toronto, Ontario, which is a rare first day city outside the U.S.A., and part of a joint issue with Canada.

## Constitutional Ratification Bicentennial



Scott Catalog Number: **2336** Issue Date: July 4, 1987  
City of Issue: Dover, DE

This stamp is the first of a series commemorating the ratification of the constitution of the United States by the thirteen former British colonies, who until that time were governed by the Articles of Confederation.

The stamp bears the state seal of Delaware, the only one of the series to do so, the others having scenes of their states.

## 350th Anniversary of Swedes & Finns Landing



Scott Catalog Number: **C117** Issue Date: March 29, 1988  
City of Issue: Wilmington, DE

This issue recognizes the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Delaware's settlement by the Swedes and Finns, but also is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the stamp issued in 1938 in Wilmington. While the 1938 ceremony took place at Fort Christina State Park, the Grand Opera House in Wilmington hosted this event. Sweden and Finland both issued stamps in similar designs at the same time, and the king and queen of Sweden visited Delaware at the time.



## Civil War Sheet & Postcard



Scott Catalog Number: **2975k & UX210** Issue Date: June 9, 1995  
City of Issue: Gettysburg, PA

This stamp honoring Harriet Tubman was issued as part of a sheet of twenty stamps showing sixteen notable personages and four battles of the Civil War. Her route guiding escaped slaves north took her through Kent County and Wilmington, where she was aided by Quakers in her cause. At least 300 slaves reached freedom in Canada through her efforts on their behalf as a "conductor" on the Underground Railroad. She died in 1913 at her home in Auburn, New York. The postcard series has the same images on the indicia, with the denomination changed to 20¢. Each postcard has on the reverse side the stamp image reproduced at the full size of the card.

## Christmas - American Holly



Scott Catalog Number: **3177** Issue Date: October 30, 1997  
City of Issue: New York, NY

The American Holly makes its second appearance as the main subject of a stamp issued to celebrate Christmas, the first being in 1964. This time it is depicted much more realistically and by itself rather than as part of a block of four stamps. The American Holly tree has been named the official tree of the state of Delaware and is quite commonly seen throughout the state. The stamp was issued only in booklet form and there are four types of these, with panes of four, five, six and twenty stamps.

## Alexander Calder - Black Cascade



Scott Catalog Number: **3198** Issue Date: May 25, 1998  
City of Issue: Washington, DC

The noted sculptor, Alexander Calder, was famous for his modernistic works. He was among the first sculptors to create mobiles, which hang freely, allowing the components to move. The piece on the stamp above is entitled *Black Cascade, 13 Verticals*, and was completed in 1959. This mobile is now on display in the Delaware Art Museum in Wilmington.

## Insects & Spiders - Lady Bug



Scott Catalog Number: **3351c** Issue Date: October 1, 1999  
City of Issue: Indianapolis, IN

In 1999, the Postal Service issued a pane of twenty different stamps illustrating various insects and spiders native to the United States. One of these is the lady bug, also known as the Lady Beetle, the official state insect of Delaware.

The lady bug was chosen in 1974 as the result of efforts by a 2nd grade teacher and her class in Milford, Delaware.

## American Illustrators - Howard Pyle



Scott Catalog Number: **3502h** Issue Date: February 1, 2001  
City of Issue: New York, NY

The Postal Service issued a pane of 20 stamps depicting works by American illustrators in 2001. One of them was Howard Pyle, born in Wilmington, Delaware in 1853. He founded the Howard Pyle School of Illustration Art, now the Delaware Art Museum. His book, *The Merry Adventures of Robin Hood*, published in 1883, remains in print. He illustrated articles for *St. Nicholas Magazine*, *Harper's Weekly* and others, and is well known for his paintings of pirates. Many of his students form what is called the *Brandywine School* of artists. He died in Italy in 1911 while studying mural painting.

## American Illustrators - Harvey Dunn



Scott Catalog Number: **3502o** Issue Date: February 1, 2001  
City of Issue: New York, NY

A South Dakota native, Harvey Dunn's talent was recognized by his art instructor there, who recommended that he study under Howard Pyle in Wilmington, Delaware. After spending 2 years with Pyle, he set up his own studio and produced paintings at a rapid rate, at one point, 55 works in 11 weeks. In addition to his illustrations for books, his work frequently appeared in *The Saturday Evening Post*, *Harper's*, *Collier's* and *Scribner's Magazines*. In 1914 he opened the Leonia (NJ) School of Illustration with Charles Chapman. This was his most productive period. In 1927 he began painting covers for *The American Legion Monthly*. However, he is best known for his paintings with Midwestern themes, such as *Dakota Woman*, *The Prairie Is My Garden* and *The Chuck Wagon*. The illustration above, in keeping with this theme is his *Something for Supper*.

## American Illustrators - N.C. Wyeth



Scott Catalog Number: **3502r** Issue Date: February 1, 2001  
City of Issue: New York, NY

Also in the Illustrators sheet is a stamp honoring N.C. Wyeth, who was an accomplished water-colorist by age twelve. He studied drafting and illustration in Massachusetts and was invited to study with Howard Pyle in Wilmington. His style meshed well with Pyle's and by age eighteen his work was being published by a number of major magazines. After marriage, he moved to Chadd's Ford, PA. His early works were of the Old West, but later he concentrated his efforts on illustrating classic literature. He is considered one of the great American illustrators. His son Andrew and grandson Jamie have also become major artists in their own right.

## Greetings From America - 34¢ & 37¢



Scott Catalog Numbers: **3568 (34¢)** Issue Date: April 4, 2002  
**3703 (37¢)** October 25, 2002  
City of Issue: New York, NY or any State Capitol

This stamp is part of a fifty-design pane with each state's name in large type against a background of some of the state's attractions. Delaware's stamp illustrates historic buildings and the beach. The stamp was reissued only months later to reflect the new 37¢ rate. A set of fifty postcards was released at the same time, each showing one of the stamps.

## Flags of Our Nation Coil Stamp



Scott Catalog Number: **4282** Issue Date: June 14, 2008  
City of Issue: Washington, DC

This stamp is part of a series of sixty stamps issued in six coils, each containing five strips of ten different stamps over a period extending from 2008 to 2012. The series illustrates the flags of each state and territory and the District of Columbia as well as the Stars and Stripes. In addition to the flag, each of the stamps has a scene or illustration related to the area represented. On the stamp for Delaware, it is a beach scene. The designer of the stamps also lives in Bethany Beach, Delaware.

## Purple Heart



Scott Catalog Number: **4704a** Issue Date: October 11, 2014  
City of Issue: Camden, DE (Postmarked Dover, as Camden has no post office of its own.)

This is the stamp honoring soldiers who have been wounded in action. It was originally created at the order of George Washington, who desired a medal for all troops, not just officers as in the past. At the top is Washington's family coat of arms. It is unique in that it is the only medal which may be awarded to civilians, if they are wounded while serving with troops in action. The stamp had its first day of issue in Camden, Delaware, but Camden does not have a post office and thus the cancel shows Dover as the city of issue.

## Coastal Birds - Sheet & Coil - Red Knot



Scott Catalog Number: **4991 & 4997** Issue Date: June 1, 2015  
City of Issue: Kansas City, MO

One of a set of four stamps depicting coastal birds shows the Red Knot, a member of the sandpiper family. While found worldwide, it is intimately connected with Delaware. The bird breeds in the tundra and far northern areas of Canada, but makes an annual migration to and from coastal areas at about 60° south latitude. This is a trip of over nine thousand miles, one of the longest migrations of any bird species. A critical stopover for feeding on its northward journey is on the beaches of Delaware Bay, where the birds peck in the sand for the horseshoe crab eggs which are spawned just at the time they arrive. They may be viewed easily at Slaughter Beach and the DuPont Nature Center in Mispillion Reserve. The stamp is for the postcard rate, and comes in two formats, coils and panes of twenty stamps.

## First Manned Moon Landing 50th Anniversary



Scott Catalog Number: **5399-5400** Issue Date: July 19, 2019  
City of Issue: Cape Canaveral, FL

*These stamps commemorate the 50th anniversary of the first manned landing on the moon. Apollo 11 carried Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin and Michael Collins to orbit around the Moon, and Armstrong and Aldrin descended in the lunar lander Eagle to the surface. One stamp depicts a map of the Moon with their landing site marked, the other a photograph of Aldrin. The connection to Delaware on this issue is that the space suits for Apollo missions were manufactured at the International Latex Corporation's plant in Dover, Delaware.*

## Winterthur Gardens



Scott Catalog Number: Issue Date: May 13, 2020  
City of Issue: Winterthur, DE

*One of a pane of ten se-tenant stamps showing classic gardens, this stamp shows part of the 70 acres of gardens at the Winterthur Museum, Gardens and Library, the former estate of Henry Francis DuPont, which lies north of Wilmington. The estate covers 979 acres and houses one of the nation's most important collections of art and antiques in its 175 rooms, most of which are open to the public.*