The official flags of all of our states were issued on a pane of fifty stamps issued in 1976 as a part of the United States Bicentennial celebration. It was the first time that fifty different designs appeared on a single pane of United States stamps.

BEGINNING IN 2008, THE STATE FLAGS WERE REISSUED OVER A PERIOD OF SIX YEARS, AND BECAME ANOTHER FIRST IN UNITED STATES POSTAGE. THIS WAS THE FIRST OCCASION ON WHICH COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS WERE ISSUED IN THE FORM OF COIL STAMPS.

On the latter issue, the flags of the District of Columbia and territories administered by the United States Government were added to the Mix. Both issues are shown here in the order the states were admitted to the Union, followed by the territories, with a short description of each.

DELAWARE





"December 7, 1787" on this flag is the date on which Delaware ratified the Federal Constitution. Because it was the first state to do so, it is given the first position in national events, and its nickname is "The First State". The flag was adopted in 1913.

THE COIL STAMP SHOWS A BEACH SCENE WITH SAND FENCES.

Pennsylvania





Pennsylvania's coat of arms, carried on its flag, shows a sailing ship, a plow and three sheaves of grain over the motto, "Virtue, Liberty and Independence." The flag was adopted in 1907.

White tail deer are shown on the coil stamp.

New Jersey





The buff background of this banner was derived from the buff facings worn on the Revolutionary War uniforms of the New Jersey Continental Regiments, specified by orders from General George Washington. The flag was adopted in 1896.

The coil stamp shows sand castles on a beach typifying the Jersey shore.

GEORGIA





The old Georgia flag combines the Battle Flag of the Confederacy and the state seal. Its thirteen stars correspond to those states recognized by the Confederate States Congress. The flag was adopted in 1956.

The coil flag is a complete change, showing the state seal and three horizontal bars instead. A wrought iron fence and lamp posts similar to those in Savannah are illustrated on the coil.

Connecticut





The three grape vines displayed on the state seal which decorates the Connecticut flag represent the three original settlements of the Nutmeg State, which were Hartford, Windsor and Wethersfield. The flag was adopted in 1897.

The coil shows sailboats and a buoy, and the color is darker blue.

Massachussets





With an Indian warrior on one side and a green pine tree on a blue shield on the other, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has one of the few state flags with two distinctly different sides. The flag was adopted in 1915.

SAILBOATS AND SEAGULLS ON THE COIL ARE TYPICAL OF THE STATE'S SHORE.

MARYLAND





The Maryland standard bears the arms of the Calvert and Crossland families. Calvert was the family name of the Lords of Baltimore who founded the state, while Crossland was the family name of the mother of the first Lord Baltimore. The flag was adopted in 1904.

A BALTIMORE ORIOLE, THE STATE BIRD, IS ON THE COIL STAMP.

SOUTH CAROLINA





The Palmetto State adopted its banner when it withdrew from the Union in 1861. It is the second-oldest official stae flag in existence. The flag was adopted in 1861.

A BEACH SCENE WITH A GAZEBO IS ON THE COIL STAMP.

New Hampshire





This flag, first adopted in 1909, carried the Granite State's seal, in use since 1784. The seal was redrawn and the flag with the new seal was approved in 1931.

The flag is now wider on the coil stamp and features a loon, commonly found on the state's lakes.

Virginia





The flag adopted by Virginia has been essentially unchanged since 1831, when it was first raised by Governor John Floyd at the head of a militia force called to quell the Nat Turner Insurrection.

The three ships of the Jamestown settlers are illustrated on the coil.

New York





The Great Seal of New York, which decorates its banner, has changed little since its original design in 1777, though there have existed at least six slightly modified official versions. The flag was adopted in 1901.

The familiar Manhattan skyline and a fireboat welcoming a ship grace the New York coil stamp.

North Carolina





Because of its two dates, this flag carries special interest. The uppermost refers to the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence, while the lower one commemorates the Halifax Resolves. The flag was adopted in 1885.

An Outer Banks scene, with the Cape Hatteras lighthouse and a great blue heron is shown on the coil stamp.

RHODE ISLAND





The anchor was first used as a Colony symbol on the official seal adopted in 1647, and the motto, "Hope" was added in 1664, when the government was organized under a charter from King Charles II. The flag was adopted in 1897.

A LARGE SAILBOAT, PROBABLY IN NEWPORT HARBOR, IS ON LITTLE RHODY'S COIL STAMP.

VERMONT





The fourteenth state in the Union, Vermont has had three state banners since 1803. The first two were originally patterned after the national emblem with alternating re and white stripes. The present flag carries the state's coat of arms and was adopted in 1923.

OWLS ON A LIMB ARE THE PICTURE ON VERMONT'S COIL STAMP.

KENTUCKY





Though authorized in 1918, an actual Blue Grass State banner was not made until some ten years later by an art teacher in the Frankfort schools. The lower portion of the seal is encircled by a goldenrod, the state flower. The flag was adopted in 1918.

When one hears "Kentucky", race horses come to mind, and that is what the Kentucky coil stamp shows.

TENNESSEE





Tennessee's three stars denote the fact that it was the third state to enter the Union after the original thirteen colonies. They also represent the three political divisions of the state. The flag was officially adopted in 1905. On the earlier stamp, the stars are incorrectly oriented, as well. Male and female scarlet tanagers are illustrated on the coil.

Оню





Ohio is the only state with a pennant-shaped flag, or *burgee*, as it is properly called. The Buckeye banner was originally intended to be flown over the Ohio Building at the Pan-American Exposition in Buffalo, New York in 1901. It was officially adopted as the state flag in 1902.

Ohio's coil stamp is illustrated with a Monarch butterfly and milkweed flowers.

Louisiana





The Louisiana flag with its group of pelicans has been used since the War of 1812, though not officially adopted until one hundred years later, in 1912.

Louisiana's state bird is the pelican, and one taking flight is on the state's coil stamp. The color of the later stamp is also darker.

Indiana





A prize-winning design in a D.A.R. contest, the Indiana flag was adopted in 1917. The outer circle of thirteen stars represents the original states; the inner semicircle of five stars, the next five states admitted to the Union.

A large tractor denoting the state's farms is on the coil. The shape of the flag has also changed, being wider.

Mississippi





The Mississippi banner is one of six state flags that use only the red, white and blue of the national emblem. Its thirteen stars stand for the original states of the Union and the flag was adopted in 1894.

The coil stamp is illustrated with a paddlewheel steamboat.

Illinois





The Illinois flag was the winning design selected from thirty-five entries submitted in a contest by various D.A.R. Chapters within the state. The flag was adopted in 1915.

A TALL WINDMILL TYPICAL OF FARMS IS THE DESIGN ON THE COIL STAMP.

ALABAMA





THE CROSS OF SAINT ANDREW APPEARS ON ALABAMA'S PRESENT FLAG. AN EARLIER VERSION CARRIED A COTTON PLANT IN FLOWER WITH A RATTLESNAKE AT ITS ROOTS ABOUT TO SPRING INTO ACTION. THE FLAG WAS ADOPTED IN 1895.

The design of the coil stamp is the same, but the shape of the flag is now rectangular rather than square, and a shrimp boat is shown on the coil.

MAINE





The Maine flag is unusual in at least one respect. The law prescribed a fringe for the flag to be two and a half inches wide. "Dirigo" means "I Direct." The flag was adopted in 1909.

Typical of Maine, a moose is the stamp's theme on the coil.

Missouri





A flag of this design was made and submitted to the Missouri legislature in 1909, but failed to gain immediate approval. Although this first flag was destroyed in a fire in 1911, its design features were officially accepted in 1913.

LIKE MISSISSIPPI, MISSOURI'S COIL STAMP SHOWS A RIVER SCENE WITH A PADDLEWHEEL STEAMBOAT.

Arkansas





The three blue stars below the name "Arkansas" represent the three nations, Spain, France and the United States to whom Arkansas has successively belonged. The flag was adopted in 1913.

THE COIL STAMP IS ILLUSTRATED WITH A BRILLIANTLY COLORED WOOD DUCK.

Michigan





The first official flag of Michigan was adopted in 1865 and unfurled for the first time at the laying of the cornerstone of the monument in the Soldiers' National Cemetery in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, on July 4, 1865. This flag was adopted in 1911.

Great lakes shipping, with a tugboat and grain or ore carrier, are on Michigan's coil stamp.

FLORIDA





The state seal in the center of Florida's banner pictures a cocoa tree, a steamboat and an Indian maiden scattering flowers. The state seal was adopted in 1868 and the flag in 1900.

A scene from the Everglades showing an anhinga taking flight is Florida's coil stamp illustration.

TEXAS





The Lone Star banner is the oldest of the official state flags, adopted in the first half of the nineteenth century and unchanged since then. The flag was officially adopted in 1839.

CATTLE COME TO MIND WHEN TEXAS IS MENTIONED, BUT ITS OTHER MAJOR INDUSTRY, COTTON GROWING, IS THE DESIGN ON ITS COIL STAMP.

Iowa





"Our Liberties We Prize and Our Rights We Will Maintain" reads the motto on Iowa's flag, an adaptation of a design made during the First World War for use by the state's regiments. The flag was adopted in 1921. Agriculture, Iowa's main industry, especially corn, is shown in the form of cornstalks in a field on their coil stamp.

Wisconsin





The Wisconsin Legislature in 1863 adopted a state flag with the Badger State coat of arms on one side and the United States coat of arms on the other. The standard was made official in 1913.

Wisconsin is known for its dairies, and a number of dairy cattle are pictured on the coil stamp of the state. The new flag is wider and has the inscription, "Wisconsin" above the seal and "1848" below it.

California





The California flag was born from the "Bear Flag Revolt" of settlers against the Mexican government at the Cosumnes River in 1846. The present flag was officially adopted in 1911.

California's coil stamp depicts a shoreline with mist-blanketeed trees at the side.

MINNESOTA





Minnesota boasts the newest design of all the state flags. The 1893 version was discarded because of its bulk and the two separate sides, each of a different color, making it too expensive to manufacture. This flag was adopted in 1957.

The coil stamp is illustrated with grain elevators, a common sight in the state. Within the flag, the state seal has changed as well.

OREGON





Oregon is another of those few states whose banners have a different design on each side. Not shown here is the reverse side with its Oregon beaver. The "1859" is the year Oregon joined the Union. The flag was adopted in 1925.

Oregon's coil stamp shows camas lilies against a background of Mount Hood, the state's massive volcano.

Kansas





The flower on Kansas' flag is a sunflower. The motto, "Ad Astra," means "To the stars, through difficulties." The scene is representative of early Kansa history. The flag was adopted in 1927.

THE COIL STAMP FOR KANSAS SHOWS A GROUP OF FARM BUILDINGS, TYPICAL OF ITS AGRICULTURAL HERITAGE.

West Virginia





Typifying the independent spirit of its people, the West Virginia flag carries the motto, "Montani Semper Liberi," which translates as "Mountaineers always free men." The flag was adopted in 1929. The illustration on the coil stamp is a group of pheasants.

Nevada





Showing its name in an unusual design around a star, Nevada's banner displays two sprays of sagebrush. "Battle Born" refers to the state's entry into the Union during the Civil War. The flag was adopted in 1929.

A group of ocatillo flowers is shown on the coil against a desert background.

Nebraska





The date on the flag of the Cornhusker State, March 1, 1867, is the date Nebraska was admitted to The Union. The motto on its seal is "Equality Before Law." The flag was adopted in 1925.

THE MACHINE SHOWN ON THE COIL STAMP IS A CENTRALLY-PIVOTED WATER-POWERED IRRIGATION DEVICE FOR CROPS. THE STATE SEAL ALSO HAS BEEN ENLARGED.

Colorado





On the present flag of Colorado, "C" stands not only for Colorado, but also for "Centennial State," its nickname due to its admission to the Union in 1876. The flag was adopted in 1911.

Colorado's coil stamp is illustrated with the Rocky Mountains in the background.

North Dakota





Of unknown origin, this banner was carried by the First North Dakota Infantry during the Spanish-American War and the Philippine Insurrection. The flag was adopted in 1911.

The coil stamp for North Dakota shows a group of elk, a familiar animal in the state.

SOUTH DAKOTA





South Dakota's nickname can be read from the flag, which carries the state seal on its reverse side. Design of this flag was started by a Black Hills pioneer, a member of Teddy Roosevelt's "Rough Riders." The flag was adopted in 1909.

On the coil stamp, the seal has been changed and the motto surrounding it now reads "The Mount Rushmore State "instead of "The Sunshine State."

Montana





The state seal carried by the Montana flag shows mining equipment, a gold pan and a plow, while the background shows the mountains from which the state derives its name. The flag was adopted in 1905.

The coil stamp features a picture of a mountain lion. The flag has been widened, is darker blue, and now has the word "Montana" emblazened above a smaller state seal.

Washington





The only state flag with a green background, Washington's flag was designed by that state's D.A.R. organization eight years before its official adoption in 1923.

Washington's coil stamp is illustrated with a stand of fir trees.

Ірано





State law forbids all military organizations within the borders of Idaho from carrying any flag except the national and state banners. The flag shows the state coat of arms, and was adopted in 1927.

A LEAPING RAINBOW TROUT IS THE PICTURE ON THE COIL STAMP.

WYOMING





Once monarch of the Great Plains, the buffalo still reigns supreme on the Wyoming banner. The flag design, the result of a D.A.R. contest, was submitted by a woman from Buffalo, Wyoming. The flag was adopted in 1917.

Bison are shown on the coil, and they are common in Yellowstone National Park, which is primarily in Wyoming.

UTAH





The state flag of Utah was presented to the battleship *Utah* in 1912. Its two dates commemorate the year Mormon pioneers entered Salt Lake Valley, 1847, and the

YEAR UTAH BECAME A STATE, 1896. THE FLAG WAS ADOPTED IN 1913. UTAH'S COIL STAMP HAS AN ILLUSTRATION OF SEVERAL CACTI IN BLOOM.

OKLAHOMA





The present Oklahoma flag with its buckskin Indian was shield, peace pipe and olive branch is the fourteenth emblem to fly over Oklahoma soil. This latest flag was adopted in 1925.

THE OKLAHOMA COIL IS ILLUSTRATED WITH A SCENE COMMON IN THE STATE, AN OIL WELL AND ITS ASSOCIATED PUMP.

New Mexico





The ancient sun symbol of a forgotten southwestern Indian tribe gives the New Mexico flag a striking appearance. Its colors reflect old Spain's red and yellow national colors The flag was adopted in 1925.

The coil stamp shows a number of hot air balloons aloft, reflecting the state's annual festival. The color of the symbol has changed, too.

ARIZONA





Arizona took its flag design from one originally flown by the battleship *Arizona*. Ironically, the banner shows the rays of the setting sun, while the *Arizona* was sunk by a nation whose flag represents the rising sun. The flag was adopted in 1917.

Arizona's coil stamp shows several Saguaro cacti, native to the state. Did you know it's a major crime to damage one?

ALASKA





Resulting from a public school contest, the Alaska flag was designed by a thirteen year old orphan boy. He described the North Star in his design as standing "for the future State of Alaska." The flag was adopted in 1927.

THE STATE'S COIL STAMP IS GRACED BY A SCENE FROM ITS OFFSHORE WATERS, A HUMPBACK WHALE BREACHING THE SURFACE.

Hawaii





The Hawaiian flag, adopted as its territorial flag in 1898, was originally designed for King Kamehameha I in 1816. The stripes stand for the eight major islands comprising the state, and the Union Jack for its heritage as the British Sandwich Islands before becoming a kingdom.

Hawaii's coil stamp shows a clump of ohia lehua flowers.

Guam



A TROPICBIRD AND COLORFUL LOCAL TROPICAL FISH ARE SHOWN ON GUAM'S COIL STAMP.

American Samoa



Island peaks and palm trees are the design on the coil stamp for American Samoa

Northern Marianas Islands



A scene from the beach decorates the coil stamp for the Northern Marianas Islands, showing the surf line and palm tress.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA



The design of the coil stamp for the District of Columbia shows cherry trees along the mall, which were donated by the government of Japan.

Puerto Rico



PUERTO RICO'S COIL STAMP FEATURES ONE OF ITS NATIVE DENIZENS, THE TODY BIRD.

VIRGIN ISLANDS



A SAILFISH BREAKING THE SURFACE IS THE ILLUSTRATION ON THE COIL STAMP FOR THE VIRGIN ISLANDS, REFLECTING THE TERRITORY'S SPORT FISHING.