



Smithsonian Institution

Phil Jordan Collection

Mitch Toda, Head Archivist

03/21/2024

National Postal Museum Archives
2 Massachusetts Ave., N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002
NPM_Archives@si.edu
<https://postalmuseum.si.edu>

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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Postal Museum Archives
Title:	Phil Jordan Collection
Date:	1992-2015
Identifier:	NPMA.2023.2
Creator:	Jordan, Phil
Extent:	7.18 Cubic feet (10 letter size document boxes, 3 legal size document boxes, one tall document box, and one oversize folder.)
Language:	English .
Summary:	Phil Jordan was a Stamp Art Director for the United States Postal Service (USPS). Jordan's involvement with the USPS started in 1991 and ended 23 years later having worked on 300 stamps. The collection consists primarily of stamp design files created and maintained by Jordan during his time as a Stamp Art Director for the United States Postal Service (USPS) from 1991 to 2014. The majority of the files relate to stamps that were issued by the USPS while a smaller portion of the files are related to unissued stamps that Jordan worked on. As a Stamp Art Director, Jordan was responsible for leading and providing direction for stamp designs and regularly worked with researchers, artists, painters, illustrators, photographers, and typographers to bring to fruition an aesthetic vision for each stamp.
Digital Content:	Image(s): Photograph of Phil Jordan, Stamp Art Director, in the cockpit of Sailplane 126JL FRR. Photograph by Fred Mueller, June 2004.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Donated by Phil Jordan, 2015. This collection was initially part of the museum collections (Accession 2015.2015), but was released to the NPM Archives in December 2023.

Related Materials

The National Postal Museum's collections include many [examples of stamps that Phil Jordan](#) worked on.

Processing Information

Processed by Mitch Toda, Head Archivist, February-March 2024.

Preferred Citation

Phil Jordan Collection, NPMA.2023.2, National Postal Museum, Smithsonian Institution

Restrictions

Collection is open for research. Access to original archival materials is by appointment only. Researchers must submit request for appointment in writing. Please direct reference inquiries to the National Postal Museum Archives: NPM_Archives@si.edu.

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

Phil Jordan was a Stamp Art Director for the United States Postal Service (USPS). Jordan's involvement with the USPS started in 1991 and ended 23 years later having worked on 300 stamps.

Jordan grew up in New Bern, North Carolina and attended East Carolina University. After a period of service with the Army Arctic Indoctrination School in Fort Greely, Alaska, Jordan graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University with a degree in visual communications. Early in his career he worked as an artist for the Richmond Times-Dispatch and the Baughman Company offset lithographers while attending school on the GI Bill.

Later he worked at the advertising agency Robert Kline and Co. Inc. as their art supervisor before serving as the assistant art director the United States Chamber of Commerce. Next, he joined Beveridge and Associates, Inc. guiding art direction for corporate, institutional and government design projects. Eventually becoming a partner at the firm, Jordan left after 18 years to form his own communications consulting firm where he managed projects for USAir, NASA, McGraw-Hill, IBM, the National Air and Space Museum, and Smithsonian Books.

Jordan was responsible for the formats of the *Air and Space* and *Smithsonian* magazines and was their Design Director for fifteen years. From there his work as consulting art director for the United States Postal Service's Stamp Development Department saw him art direct and produce 300 postage stamps as well as other stamp collateral publications for 23 years. Among some of the stamps he worked on include the 2011 Neon! Celebrate stamp, the 2012 Major League Baseball All-Stars stamps, the 2013 Civil War stamps; the 2012 Cherry Blossom Centennial stamps; the 1997 Classic American Aircraft stamps; and the 2003 First Flight stamp.

Jordan's work has been featured in a number of exhibitions and in publications such as *Graphis*, *Society of Illustrators*, and *Communication Arts*. A recipient of professional awards from these organizations over the years, he was also the recipient of the NASA Group Achievement Award. He is a past president of the Art Directors Club of Metropolitan Washington and was an avid glider pilot, being a founding member of the Skyline Soaring Club and the former long-time editor of *Skylines* newsletter.

Scope and Contents

The Phil Jordan collection consists primarily of stamp design files created and maintained by Jordan during his time as a Stamp Art Director for the United States Postal Service (USPS) from 1991 to 2013. The majority of the files relate to stamps that were issued by the USPS while a smaller portion of the files are related to unissued stamps that Jordan worked on. As a Stamp Art Director, Jordan was responsible for leading and providing direction for stamp designs and regularly worked with researchers, artists, painters, illustrators, photographers, and typographers to bring to fruition an aesthetic vision for each stamp.

Of the some 300 stamps Jordan was responsible for, some that are represented in this collection include stamps related to hospice care (Jordan consider his work on this stamp to be amongst the most rewarding); legends of baseball; the Civil War Sesquicentennial; legends of Hollywood; the Indianapolis 500; literary arts; Owney the postal dog; the Washington, D.C. cherry blossom centennial; bicycling; 'Īd al-Fiṭr; Grand Central Terminal in New York City; the USS Arizona Memorial; Wilt Chamberlain; the 225th anniversary of the U.S. Coast Guard; and the 50th anniversary of supersonic flight.

In addition, there are portfolios that provide visual documentation of Jordan's work on stamps, correspondence related to stamp design inquiries, and some biographical information.

Materials in the collection include correspondence, drawings, illustrations, color photographs, color transparencies, maps, news releases, notes, research materials, brochures, and clippings. Some materials are in electronic format.

Many of the stamps that Jordan worked on as Stamp Art Director can be found at the [National Postal Museum](#) .

Arrangement

This collection is arranged into five series.

Series:

- Series 1: Issued Stamps Issued Stamps, 1999-2011
- Series 2: Unissued Stamps, 1998-2006
- Series 3: Portfolios, 1993-2015
- Series 4: General Files, 1992-2013
- Series 5: Oversize, 1994-2015

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

Baseball
Bicycling
Cherry blossoms
Glider pilots
Hospice care
Owney (Dog)
Postage stamps
Supersonic planes
USS Arizona Memorial (Hawaii)
'Īd al-Fiṭr

Names:

Army Arctic Indoctrination School (U.S.)
Art Directors Club of Metropolitan Washington
Baughman Company
Beveridge and Associates Inc.
Chamber of Commerce of the United States of America
Chamberlain, Wilt, 1936-1999
East Carolina University
Grand Central Terminal (New York, N.Y.)

IBM (International Business Machines)
Jordan, Phil
McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc.
National Air and Space Museum
Richmond Times-Dispatch (Firm)
Robert Kline and Co. Inc.
Skyline Soaring Club
Society of Illustrators (New York, N.Y.)
USAir (Firm)
United States Postal Service
United States Postal Service. Stamp Development Department
United States. Coast Guard
United States. Montgomery G.I. Bill
United States. National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Virginia Commonwealth University

Occupations:

Art directors
Graphic designers -- United States

Places:

Fort Greely (Alaska)
New Bern (N.C.)
United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865

Preferred Titles:

Air & Space (Serial)
Communication Arts (Serial)
Graphis (Serial)
Skylines (Newsletter)
Smithsonian (Serial)

Container Listing

Series 1: Issued Stamps, 1992-2015

Box 1, Folder 1	33c Hospice Care (Scott Catalogue USA 3276), 1996-2001 (Date issued: 1999)
Box 1, Folder 2	33c Legends of Baseball (Scott Catalogue USA 3408a-t), 1992-2001 (Date issued: 2000)
Box 1, Folder 3	42c Flag at Dusk, 42c Flag at Night, 42c Flag at Dawn, and 42c Flag at Midday (Scott Catalogue USA 4228, 4229, 4230, and 4231) (includes one CD), 2006-2008 (Date issued: 2008)
Box 1, Folder 4	Forever (44c) Neon Celebrate! (Scott Catalogue USA 4502) (includes two CDs), 2008-2011 (Date issued: 2011)
Box 1, Folder 5	29c Herbs: Oregano, 29c Herbs: Flax, 29c Herbs: Foxglove, 29c Herbs: Lavender, and 29c Herbs: Sage (Scott Catalogue USA 4505, 4506, 4507, 4508, and 4509), 2005-2011 (Date issued: 2011)
Box 2, Folder 1	Distinguished Americans Format Concepts (Scott Catalogue USA 4510 and 4879), 2009 (Dates issued: 2011 and 2014)
Box 2, Folder 2	Forever Olveta Culp Hobby (Scott Catalogue USA 4510) (includes one CD), 2011 (Date issued: 2011)
Box 2, Folder 3	Forever (44c-49c) Civil War Sesquicentennial - Overview (Scott Catalogue USA 4522, 4523, 4664, 4665, 4787, 4788, 4910, 4911, 4980, and 4981), 2011-2015 (Dates issued: 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, and 2015)
Box 2, Folder 4-5	Forever (44c-49c) Civil War Sesquicentennial - General (Scott Catalogue USA 4522, 4523, 4664, 4665, 4787, 4788, 4910, 4911, 4980, and 4981) (includes one CD), 2011-2015 (Dates issued: 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, and 2015)
Box 2, Folder 6	Forever (44c-49c) Civil War Sesquicentennial - Style (Scott Catalogue USA 4522, 4523, 4664, 4665, 4787, 4788, 4910, 4911, 4980, and 4981), 2011-2015 (Dates issued: 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, and 2015)
Box 2, Folder 7	Forever (44c-49c) Civil War Sesquicentennial - Image information (Scott Catalogue USA 4522, 4523, 4664, 4665, 4787, 4788, 4910, 4911, 4980, and 4981), 2011-2015 (Dates issued: 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, and 2015)
Box 3, Folder 1	Forever (44c-49c) Civil War Sesquicentennial - Current (Scott Catalogue USA 4522, 4523, 4664, 4665, 4787, 4788, 4910, 4911, 4980, and 4981), 2011-2015 (Dates issued: 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, and 2015)

Box 3, Folder 2	Forever (44c-49c) Civil War Sesquicentennial - Revise (Scott Catalogue USA 4522, 4523, 4664, 4665, 4787, 4788, 4910, 4911, 4980, and 4981), 2011-2015 (Dates issued: 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, and 2015)
Box 3, Folder 3	Forever (44c-49c) Civil War Sesquicentennial - Final (Scott Catalogue USA 4522, 4523, 4664, 4665, 4787, 4788, 4910, 4911, 4980, and 4981), 2011-2015 (Dates issued: 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, and 2015)
Box 3, Folder 4	Forever (44c) Gregory Peck (Legends of Hollywood) (Scott Catalogue USA 4526), 2011 (Date issued: 2011)
Box 3, Folder 5	Forever (44c) Indianapolis 500 (Scott Catalogue USA 4530), 2011 (Date issued: 2011)
Box 4, Folder 1	Forever (44c) Mark Twain (Literary Arts Series) (Scott Catalogue USA 4545), 2008-2013 (Date issued: 2011)
Box 4, Folder 2	Forever (44c) U.S. Merchant Marine (Scott Catalogue USA 4548, 4549, 4550, and 4551), 2008 (Date issued: 2011)
Box 4, Folder 3	Forever (44c) Owey the Postal Dog (Scott Catalogue USA 4547), 2008 (Date issued: 2011)
Box 4, Folder 4	\$18.95 Carmel Mission (American Landmarks Issue) (Scott Catalogue USA 4650), 2011 (Date issued: 2012)
Box 4, Folder 5	Forever (45c) Cherry Blossom Centennial (Scott Catalogue USA 4651 and 4652), 2009-2011 (Date issued: 2012)
Box 4, Folder 6	Forever (45c) The Civil War: 1862 (Civil War Sesquicentennial) (Scott Catalogue USA 4664 and 4665), 2009-2011 (Date issued: 2012)
Box 4, Folder 7	Forever (45c) Louisiana Statehood Bicentennial (Scott Catalogue USA 4667), 2010 (Date issued: 2012)
Box 4, Folder 8	Forever (45c) Bicycling (Scott Catalogue USA 4687, 4688, 4689, and 4690), 2008-2011 (Date issued: 2012)
Box 5, Folder 1	Forever (45c) Bicycling (Scott Catalogue USA 4687, 4688, 4689, and 4690), 2007-2008 (Date issued: 2012)
Box 5, Folder 2	Forever (45c) Major League Baseball All-Stars (Scott Catalogue USA 4694, 4695, 4696, and 4697), 2010 (Date issued: 2012)
Box 5, Folder 3-4	Forever (45c) Edgar Rice Burroughs (Scott Catalogue USA 4702) (includes two CDs), 2007-2011 (Date issued: 2012)

Box 5, Folder 5	\$19.95 Grand Central Terminal (Scott Catalogue USA 4739), 2011 (Date issued: 2013)
Box 6, Folder 1	Forever (46c) Flag in Autumn, Flag in Winter, Flag in Spring, and Flag in Summer (Scott Catalogue USA 4766, 4767, 4768, and 4769), 2005-2009 (Date issued: 2013)
Box 6, Folder 2	Forever (46c) Battle of Vicksburg, Battle of Gettysburg (Final) (Civil War Sesquicentennial) (Scott Catalogue USA 4787 and 4788), 2009-2013 (Date issued: 2013)
Box 6, Folder 3	Forever (46c) Eid (Scott Catalogue USA 4800), 2010-2013 (Date issued: 2013)
Box 6, Folder 4	Forever (49c) Ferns (Scott Catalogue USA 4848, 4849, 4850, 4851, 4852, 4874, 4875, 4876, 4877, 4878, 4973, 4974, 4975, 4976, and 4977), 2012-2015 (Dates issued: 2014 and 2015)
Box 6, Folder 5	Forever (49c) Fort McHenry Flag and Fireworks (Scott Catalogue USA 4853), 2009-2014 (Date issued: 2014)
Box 6, Folder 6	\$5.60 Veranzano-Narrows Bridge (American Landmarks Issue) (Scott Catalogue USA 4872), 2013 (Date issued: 2014)
Box 6, Folder 7	\$19.99 USS Arizona Memorial (American Landmarks Issue) (Scott Catalogue USA 4873), undated (Date issued: 2014)
Box 7, Folder 1	70c C. Alfred "Chief" Anderson (Distinguished Americans) (Scott Catalogue USA 4879), 2009-2014 (Date issued: 2014)
Box 7, Folder 2	Forever (49c) Battle of Petersburg, Battle of Mobile Bay (Final) (Civil War Sesquicentennial) (Scott Catalogue USA 4910 and 4911), 2005-2014 (Date issued: 2014)
Box 7, Folder 3	Forever (49c) Wilt Chamberlain in Philadelphia Warriors Uniform, Wilt Chamberlain in Los Angeles Lakers Uniform (Scott Catalogue USA 4950 and 4951), 2010-2011 (Date issued: 2014)
Box 7, Folder 4	Forever (49c) Water Lilies (Scott Catalogue USA 4964, 4965, 4966, and 4967), 2013 (Date issued: 2015)
Box 7, Folder 5	Forever (49c) Battle of Five Forks, Surrender at Appomattox Court House (Civil War Sesquicentennial) (Scott Catalogue USA 4980 and 4981), 2009-2012 (Date issued: 2015)
Box 7, Folder 6	Three Ounce (93c) Flannery O'Connor (Literary Arts Series) (Scott Catalogue USA 5003), 2015 (Date issued: 2015)

Box 7, Folder 7	Forever (49c) U.S. Coast Guard (225th Anniversary) (Scott Catalogue USA 5008) (includes one CD), 2010-2012 (Date issued: 2015)
Box 7, Folder 8	\$22.95 Columbia River Gorge (American Landmarks Issue) (Scott Catalogue USA 3876), undated (Date issued: 2016)
Box 7, Folder 9	44c Seabiscuit stamped cover (Scott Catalogue USA U668) (includes one CD), 2006-2007 (Date issued: 2009)

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Series 2: Unissued Stamps, 1994-2015

Box 8, Folder 1	Unissued concepts, 2000-2004
Box 8, Folder 2	Air Force reference material, 1996-2008
Box 8, Folder 3	Aviation postcard, 2006-2015
Box 8, Folder 4	Bugs, circa 2003
Box 8, Folder 5	Christmas Holly, 2011-2015
Box 8, Folder 6	Christmas - Nativity, 2011-2013
Box 8, Folder 7	Distinguished airmen/flyers, 2006-2010
Box 8, Folder 8	E-4B Nightwatch (includes two CDs), 2006-2007
Box 9, Folder 1	Football, 2010-2011
Box 9, Folder 2	Japanese American Memorial, 2008-2009
Box 9, Folder 3	Edwin Land, 1998-2006, 2015
Box 9, Folder 4-6	Mercury Messenger, 2005-2009
Box 9, Folder 7	Olympics - Sochi, Russia, 2011
Box 10, Folder 1	Orchids, undated
Box 10, Folder 2-3	Pinatas, 2011-2013
Box 10, Folder 4	Science fiction writers (includes one CD), 2008
Box 10, Folder 5-6	Solar system (due 2016?), 2001-2011
Box 10, Folder 7	Space - Atlantis Shuttle, Priority Mail, 1994
Box 10, Folder 8	York (explorer) - Lewis and Clark Expedition, 2008-2011

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Series 3: Portfolios, 1993-2015

Box 11, Folder 1	Phil Jordan - CSAC, 2007
Box 11, Folder 2	Portfolio, 1993-1997
Box 11, Folder 3	Portfolio, 1996-1998
Box 11, Folder 4	Portfolio, 1998-2000
Box 11, Folder 5	Portfolio, 2001, 2010-2011
Box 11, Folder 6	Portfolio, 2008-2010
Box 12, Folder 1	Portfolio, 2001-2003
Box 12, Folder 2	Portfolio, 2002-2004
Box 12, Folder 3	Portfolio, 2004-2006
Box 12, Folder 4	Portfolio, 2006-2008
Box 12, Folder 5	Portfolio, 2007-2009
Box 12, Folder 6	Portfolio, 2008
Box 12, Folder 7	Portfolio, 2009-2015
Box 12, Folder 8	Portfolio - Civil War, 2009
Box 12, Folder 9	Portfolio, 2012

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Series 4: General Files, 1992-2013

Box 13, Folder 1	Art returns/USPS (includes one CD), 1996-2011
Box 13, Folder 2	Bill Hendrix, B-24, P-47 correspondence, 1998-2005
Box 13, Folder 3-4	Items (postal) - Save for posterity (includes one 3.5" floppy disk), 1996-2003
Box 13, Folder 5	Correspondence and miscellaneous items, 1992-2003
Box 13, Folder 6	Notebook, 1995-1996
Box 13, Folder 7	Biographical information, 1998-2013

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Series 5: Oversize, 1993-2015

Box 14, Folder 1-2	Forever (46c) Medal of Honor (Scott Catalogue USA 4822 and 4823); Forever (49c) Medal of Honor (Scott Catalogue USA 4988), 2012-2015
Box 14, Folder 3-4	George Herbert Walker Bush - Unissued (includes one CD), 1993-2008
Flat-file 1, Map-folder 1	National Park Service - Poster - Uniform Guide, circa 2013

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