

Collect Ships?

by John F. Dunn

Despite real world advances in transportation, with space travel being the latest frontier, Ships on Stamps remains one of the most popular collecting topics. Indeed, the American Topical Association provides checklists with thousands of ship stamps, listed in 19 categories, from Brigantines to Towboats.

While it might be surprising at first, when you think about it, Ships on Stamps presents transportation from the earliest forms, such as rafts—long before the invention of the locomotive, automobile, airplane or space crafts—right on up to modern ocean liners, cruise ships and rescue vehicles.

The United States has issued its share of Ships stamps, for the SS Adriatic, an 1850s steamer on the 12¢ 1869 Pictorial (Sc. 117) to the lat-



est rendition of a *Mayflower* stamp, due this September 17, for the 400th Anniversary of the arrival on the Pilgrims.

While the waterways throughout the United States are many, and we enjoy a rich history on the high seas, in peace and war, small island nations in particular are even more dependent on ships. You can explore

on your own; for a quick sampling, I turned to the website of the Inter-Governmental Philatelic Corp. of New York, which represents more than 70 postal administrations and assists many in the development of new issues that will appeal to collectors as well as mailers.

Shown here is a sampling of issues on the site, www.igpc.com—with even more that go back decades and are still available.



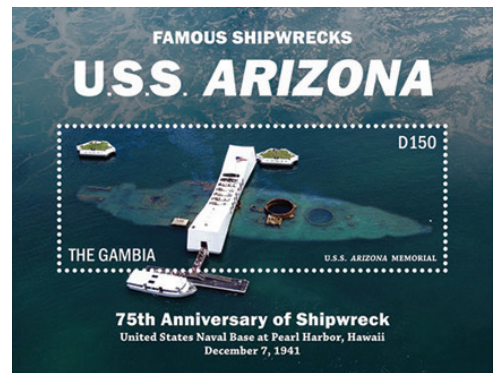
A 2020 issue from The Gambia features Famous Shipwrecks, with brief background on each, including a description of the wreck.



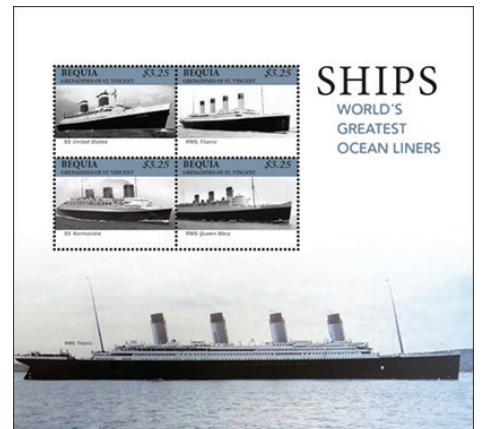
On a happy note, we see here a 2020 Antigua & Barbuda sheetlet that honors the members of Team Antigua and celebrates their achievement as the first all female, all black team to row across the Atlantic Ocean.



One of those wrecks in the lower right of the Gambia souvenir sheet is the *Titanic*, which was the subject of a huge omnibus series on the 100th Anniversary of its tragic sinking. Many of the 2012 issues, including this Turks & Caicos sheetlet showing the collision and sinking, are still available on the IGPC website.



Another infamous sinking was the USS *Arizona*, sunk on that December 7, 1941 “date which will live in infamy” as President Roosevelt described the attack on Pearl Harbor. Seen here is the sunken ship at the Pearl Harbor Memorial, on a souvenir sheet issued in 2016 by The Gambia.



Still another category, among the many, is ocean liners, this particular souvenir sheet being a 2013 issue from the Bequia Grenadines of Saint Vincent.

For more information on these and other issues, please go to the IGPC website, www.igpc.com.