

# Famous Americans 1940

A 35-stamp set of 7 groups of 5 stamps each

# Famous Americans 1940

- 7 sets of 5 stamps
- Values .01, .02, .03, .05, .10
- green, red, purple, blue, brown
- Issued in 1940
- *Reference Book*

# Famous Americans 1940

Authors

Poets

Educators

Scientists

Composers

Artists

Inventors

# Famous Americans 1940

How the people were chosen

How the groups were chosen

# Famous Americans 1940

- Prior to 1940, philatelic subjects were military and statesmen – “heroes of peace”
- For about 20 years prior to the issue of Famous Americans, hundreds of requests for stamps honoring notable men and women
- Roosevelt, as a philatelist, recognized the need for a set of “Famous Americans”

# Famous Americans 1940

- The task was given to PMG James Farley to provide a list of names
- Farley assigned Mrs. Lena Shawen, secretary to Robert Fuller (Superintendent of Div of Stamps) and she compiled the list of names
- Roosevelt made the final decision on the names
- PMG Farley created the groups

# Famous Americans 1940

- Much criticism and complaining
- But the list was firm
- The order of the people in the groups is the birth date
- December 13, 1939 PMG Farley announced the sales dates, colors and valuations
- Remember the “Electric Eye” printing that was tested in the prexy series? It was used for this series

# Famous Americans 1940

In 1947-1948, the series was “extended” with 8 issues in the same form:



**945** Thomas Edison, **953** George W. Carver, **960** William A. White, **965** Harlan F. Stone, **975** Will Rogers, **980** Joel C. Harris, **986** Edgar A. Poe, **988** Samuel Gompers



# Famous Americans 1940

Later sets with notable Americans Theme

Prominent Americans 1965

Great Americans 1980

Distinguished Americans 2000

African Americans 2004

# Famous Americans 1940

- My cachet grades:
  - “A” have images and bios of the subject
  - “B” have images of the person
  - “C” have name and category
  - “D” sets have a single design

# Famous Americans 1940

- FDC
  - Mellone has about 100 listed
  - Crosby produced at least a dozen different sets
- Each set of stamps was produced in order from 1/29/40 to 10/25/40

# Famous Americans 1940

- Examples by Mellone number
- A few not listed in Mellone
- eBay and other vendors

# Famous Americans 1940

A set for you

What is your favorite group?  
Who is your favorite person?