

The search for the world's prettiest stamp

The Most Beautiful Ship stamp

I'm writing this in super-large type because I don't want you to see my choice of the Most Beautiful Ship Stamp until the next page.

One reason my search may have seemed a bit casual and care-free is that I sort of knew where I was going to end up before I started. Oh, there were many pretty ship stamps encountered along the way — not least the unforgettable U.S. stamp from 2020 with a painting of the Mayflower in Plymouth Harbor in December, 1620 (right). Silhouetted by the setting sun, the stolid ship rides at anchor in frigid waters, in view of desolate, snow-clad hills.

I could have been surprised and overcome by discovering a new and beautiful example I'd never seen before. Perhaps there is one out there I haven't found yet — among the thousands of stamps featuring ships and boats. So far, however, it's been no contest. (See next page.)



Nope. This isn't it.



The first thing to notice is the light.

It shines and shines until it glows. Inside an elegant, richly colored frame, the pale blue sky vanishes to white, setting in relief the gallant schooner Bluenose as it sluices through a lively sea. Behind it, a comrade ship is under full sail, its slant embracing a brisk wind, providing a visual counterpoint as Bluenose advances in the foreground. Every detail of sail, ship, sea and sky is rendered exquisitely by the engraver.

Issued as the 50-cent value in the definitive series of 1929, the stamp's unsurpassed beauty is matched by its modest value. A mint example could cost as little as \$35. A used copy, such as the heavily-cancelled one from my collection illustrated at left, could be had for \$10.

I submit to you that this is the most beautiful ship stamp ever made — and a candidate for the world's prettiest of all. **END**



THE FMF STAMP PROJECT CONTINUES