

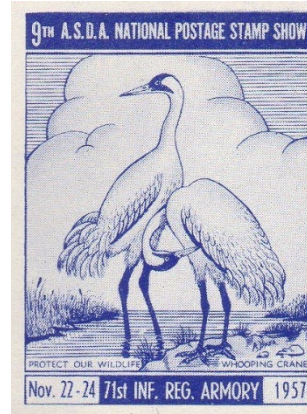
Ralph Dyer and the 3-cent "Whooping Crane" Stamp of 1957

The fourth stamp in the U.S. Wildlife Conservation Series.

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The USPS issued the stamp on November 22, 1957, at three official first-day cities - New York City (American Stamp Dealers Association Show and Main Post Office; Corpus Christi, Texas; and New Orleans, Louisiana. USPS announced that "The central subject of this stamp is a female whooping crane bending attentively over her two downy young, with the male bird in the rear standing guard" and "the combination water and land areas sought out by this rare species for nesting and rearing their young."

Collectors find the whooping crane covers with cancellations from all three official first-day cities. In addition, Dyer designed a promotional label resembling his cachets for the ASDA Show where the first-day ceremony took place.

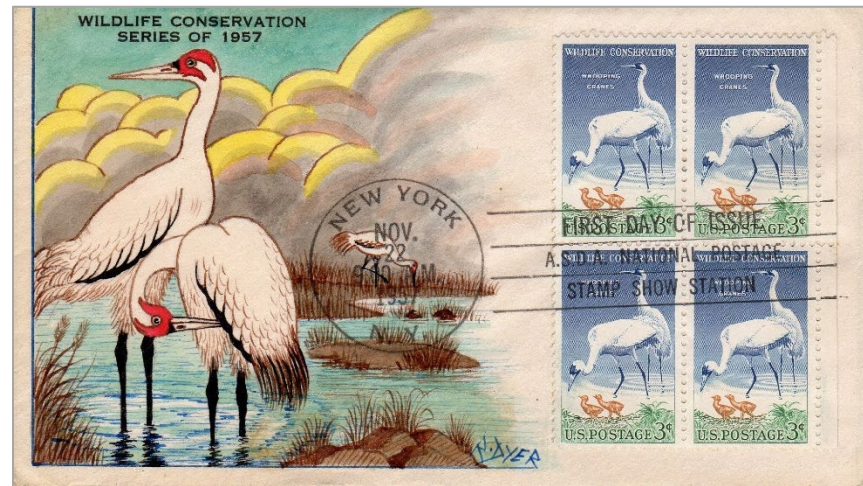
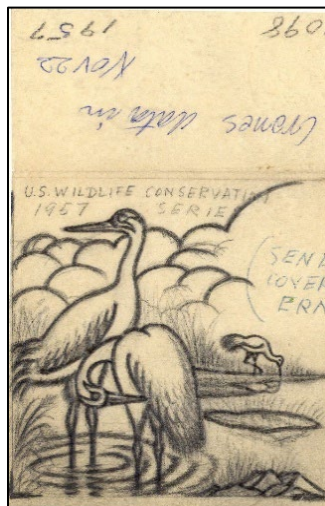
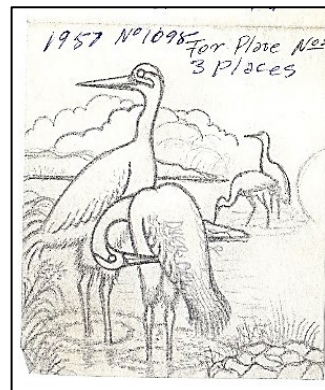


ASDA Show Label
(imperforate variety)



(Shown at full size, 3 3/4 x 6 1/5 inches)

Dyer's Templates



Dyer created 85 hand-drawn, hand-painted cachets for the whooping crane stamp, using templates for the main elements of his design and adding less-important elements freehand. How many differences can you find among these five cachets?

(reduced to 70% of original)

- Number of cranes (two, three or four).
- Type of clouds (cumulus, layered, thunderstorm).
- Overall color scheme (blue, blue-green or reddish brown).
- Use of fine black ink lines to define details.
- Number and placement of land areas, plants and rocks.

