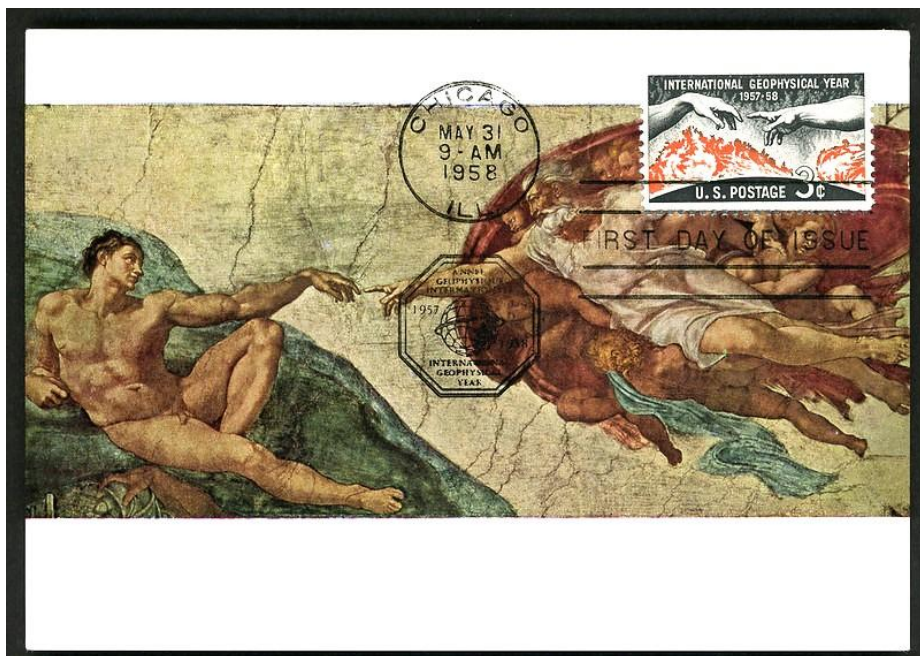


The United States Stamp for the International Geophysical Year

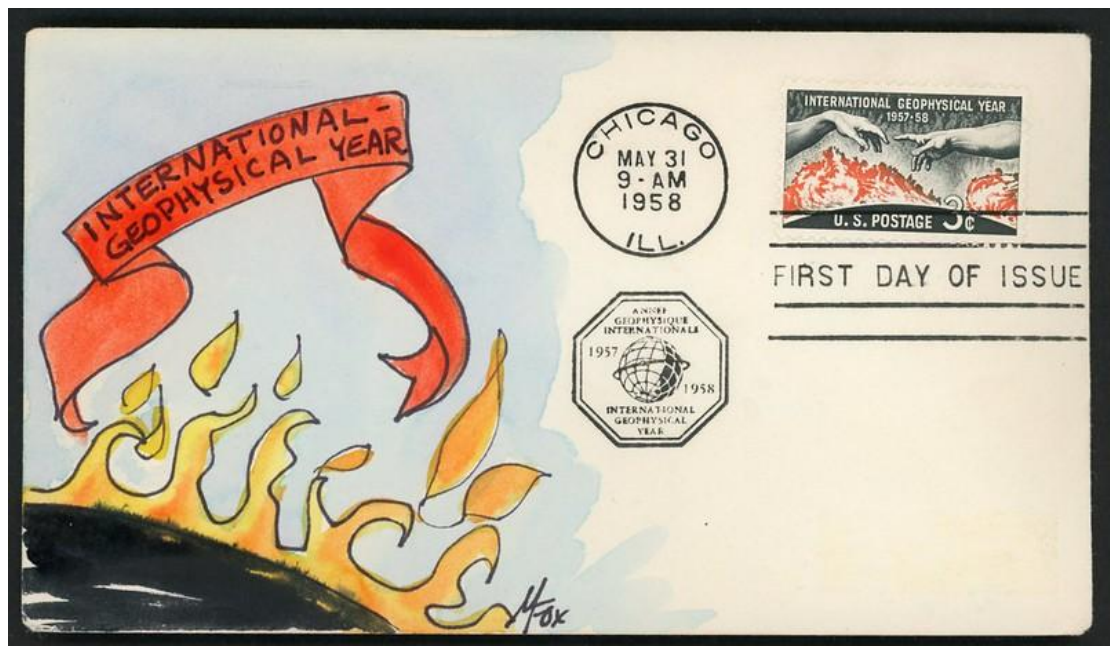
Rob Sternberg (rs_sternberg@yahoo.com; <https://internationalgeophysicalyear.blogspot.com/>)

The International Geophysical Year (IGY), an 18-month period from July 1, 1957 – Dec. 31, 1958, was called the most ambitious and successful scientific program ever undertaken. Scientists representing 67 nations measured many characteristics of the Earth over its surface, in the subsurface, and in the near-space environment. Notable IGY achievements included launching of the first satellites, and comprehensive exploration of Antarctica.

The U.S. issued a stamp on May 31, 1958 for the IGY, Scott 1107, of which 125,000,000 were printed. This was the fourth U.S. stamp printed using the engraving/intaglio method (Giori Press), which allowed for simultaneous application of two or three differently colored inks. It was one of the last three U.S. stamps issued with a 3¢ denomination before a 1958 rate change. Scaled at 2.4:1. See a high-resolution scan [here](#).

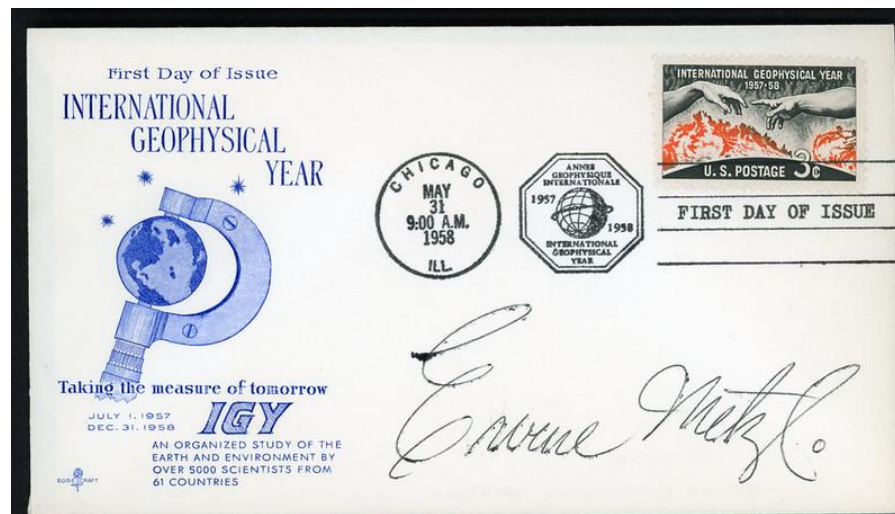


This postcard bears the IGY stamp and has a first day of issue cancellation. Its image includes a segment of Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel fresco "The Creation of Adam," representing the divine gift of life (and knowledge) to humanity via a touch of the hands as shown on the stamp. Scaled at 80%. High-res. scan [here](#).



This hand-painted first day cover by "Mox" highlights the solar prominences represented on the stamp. Scaled at 85%. High-resolution scan [here](#).

The IGY postage stamp and nine others were designed by graphic artist Ervine Metz. He served on the U.S. Postal Service Citizens' Advisory Committee. Scaled at 70%. High-res. scan [here](#).



The first day of issue ceremony was at COMPEX (Combined Philatelic Exposition of Chicagoland), at the LaSalle Hotel, Chicago. Scaled at 70%. High-res. scan [here](#).



Ceremony program. Scaled at 50%. High res. scan [here](#).

