

**'Mothers' and 'Offspring'**  
STAMPS AND THE STAMPS THAT DEPICT THEM  
Europe and The Americas (1840-1990)

The topic of 'stamps on stamps' has captured the imagination and interest of collectors since shortly after 1921. In that year, two Japanese stamps depicted the first four stamps of that country. The concept had global popularity. By 1990, over 4,800 'stamp-on-stamp' issues were released. These, in turn, depicted more than 5,300 original stamps, representing almost every country in the world.

**PURPOSE:** This six-frame topical exhibit focuses on matching 'stamps on stamps' with the original classic stamps they depict. Collecting stamps-on-stamps is itself a worthy objective. However, obtaining many of the stamps that they depict is a more serious challenge. That is because many of those original stamps were chosen precisely because of their historical significance, importance and (often) scarcity. That attempt to match the two is what distinguishes this exhibit. The geographic focus of the original stamps is the countries of Europe and the Americas, two regions with great philatelic history. The stamps that depict them have been issued by countries across the globe.

**DEFINITIONS:** For purposes of this exhibit, original stamps are called **'Mothers'** -- the stamps that depict them are termed **'Offspring'** (a.k.a. 'stamps-on-stamps'). The first stamp (Great Britain's famous 'Penny Black') is a **'Mother'** -- the stamps that depict this **'Mother'** are her **'Offspring'**, as shown below:



**FORMAT:** This exhibit presents **'Mothers'** from almost all the countries of Europe and the Americas. **'Mothers' appear as singles or multiples, mint or postally used, alone or on cover, and include varieties as well as several identified forgeries.** They are accompanied by their **'Offspring.'** By definition, all **'Mothers'** must have **'Offspring,'** most frequently a single one. However, some **'Mothers'** have two or more **'Offspring.'** **The Penny Black, shown above, has over 120 different 'Offspring'!** This exhibit will offer representative examples of **'Offspring'** for each **'Mother.'**

Noteworthy stamps and covers in this exhibit are highlighted with maroon-colored matting.

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DEVELOPMENT PLAN

**ORGANIZATION:** This exhibit has four principal sections, beginning with an initial overview of how **'Mother'** stamps are depicted (the physical relationship of **'Mothers'** to their **'Offspring'**). This segues into a presentation of the many postal functions, categories and roles that **'Mother'** stamps play. That is followed by the most popular philatelic theme used by almost all countries -- representations of first issues. The latter comprise the largest part of the exhibit and are presented chronologically: first the countries of Europe and then of the Americas. The last section shows **'Mother'** errors identified by **'Offspring'** and **'Mothers'** related to one another. A final page includes thoughts and options on the collecting/exhibiting challenges that lie ahead.

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