

This section offers a look at the many postal functions, categories and roles that 'Mother' stamps play, starting with *Essays*.

**ESSAYS** - An essay is a design for a stamp submitted to a government for approval. However, there is no guarantee that it will be either accepted or officially issued in the same detailed design as the original.



• 'Offspring'  
Ireland - 1976



This essay of Benjamin 'Franklin in Fur Cap' was proposed for use by the Albany NY Postmaster. It was printed by Gavit & Co. in 1847. However, the design was dropped shortly thereafter following release of the first national/U.S. stamps later that same year.

**PRIVATE ISSUES** - As the title implies, private issues are stamps created by private individuals and used either on their own or along with official stamp issues of the government.

**ARGENTINA** - In remote Tierra del Fuego, a local post was operated in the 1890s by Julius Popper, a Romanian holding a gold-mining concession. He privately issued a single 10 centavos 'oro'/gold stamp circa 1891 for use on local mails. The stamps depict mining equipment with a central 'P' for Popper.



• 'Mother Stamps'  
Argentina - early 1890s



• 'Offspring'  
Romania - 1986



TRISTAN DA CUNHA - A 1946 petition to create stamps for the 'Loneliest Island in the World' was accompanied by essays for nine stamps, most famously the 1 penny (= 4 potatoes) seen here. The designs were rejected after Tristan da Cunha issued its own stamps in 1952.

• 'Mother'  
Tristan da Cunha - 1946

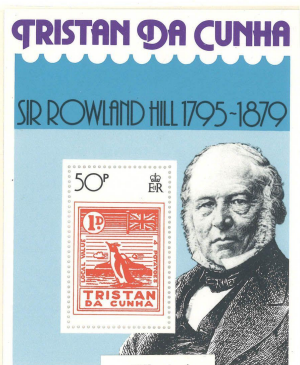
**IRELAND** - The Fenian Brotherhood was made up of Irish Veterans of the American Civil War, looking to help free Ireland from British control. These stamps/labels were originally believed to have been ordered for use by the Brotherhood for fund-raising purposes. However, research by Jos. Foley has determined that they were, in fact, a private venture by S. Allen Taylor of Boston, and were never accepted by the Irish authorities. Relatively few copies are known.



• 'Offspring'  
Ireland - 1967  
(note color change)



• 'Mother'  
Fenian Label - 1865



• 'Offspring'  
Tristan da Cunha  
1979