

Emily Bissell



Pioneer in the fight against tuberculosis. Organizer of Christmas Seal Campaign.

First Day of Issue



Emily Bissell
Crusader Against Tuberculosis
USA 15c

FIRST DAY OF ISSUE



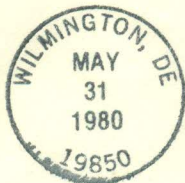
OFFICIAL
FIRST DAY
OF ISSUE



THE FIRST
CHRISTMAS SEAL

Honoring
EMILY BISSELL

CRUSADER AGAINST TUBERCULOSIS
INTRODUCED CHRISTMAS SEALS IN THE U.S.



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Introduction

To

Christmas Seal

Designers

1907 – 1953

The

Spellman

Museum

Though born in 1861 to a prominent Delaware family that provided her with the opportunity to live a sheltered life, Emily Bissell chose, instead, to become a social worker, a career that engaged her energies until her death in 1948.

In addition, she was a contributor to popular magazines and a poet who published her work under the name of Priscilla Leonard. But perhaps she is best known as the originator of America's Christmas seals. Emily Bissell's social-work activities started in 1876, when she began visiting the homes of Wilmington's poor, learning of their hopes and needs. Subsequently she was active in founding Wilmington's first settlement house and in lobbying for a child labor law. It was the Christmas seal campaign to fight tuberculosis, however, that brought her national recognition. Asked to raise funds for a local experimental TB hospital in 1907, Emily Bissell recalled a recent article by America's famous journalist Jacob Riis that described Denmark's pioneer Christmas seal drive. Adopting the idea, Emily Bissell organized her own campaign, and America's first Christmas seal drive was launched.



The little red cottage, a two-bed facility that still stands in Saranac Lake, New York, was the first U.S. sanatorium for the treatment of tuberculosis. In 1885 Dr. Edward L. Trudeau (seated at right in the wagon), who had suffered from TB himself and became a pioneer in the scientific study of the White Plague, began treating patients at the cottage.

UNITED STATES CHRISTMAS SEALS

The first United States Christmas seals were sold in 1907 to raise money to support the tuberculosis sanatorium on the banks of the Brandywine River in Delaware. Emily Bissell, who was active in the American Red Cross in Wilmington, Delaware, designed the first seal. The custom of using the seals on holiday mail continues to today with the income used to prevent lung disease and promote lung health.

1404 FRANKLIN STREET
WILMINGTON, DELAWARE

Dear Mr. Wheelers:

November 15, 1932.

The basic idea of the 1907 Christmas stamp was to combine the idea of Christmas, the time of generous giving, and the Red Cross, organized to fight pestilence, as well as to relieve war and famine.

Mr. Pyle simply carried out the same idea in a more artistic way. I had only been able to have the stamp printed in one color- red on white- because of the extra expense of two-color printing. He used red and green on white.

In 1907 the first printing of stamps did not seem appropriate to carry over into the New Year. So we added "Happy New Year" and sold them into January.

I hope this gives you what you want to know.

Sincerely yours,

Emily P. Bissell





C. Hatch

Emily Bissell

As part of her tireless crusade against tuberculosis, she initiated the American Christmas Seal campaign.



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Howard Pyle



Carl Wingate



Mrs. Pison
Howe from



Edward Keeler
originated under the direction of
F. B. Millet who died in
the Titanic disaster in
1912.



John N. Gek



McLeland



McLeland



Ernest Tambling Baker

1907

Type I

Type II

Merry Christmas

Perf 14

Merry Christmas
Happy New Year



Thin Paper



Horiz. Pair
Imperf. Between



Vert. Pair
Imperf. Between

Designed by Miss Emily P. Bissell

Sales Realized \$3000.00



Ernest Tamplin Baker



George V. Curtis



M. Richard



R. Ruzicka



George V. Curtis



Robert G. Sheppard



George V. Curtis



John W. Evans



John W. Evans.



George V. Curtis



Ernest J. Baker



Design by
redrawn by
John W. Evans



John W. Evans



Edward F. Volkmann



Hans Axel Wallen



H. D. Giesen



Ernest Paulij Baker



Walter Sasser



A. Robert Nelson



Lloyd Coe



Robert Mansfield



F. Hoffmann



Rodman Kent



F. L. Martin



Stevan Dohanos



Dale Nichols



Audrie Penes Dup



Spull Willey



Park Phipps



*CONGRATULATE
Constance Joan Nason*



*Mary Louise Estes
Lloyd Coe*



Raymond Ruffin



Barry Bart



Herbert M. Meyers



Joseph Dufo



Robert K. Stephens



Tom Darling



Elmer Jacobs