



# Topical Tidbits

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## SCOTLAND

### Greetings!

Scotland is a country in Europe and is part of the island of Great Britain, along with England, Wales, and Northern Ireland. All together these countries are called the United Kingdom. Scotland itself includes over 700 islands, the most famous being Orkney, Shetland, and the Hebrides. Enjoy learning all about bonnie Scotland in this issue of *Topical Tidbits*!

### Interesting Facts:

- The Roman Empire invaded Britain in 43 AD and fought frequently with the native Scots, called the Caledonians.
- The Scottish clan system was established in the Highlands by the 1300s. A clan chief ruled over tribes which were made up of family members and those loyal to them. Clans were distinguished by the color and design of their tartans (plaid).
- The flag of Scotland is one of the oldest in the world. It's called the *Saltire* because of the X-shaped cross on it. This cross is in honor of Scotland's patron saint, St Andrew, who was crucified on a cross of this shape.
- The thistle is the national flower of Scotland.
- Another symbol of Scotland is the lion rampant who is standing as if ready for battle. This symbol is reserved only for royalty. It can be seen on the yellow stamp on the cover below.
- Bagpipes are another symbol of Scotland (stamp on the left). Playing the bagpipes was banned in Scotland after the uprising of 1745. They were classified as an instrument of war by the loyalist government.
- Scotland has three officially recognized languages: English, Scots, and Scottish Gaelic.
- Scotland's national animal is the unicorn.

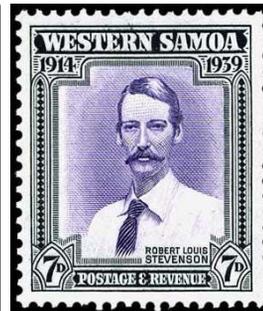
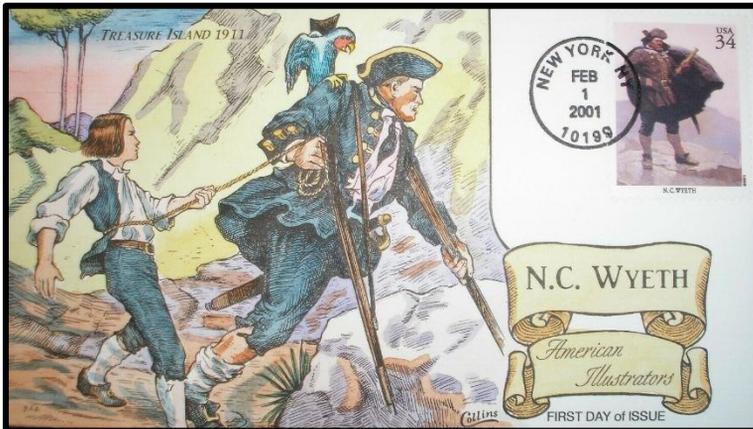


# Scotland's Writers

**ROBERT BURNS:** Have you ever sung, "Should auld acquaintance be forgot, And never brought to mind" on New Year's Eve? These are the lines from a poem written by Robert Burns (1759 – 1796), one of Scotland's most famous poets. Many of his poems are written in broad Scots which is a version of English. Some of his most famous poems include *To A Mouse*, *A Red, Red Rose*, and *Address to a Haggis*. (Haggis is a Scottish delicacy.) These stamps (below) were issued by Great Britain in celebration of Burn's bicentenary in 1996 and feature lines from his poems.



**ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON:** This famous Scot was born in 1850 and died in 1894. He wrote many books that you have probably heard of, including *Treasure Island*, *Kidnapped*, and *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*. He also wrote a book of children's poetry called, *A Child's Garden of Verses*.



This hand painted Fred Collis FDC shows a scene from *Treasure Island*. The middle stamp from Samoa honors Stevenson who moved to the island towards the end of his life. The stamp at the right from Great Britain features Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde.

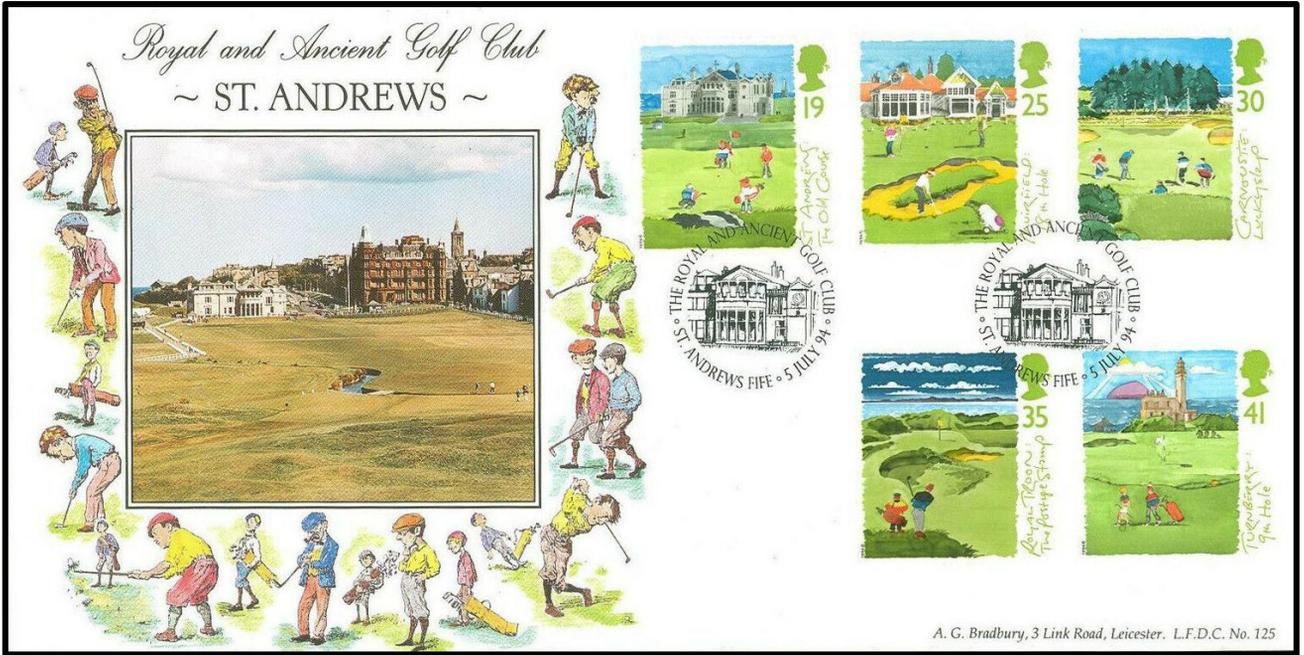
Draw your own *Treasure Island* map. Be sure to mark the spot where the buried treasure lies!

# Golf

The game of golf originated in Scotland nearly 500 years ago. It must have been a very popular game because James II had golf banned 1457 because it was interfering with archery practice which was needed to defend the Scottish realm. One of the first golf courses (pictured on the cover below) was St. Andrews in Scotland which is more than 400 years old. Maybe someday you can play a round of golf there!



There are 336 dimples on a regulation golf ball!



A. G. Bradbury, 3 Link Road, Leicester. L.F.D.C. No. 125

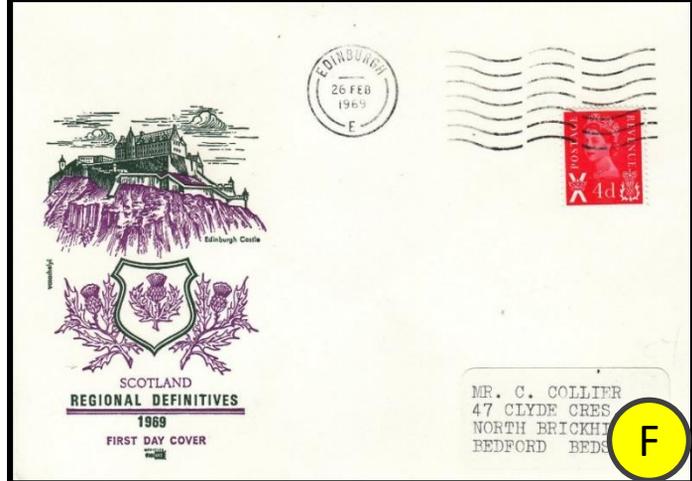
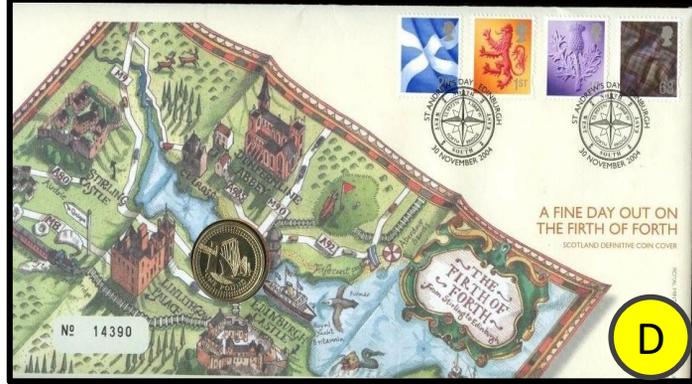
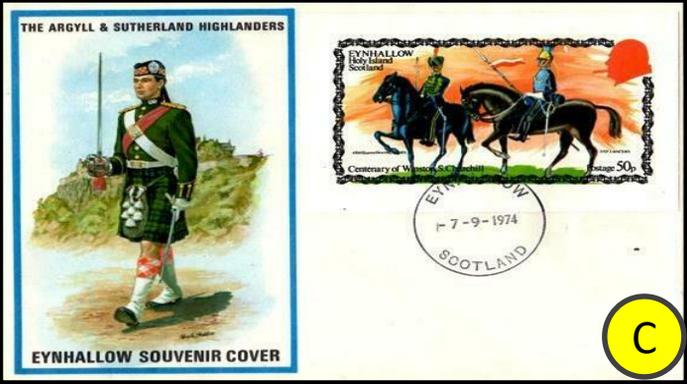
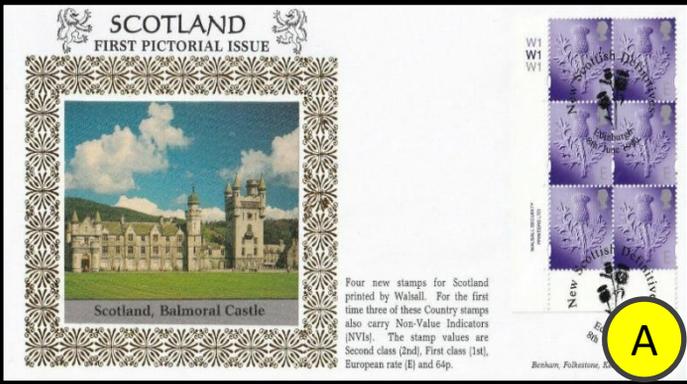
## Golf Word Search Puzzle

E K O R T S W E X J G R A S S  
 E F T U E I V E I D R I B T W  
 B O G E S J M U M S T I B T E  
 W O H A Z A R D O N L R A U D  
 I U G K H E V U T H S I A P G  
 B K C I K X E I D D A C C P E  
 H X N N E O I R E L G A E E G  
 F F U H G U O R Z L H F X E N  
 L B M W U B E K O O Q Q S E I  
 A B O F T T H Y L N Y R C C W  
 G O U J A B B E T S U N L T S  
 D Y A W R I A F K O A U W R B  
 P A C I D N A H C T B M O A K  
 E R O C S Q M E S S T T V C C  
 M K U D G R E E N D R I V E R

BIRDIE HOLE  
 BOGIE IRON  
 BUNKER PUTT  
 CADDIE ROUGH  
 CART SCORE  
 CLUBS SLICE  
 COURSE STANCE  
 DRIVER STROKE  
 EAGLE SWING  
 FAIRWAY TRAP  
 FLAG WATER  
 GRASS WEDGE  
 GREEN WOOD  
 HANDICAP  
 HAZARD

# Scottish Match Up

Match the letter in the yellow circle on each cover to the clues below. Answers are at the bottom.



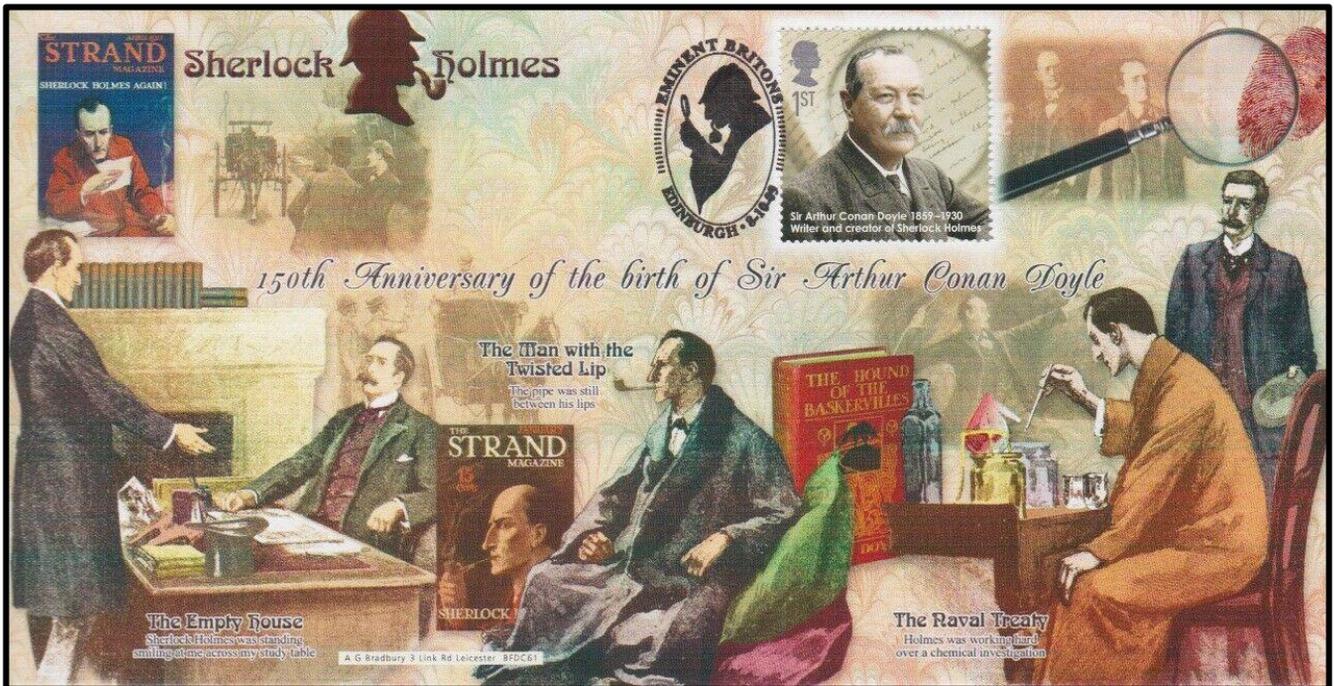
1. \_\_\_\_ The **bagpipes** are in the woodwind family and are the national instrument of Scotland.
2. \_\_\_\_ The **Firth of Forth** is an estuary of several Scottish rivers that flows into the North Sea.
3. \_\_\_\_ **Edinburgh Castle** was once the residence of Scotland's monarchs but is now a museum in the capital city of Edinburgh.
4. \_\_\_\_ **Balmoral Castle** has been the Scottish home of the Royal Family since it was purchased for Queen Victoria by Prince Albert in 1852. Queen Elizabeth and her family spend their summer holiday at the castle.
5. \_\_\_\_ **Ben Nevis** is the highest mountain in the British Isles, the summit is 1,345 meters above sea level.
6. \_\_\_\_ Thanks to their extraordinary courage, the **Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders** became known as the 'Fighting Highlanders' and the 'Thin Red Line.' They boast a long and distinguished history dating back to the late 18th century.

# Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle was born in Edinburgh, Scotland in 1859. After studying medicine he became a doctor in England. Soon he started to write stories, in particular detective novels. His first story was published in 1887 and introduced a detective named Sherlock Holmes. Many stories soon followed. Dr. Watson was Holmes' sidekick and helped him solve many cases. He wasn't as smart as the detective, though, who would usually reply to his questions with, "Elementary, my dear Watson!"

Sherlock Holmes became so famous over the years, that people started thinking of him as a real person. To this day, fans send letters to his (fictional) house at 221b Baker Street in London.

Sherlock Holmes was one of the first fictional detectives. When the stories were written in the 1880s, London's police at Scotland Yard had only been around for about 50 years. Holmes was one of the first detectives to use forensic science to help solve cases. Fingerprinting was a new technique for catching criminals at that time.



This cover from Great Britain celebrates the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. The stamp shows a picture of Doyle, while the cancel is a silhouette of Sherlock Holmes, the famous detective he created. Pictured on the cover are some of Doyle's stories.

## Fingerprint Facts:

- There are three patterns of fingerprints— loops, whorls, and arches.
- No two people have exactly the same fingerprint, not even identical twins.
- No single person has the same finger print on multiple fingers.
- Prints taken from the palms, toes, and feet are also unique but are used less often for identification.

**Directions:** Use an inkpad to print your fingerprints in the chart to the right. Then check to see what pattern your fingerprints are.



Loops



Whorls



Arches

Thumb	Index	Middle	Ring	Pinky

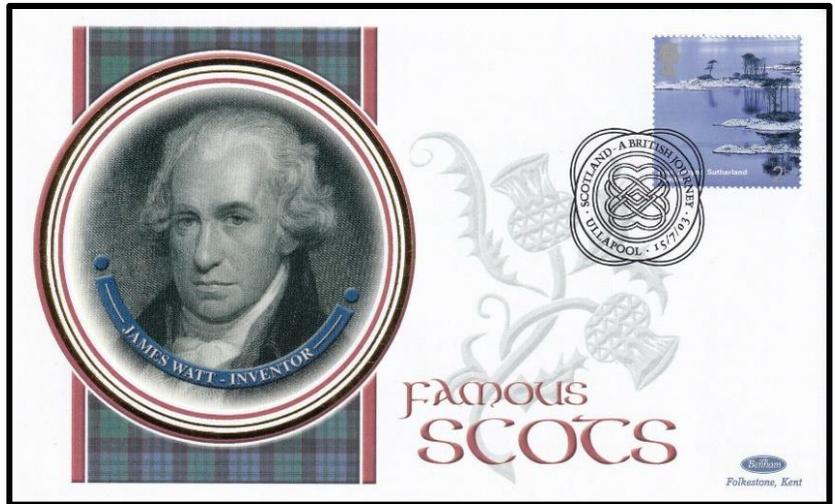
# Famous Scots

Read each clue and match it to the correct cover.  
Answers are at the bottom of the page.

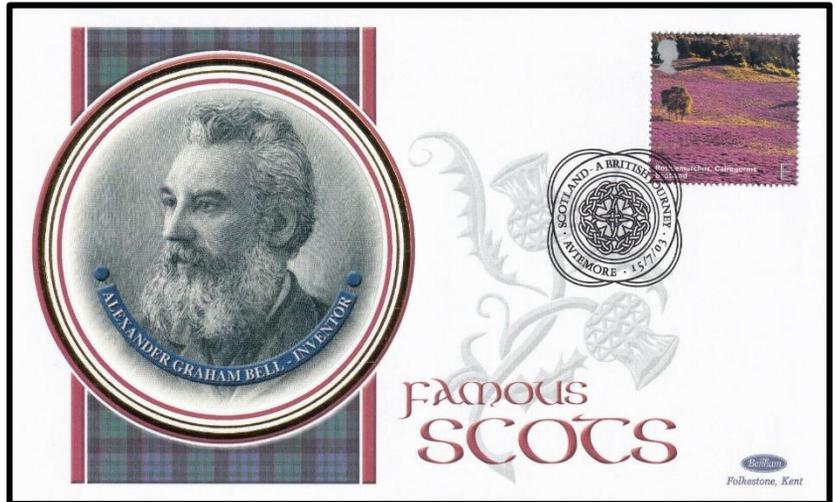
**A.** This Scot embarked on a medical career and worked as a surgeon. As a bacteriological researcher, he became the first to use anti-typhoid vaccines on human beings. In 1928, his famous chance discovery of penicillin, with its unsurpassed antibiotic powers, revolutionized the treatment of disease and infection.

**B.** This Scot trained as a mathematical instrument-maker. He was fascinated by the power of steam and from 1759 he worked on harnessing its power. In 1774 he patented his own steam engine design which proved a great success, superseding its rivals.

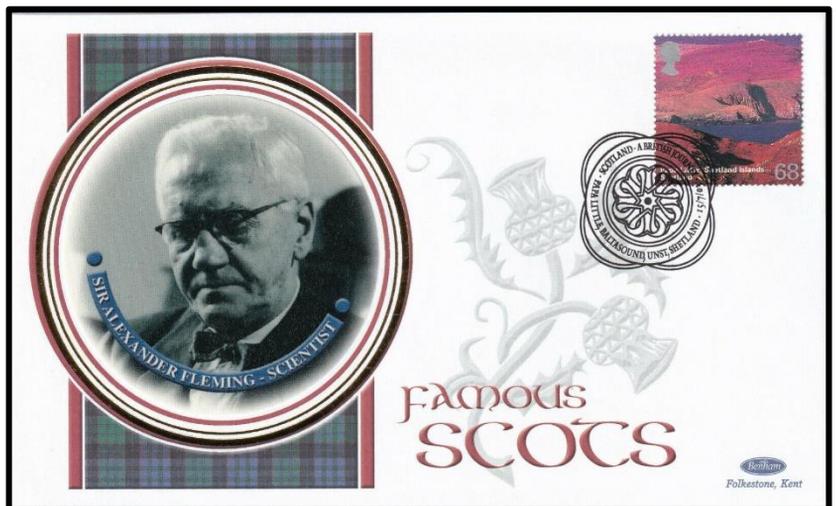
**C.** Educated in Edinburgh and London, this Scot eventually settled in the United States in 1871. He devoted himself to the teaching of deaf mutes. After experimenting with various acoustical devices, he produced the first intelligible telephonic message in 1875 and patented the telephone in 1876.



1. \_\_\_\_\_ James Watt



2. \_\_\_\_\_ Alexander Graham Bell



3. \_\_\_\_\_ Sir Alexander Fleming

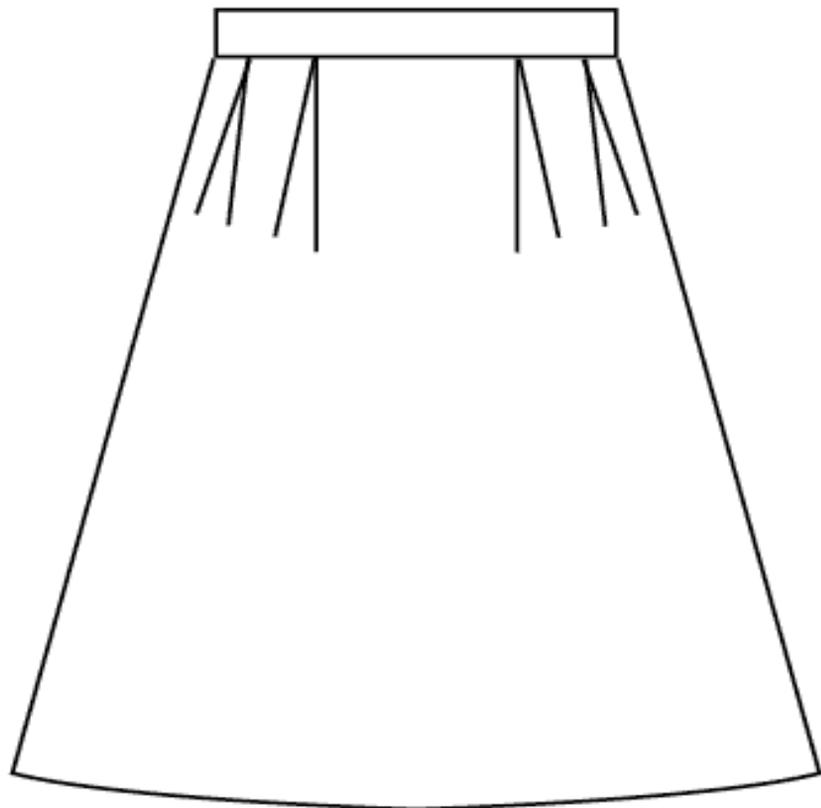
# The Highlands

Phil Stamp Definitives Cover No. 3 (Classic) ~ Scotland



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The Highland Games go back to 1093 when King Malcolm III summoned his men to a race to find the fastest runner to be his messenger. Today, the games take place all over the world and have a huge variety of events such as piping, dancing, and sporting competitions. The cancel on this cover is a sporran, usually made of leather or fur, which serves as a pocket when wearing a kilt. Color this cachet of a stamp man dancing the highland sword dance.



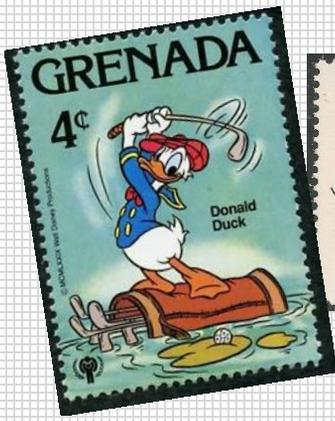
Design your own tartan on the kilt to the right.

# Machins

You may be wondering why you haven't ever seen any stamps with SCOTLAND written on them. That's because Scotland doesn't issue its own stamps because it is part of the United Kingdom. The UK does issue regional stamps, though. The majority of these are *Machins*. Designed by Alfred Machin, these stamps have a sculpted profile of Queen Elizabeth II. There are five types of Machins—four regionals and one for the entire country with no icon. The regionals can be identified by the icon printed at the top left. The chart at the right illustrates this. Look over the Machins below and circle all the ones from Scotland which feature the lion rampant.

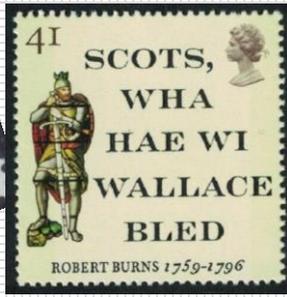
<p><b>Isle of Man</b> <i>Three Legs of Man</i></p>  	<p><b>Scotland</b> <i>Lion of Scotland</i></p>  
<p><b>Northern Ireland</b> <i>Right Red Hand of Ulster</i></p>  	<p><b>Wales &amp; Monmouthshire</b> <i>Dragon of Wales</i></p>  





# Golf

# Scotland



# Machins



# Plaid

