

Elmo learns about stamp collecting from Big Bird. They share working on a stamp collection together. Big Bird is worried that Elmo might be too little to make a stamp exhibit.

Elmo loves stamp collecting

Elmo is a 3½ year-old red Muppet monster. (Monster years are not the same as human years). In this exhibit Elmo tells in his own words why he loves stamp collecting.* Besides collecting stamps, Elmo loves laughing, friends, helping with chores, learning, music and watching Cookie Monster eat cookies. Elmo hopes this exhibit will make everyone want to collect and exhibit stamps.

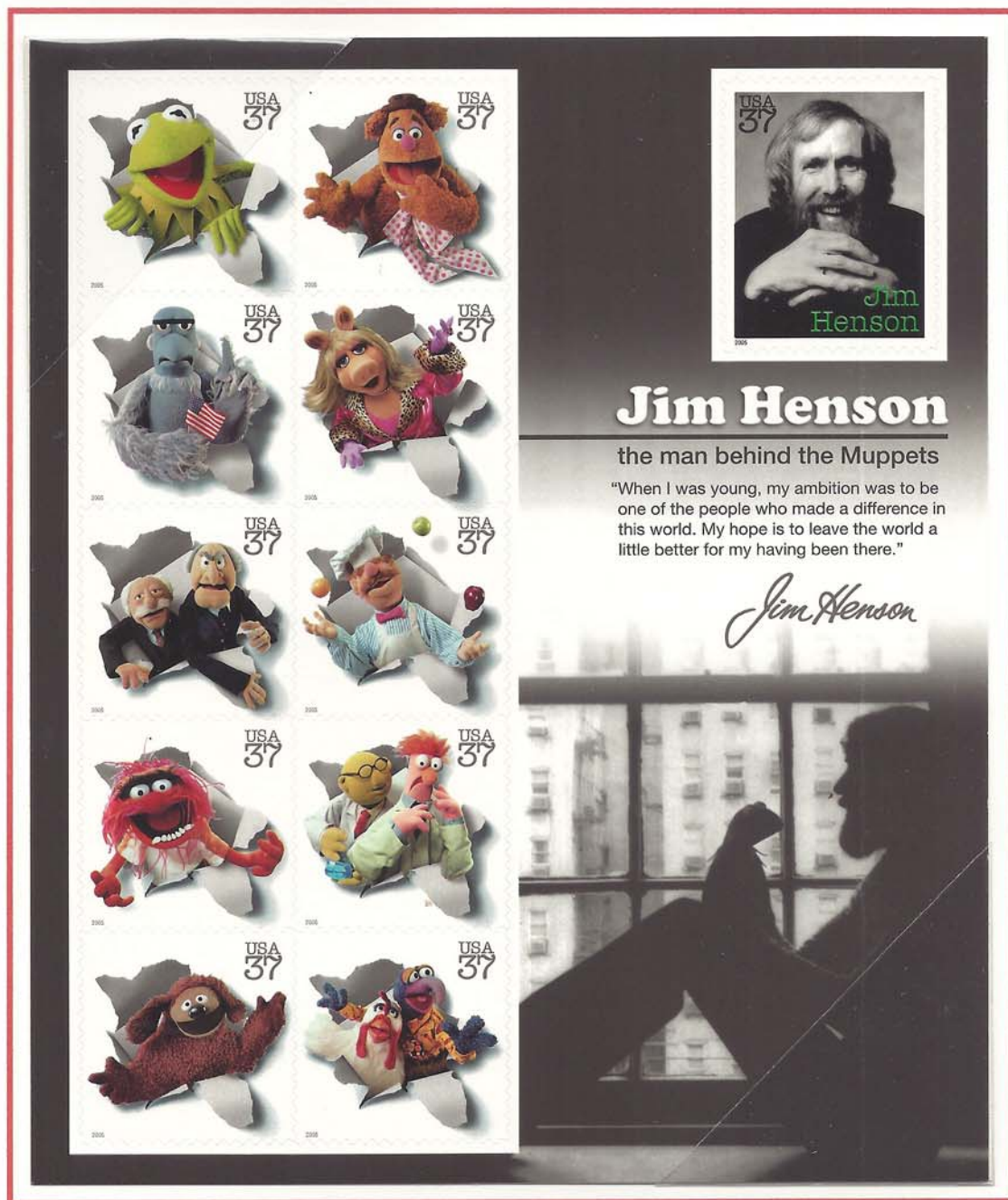
* Elmo always speaks in third person.



Want to see Elmo's synopsis?
Scan this QR code with your smartphone!

Elmo loves stamp collecting because....

Elmo's friends are on stamps



In September 2005 the United States Postal Service made stamps that showed some of Elmo's friends. Up in the top right corner is Elmo's Poppa, Mr. Jim Henson. Elmo misses Poppa Jim very much.

Elmo's friends from left to right, top to bottom (did you see the Sesame Street episode about left and right?): Kermit the Frog, Fozzie Bear, Sam the Eagle, Miss Piggy, Statler and Waldorf (they are stamp collectors, too, but Elmo thinks they are too grumpy), the Swedish Chef, Animal, Dr. Bunsen Honeydew and Beaker, Rowlf the Dog, and the Great Gonzo and Camilla the Chicken.

Elmo loves stamp collecting because....

Elmo's friends are on stamps



THE
STAMP
SHOW 2000
EARLS COURT, LONDON 22-28 MAY 2000

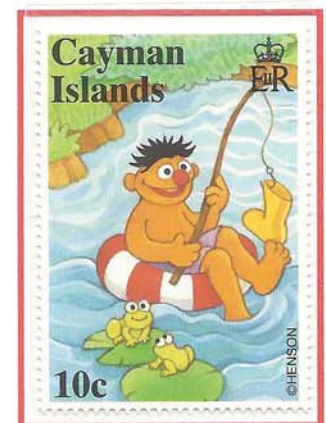
CTW
SESAME STREET

THE
STAMP
SHOW 2000
EARLS COURT, LONDON 22-28 MAY 2000

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Big Bird
Cayman Islands, 2000



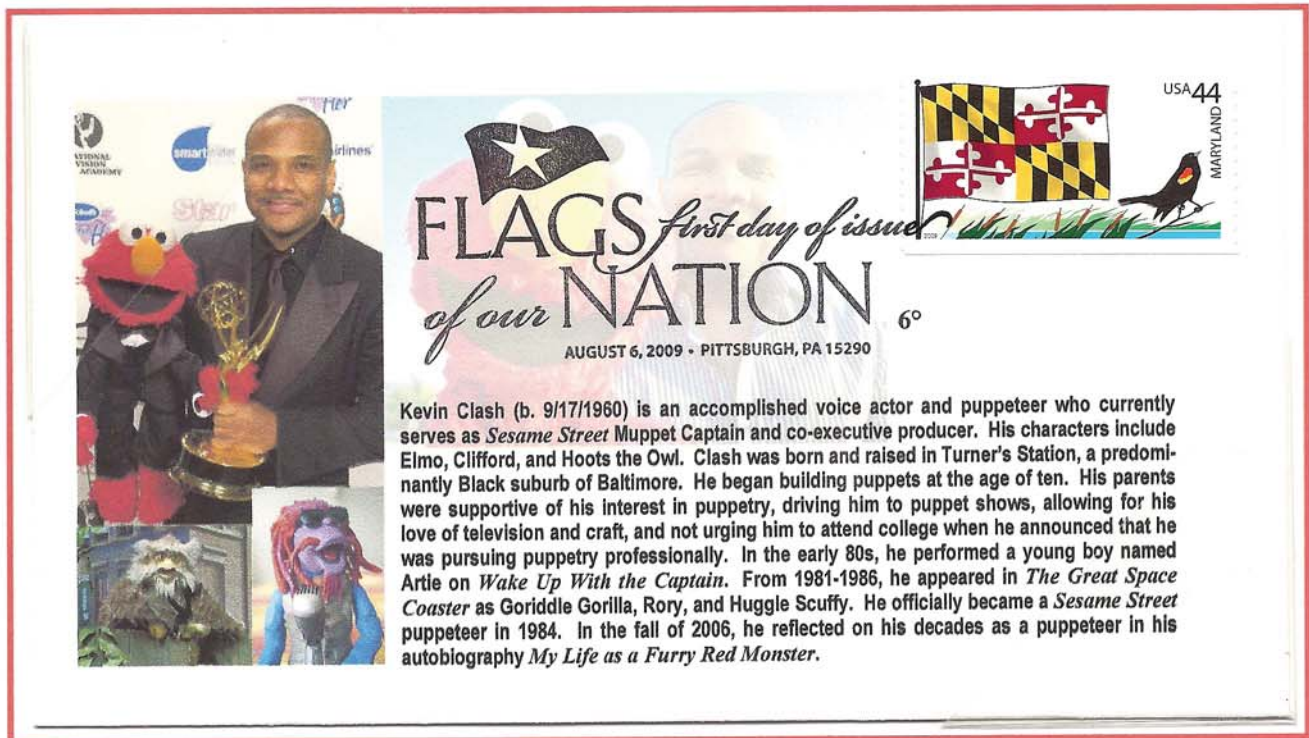
Ernie
Cayman Islands, 2000

Fiji made stamps in 2000 that show Elmo's friends just like in a photo album. Starting with Elmo's stamp collecting mentor Big Bird at the top left, Elmo's friends are: Oscar the Grouch, Cookie Monster, Grover, **ELMO** (hehe), Ernie, Zoe, Count von Count, and Bert.

Bert & Ernie
The Netherlands, 1996



Pino, Lelemienie & Tommie
The Netherlands, 1996



Cachetmaker: 6 Degrees (Number 6 of 10). Media: Computer generated and printed.

Mr. Kevin Clash is Elmo's very best friend in the whole world. You might say Mr. Kevin has Elmo's back. Tehehe! Mr. Kevin wrote a book about being Elmo's closest friend. It is called *My Life as a Furry Red Monster: What Being Elmo Has Taught Me About Life, Love and Laughing out Loud*.

Elmo LOVES Mr. Kevin. Yeah!

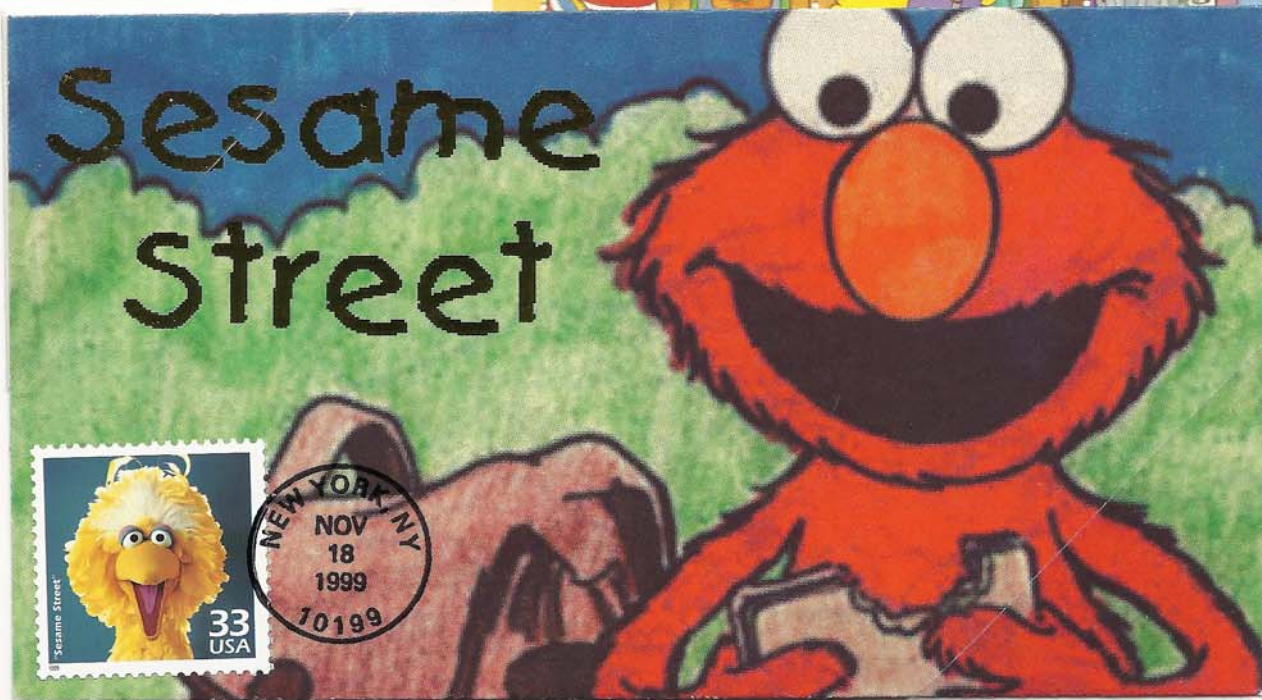
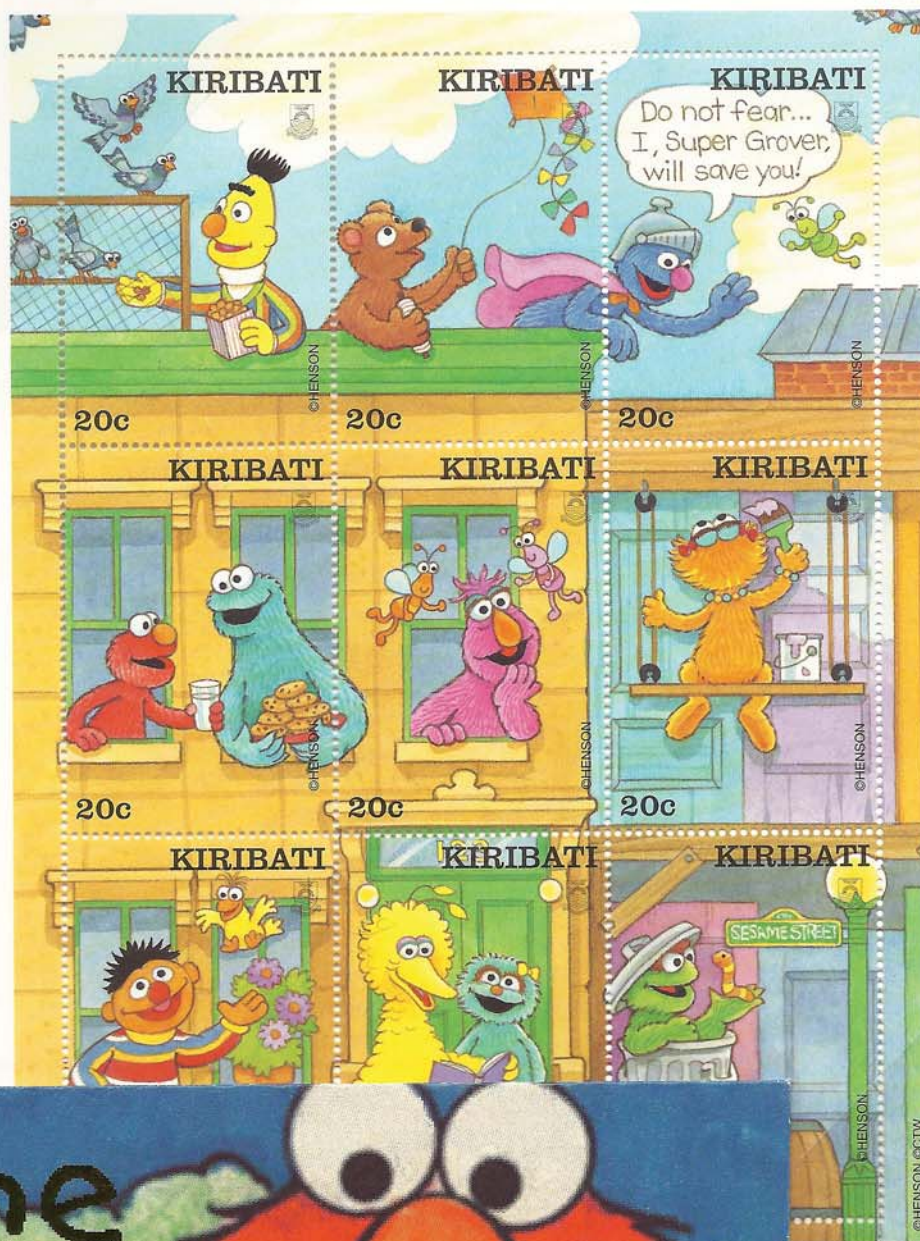
Elmo loves stamp collecting because....

Elmo's home and neighborhood are on stamps

Elmo lives at 123 Sesame Street with lots of Elmo's friends. On the rooftop of Elmo's apartment building are Bert, Baby Bear and Grover. Hanging out the top floor windows: Elmo!, Cookie Monster and Telly Monster. Zoe is painting the wall. At street level are Ernie, Big Bird with Rosita and Oscar the Grouch in Oscar's favorite trash can.

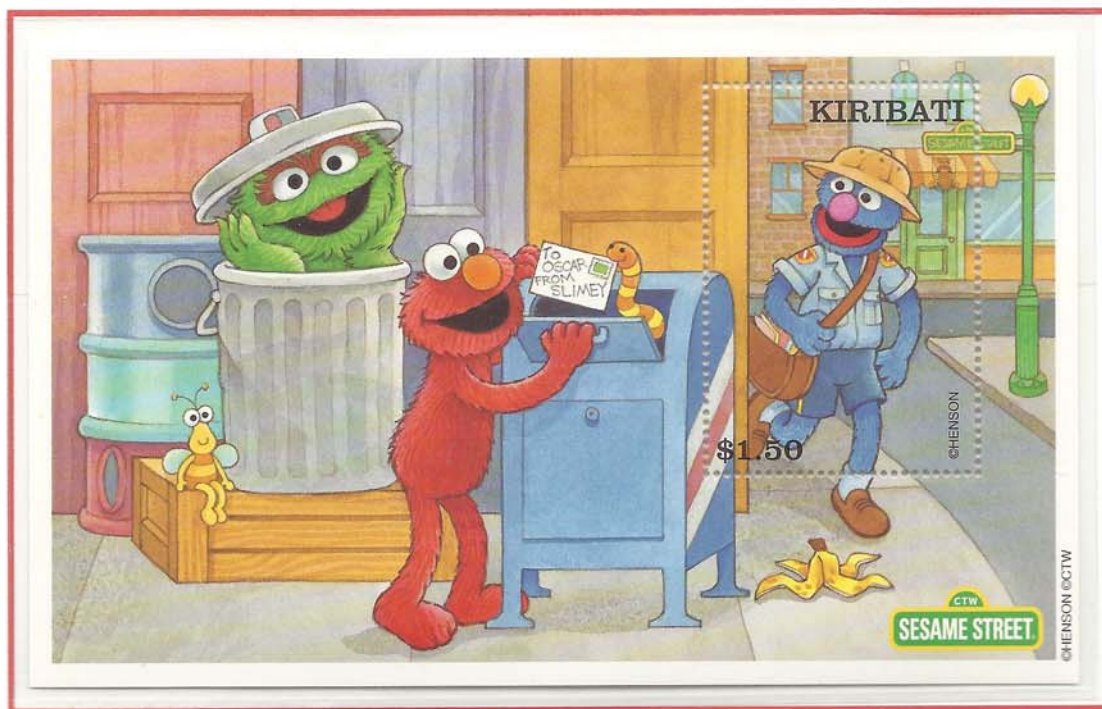
↓ Big Bird was featured on a United States "Celebrate the Century" series stamp issued Nov. 18, 1999.

Cachetmaker: Great Southern Cover Co. (Gold foil edition number 13 of 25).
Media: Computer generated and printed.



Elmo loves stamp collecting because....

Elmo's home and neighborhood are on stamps



Elmo loves to write letters to Elmo's friends. There is a mailbox at the corner of Sesame Street and Main Street and sometimes Elmo sees Grover bringing the mail. Lookout, Grover! Don't slip on the banana peel! Big Bird taught Elmo that this souvenir sheet was released by the island nation of Kiribati in 2000.



Elmo loves stamp collecting so much that Elmo made an envelope to carry money to the post office to buy stamps. Elmo put an Elmo stamp on the envelope! Hehehe!

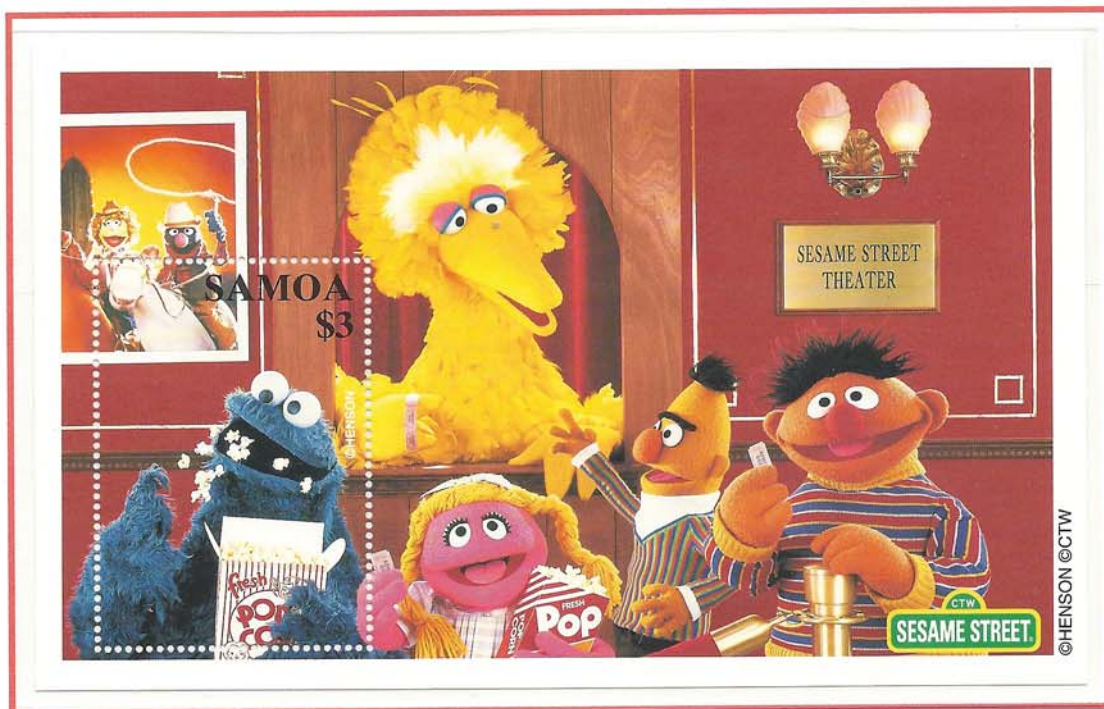
Elmo loves stamp collecting because....

Elmo's home and neighborhood are on stamps



Cachetmaker: Coverscape Cachets. Media: Computer generated and printed.

Elmo lives on Sesame Street, a magical place full of great friends and interesting visitors. It is on television, and it has been on television since even before Elmo was born!

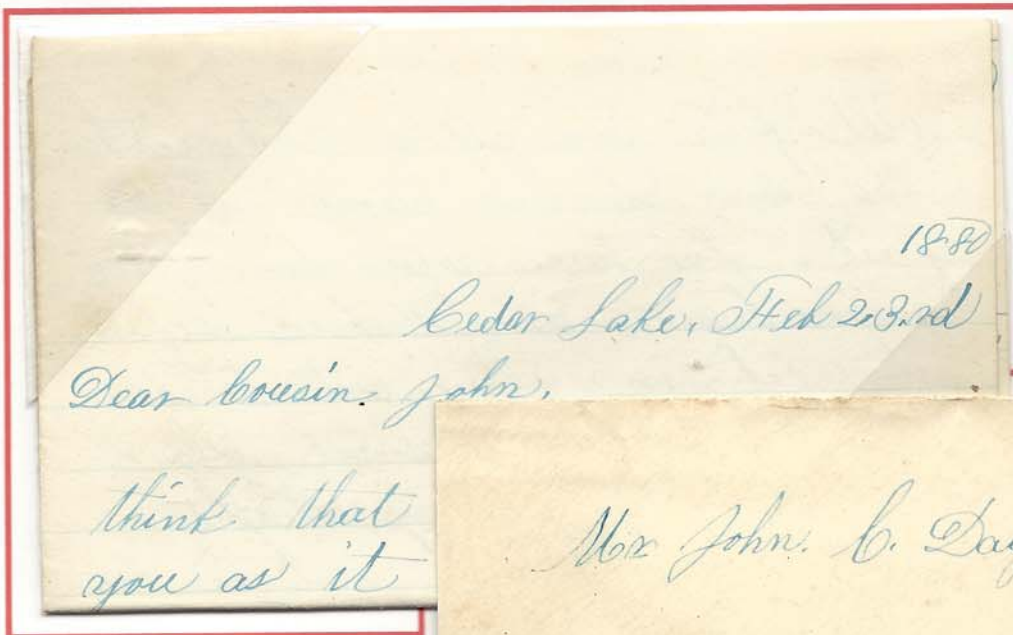
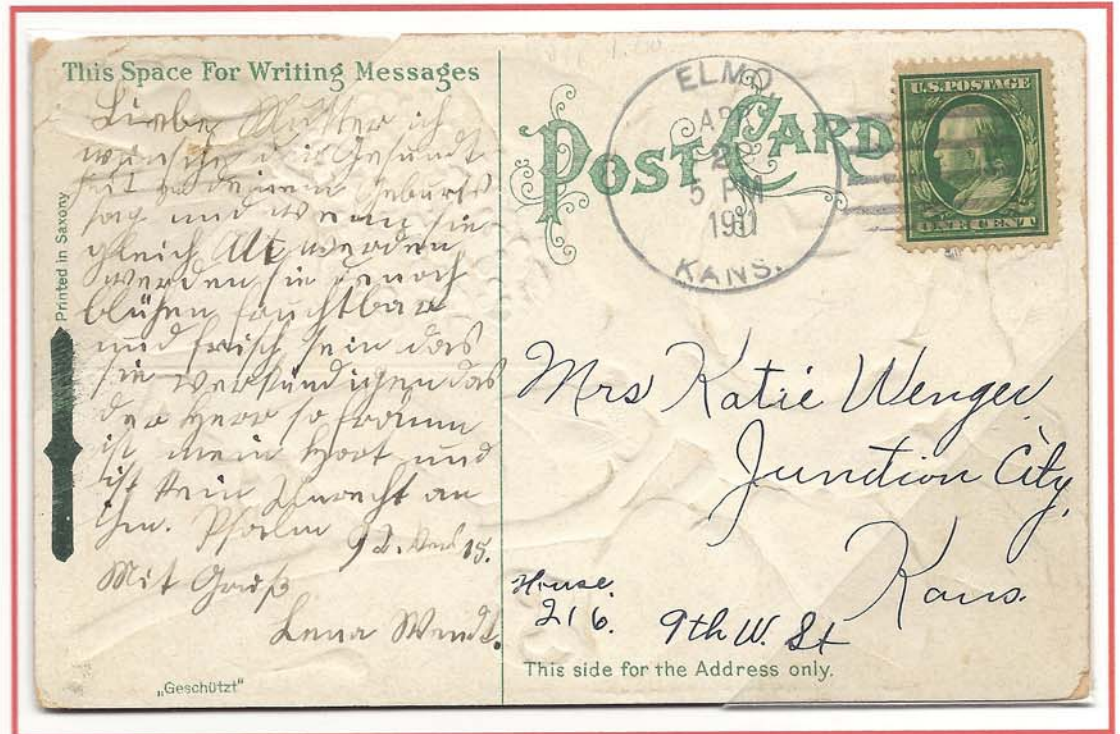


Cookie Monster, Betty Lou, Bert and Ernie often go to the movie theater on Sesame Street and Big Bird sells the tickets, just like it shows on this souvenir sheet that Samoa issued in 2000.

Elmo loves stamp collecting because....

Elmo learns about all kinds of things

Elmo learned there is a place called ELMO in Kansas. Elmo (the town) had its own post office starting in December 1884, but it was discontinued in May 1966. Stamp collectors call a post office that no longer exists a "DPO," that stands for "Discontinued Post Office." Elmo, Kansas was a stop on the Missouri-Pacific Railroad.



There is a city in southeastern Minnesota named Lake Elmo. It was founded in 1852, but a post office using the name Lohmansville (instead of Lake Elmo) wasn't established until May 1866. The post office didn't get named Lake Elmo until January 1879 and this letter was dated February 1880.

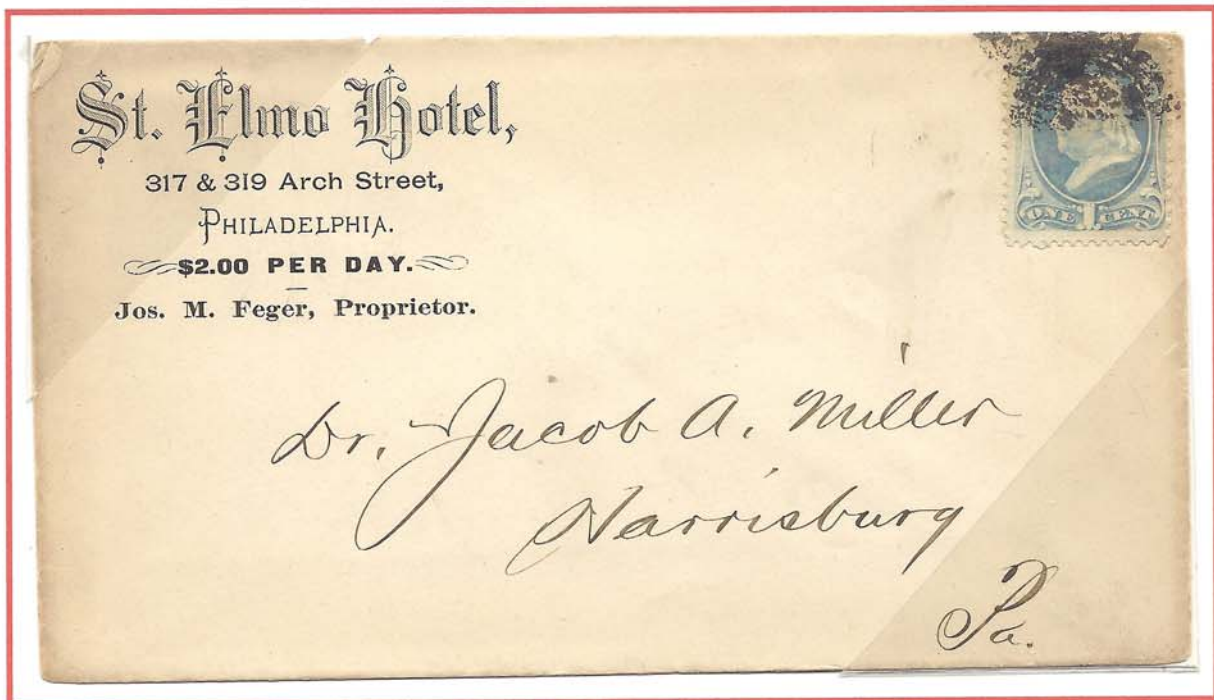


Elmo learned that a lot of places are named after Saint Elmo, but this Elmo is no saint! The real Saint Elmo lived a long time ago in the late third century in central Europe. His real name was Erasmus of Formiae, an ancient town on the Appian Way.



Precancels are cancels that are printed on the stamps before they are used. The printing helps the post office make the mail processing go faster.

These precancels are from St. Elmo Station in Chattanooga, Tennessee. St. Elmo Station is the historic district of Chattanooga right by Lookout Mountain. It got its name because the author Augusta J. Evans Wilson compared the view from the top of Lookout Mountain to the one seen from St. Elmo's Castle in Italy. She wrote a book called *St. Elmo* that was published in 1866 and it has been compared to Harriet Beecher Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin*.



Elmo thinks staying at the St. Elmo hotel in Philadelphia for \$2 a day would be fun, but that was in the late 19th century and \$2 was a lot of money then.

→ A stamp was used to pay tax on a bill from the St. Elmo hotel in Salcombe, Devonshire, Great Britain in 1946. Stamps were used for postage as well as to pay for government tax or "revenue," which is why the stamp is marked Postage/ Revenue. The person who stayed at the hotel paid 4 shillings 4 pence for "minerals" (mineral water).

TELEPHONE SALCOMBE 33

1337

ST. ELMO HOTEL,
SALCOMBE,

DEVON *May* 193*4*6

Monsieur Raoul No. *page par maitre*
Room 14.

Accounts rendered Weekly.

Cheques not received under 4 days notice.

1946.		May	16. 14.
Brought forward			
En-Pension		1	15.
Apartments			
Attendance			
Breakfast			
Luncheon			
Afternoon Tea			
Dinner			
Supper			
Early Tea			
Tea and Coffee			
Servants' Board			
Fires			
Minerals		4	4
Laundry			
Petrol			
Garage			
Postage			
Telephone			
Paid Out			
Sundries			
Carried forward		1	19 4
Less Cash Paid			4.
Allowances		2.	3. 4
TOTAL			

May 14th 1946

With Thanks.

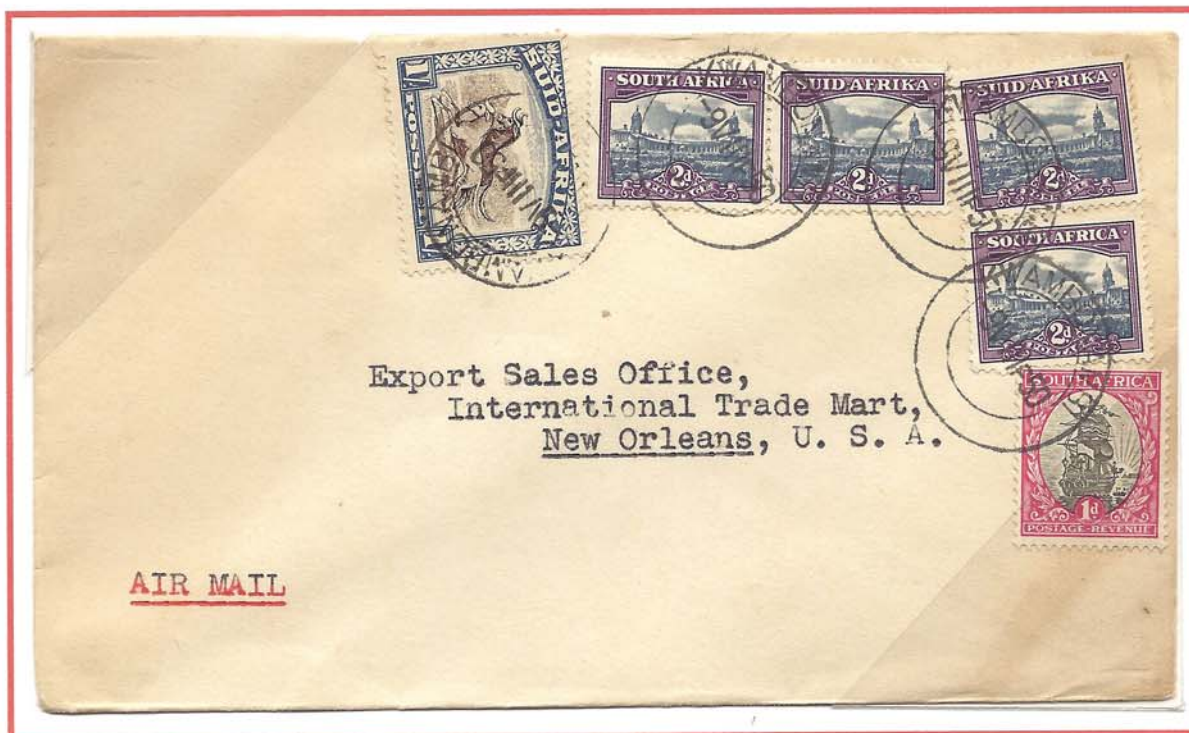
have been written over

Saint Elmo is the patron saint of sailors because it is believed that he continued preaching after lightning struck along side him during his sermon. When sailors face a big storm at sea, they ask St. Elmo to keep them safe from the storm.



St. Elmo's Fire Variety
Printing variety: Issue 8, Row 17, Position 3, August 1932
Right stamp, halfway up mast on right

St. Elmo's Fire is a weather phenomenon. It is a visible streamer of positive electrons searching for a storm's electrical charge. It appears as a bluish glow on the mast of a ship. Early sailors on high seas during thunderstorms knew they weren't looking at actual fire, because instead of abandoning ship, they took comfort in the sudden glow atop the masts. Sailors thought St. Elmo was responsible for the glow. They believed the "fire" was a sign of salvation from the saint, since the phenomenon occurs most often toward the end of a storm.



Other South Africa 1d stamps that show van Riebeeck's ship Drommedaris can sometimes be found with random dots of red ink in the vignette area, but only inking flaws that occur on the mast are "St. Elmo's Fire" varieties.

Elmo loves stamp collecting because....

Stamps show fun times with Elmo's friends



Elmo loves swimming and especially snorkeling! Can you name all of Elmo's friends and figure out what they like to do for fun?

Elmo loves stamp collecting because....

Stamps show fun times with Elmo's friends

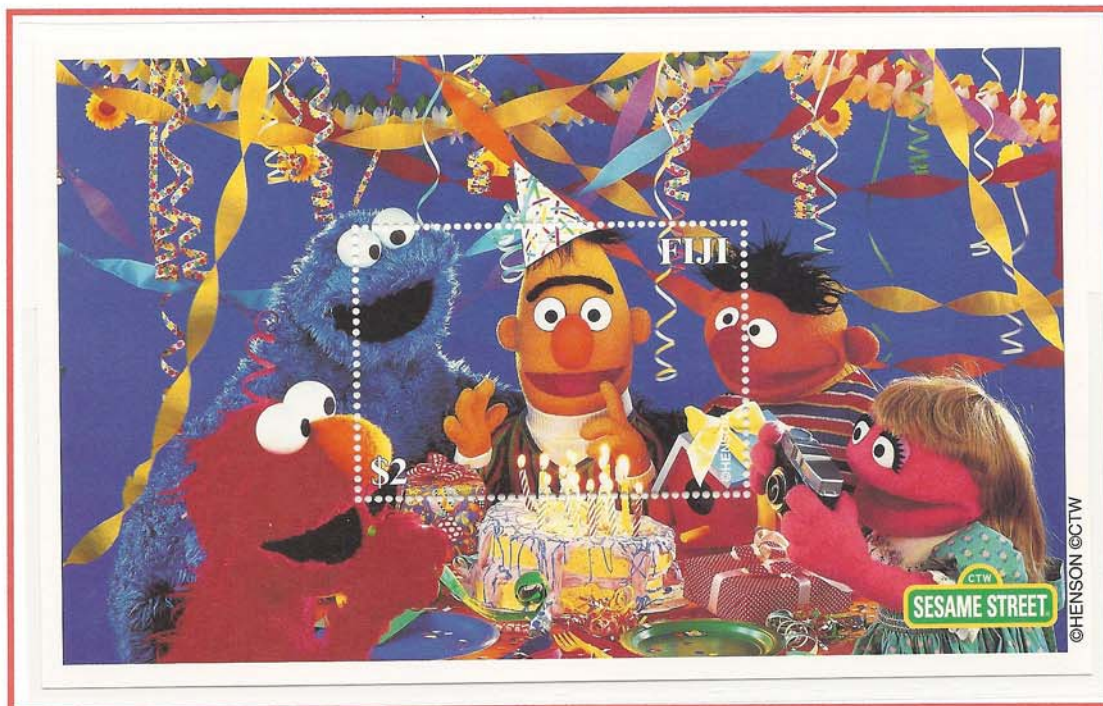


CTW
SESAME STREET

You couldn't name all of Elmo's friends? Elmo will help you this time. See? Elmo is in the stamp in the middle, in case you didn't recognize Elmo. Tehehe! Elmo's friends are putting on a show. Can you find: Baby Bear, Telly, Prairie Dawn, Magician, Grover, Zoe, Ernie, Cookie Monster, Count von Count, Bert and Oscar the Grouch?

Elmo loves stamp collecting because....

Stamps show fun times with Elmo's friends



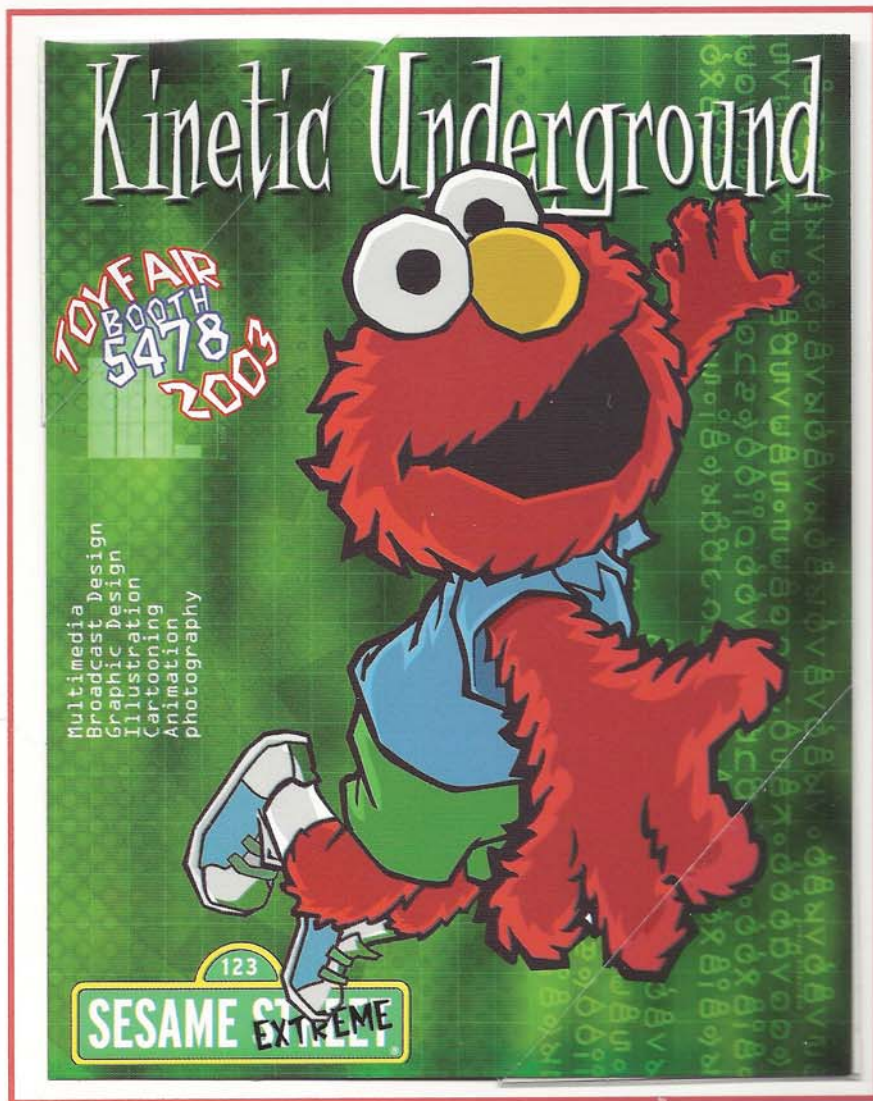
All of Elmo's friends have birthday parties. This was Bert's birthday party and there was a yummy cake. Elmo had a little piece of it because Cookie Monster ate most of it in one big bite! Cookie needs to learn how to share. Yeah!



After the cake Elmo and friends went outdoors to the tree house. Elmo is still too little to climb, so Big Bird lifted Elmo up and Ernie helped, too. It was a really fun day.

Elmo loves stamp collecting because....

Stamps show fun times with Elmo's friends



Post card advertising Kinetic Underground's Toy Fair, 2003.

Elmo has bunches of fun traveling with Elmo's best friend Mr. Kevin. Sometimes Mr. Kevin and Elmo go to toy fairs, like one attended by Kinetic Underground, designers of toys and games. The toy show was held at the Javits Center in New York City in 2003 and Elmo got to play with video games and make lots of new friends. Elmo heard there would be a big stamp show at Javits Center in 2016, and Elmo can hardly wait!

Once Mr. Kevin took Elmo to New Orleans for a festival called Mardi Gras. There were floats and marching bands and people threw money and necklaces from the floats. Elmo caught one of the coins, called a "doubloon," and was surprised that Elmo's picture was on it!



Elmo loves stamp collecting because....

Stamp collecting is fun!



↑ Someday maybe Elmo will have an exhibit that will win a gold medal. A long time ago (1896) there was a gold mine in Spokane, Washington named St. Elmo. Elmo wants some of that gold. Yeah!

Elmo has so much fun collecting stamps with Big Bird and can hardly wait to have this exhibit at a stamp show. Elmo loves collecting stamps and making exhibits!

Oh, and Elmo loves stamp show judges, too. Yeah!

Do stamp show judges love Elmo?

→ Cachetmaker: Barry & Gerry Covers,
Media: Computer generated and printed
Celebrate the Century Big Bird First Day Cover

CELEBRATE THE CENTURY: 1970'S SESAME STREET



ELMO

