



# Scots who made their mark on.....

## The Americas : 5 Andrew Carnegie



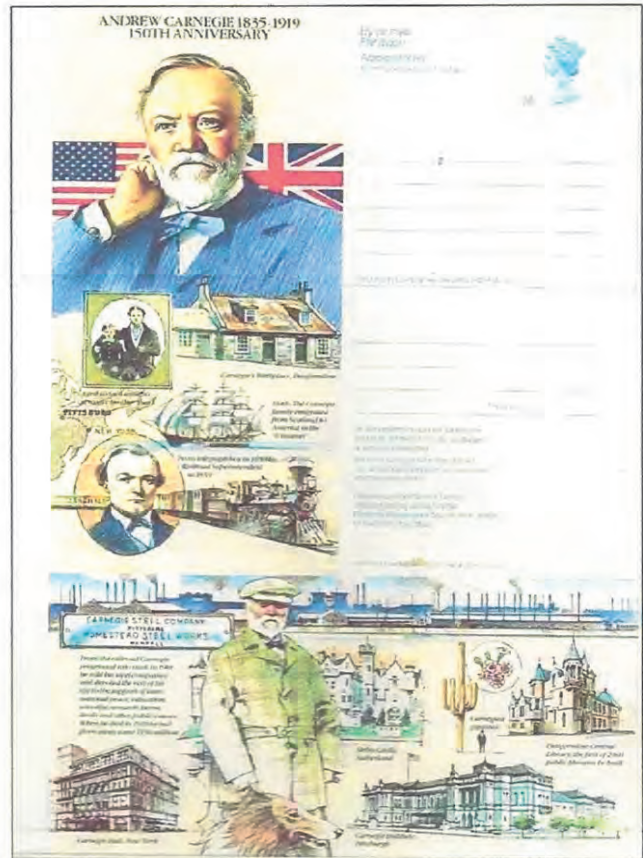
### Steel Magnate, Philanthropist

#### “Second Richest Man Ever”

Andrew Carnegie (1835-1919) (USA 1960, GB Aerogramme 1985, Micronesia 2000) is famed as the man who created more wealth than anyone in the history of the world (barring his contemporary J.D.Rockefeller) - and gave it all away, endowing a great variety of institutions across the world. In doing so he had become the epitomé of the American Dream, where somebody starting with nothing can make a fortune.

Carnegie was born into a very modest home in Dunfermline, suffered from considerable deprivation and was taken aged 13 to a new life in Pennsylvania by his weaver father, who had to borrow money to make the move. Although seventy years of his life were spent away from Scotland he never forgot his roots, nor the stories of great national heroes he had been fascinated with when relayed by his Uncle Dod Lauder : *“I like to tell people (in America) when they ask ‘Are you a native born?’ ‘No sir, I am a Scotsman’ and I feel as proud as I am sure every Roman citizen did when it was their boast to say ‘I am a Roman citizen’”*.

At first, life in the new country was only a little better with all family members who could work doing so and both Andrew and his father putting in long hours every day of the week, excepting Sunday in cotton mills for pittances. However when he was 15 Carnegie obtained work in a telegraph office in Pittsburgh and showed such flair and initiative in doing so that he made a great impression on his employers who promoted him to operator within a year. A local military man Col Anderson made his considerable library available on a Saturday night to young working boys and Carnegie availed himself of it, reading voraciously. Within a few years Carnegie was using his knowledge of telegraphy for the state railroad company where he employed his typical drive and tenacity to gain further rapid promotions, becoming a superintendent, learning many management and financial skills. The railroad (USA 1975 and 1981 below) was now becoming the first big business in the States, especially in Pennsylvania and Carnegie was very well placed given his

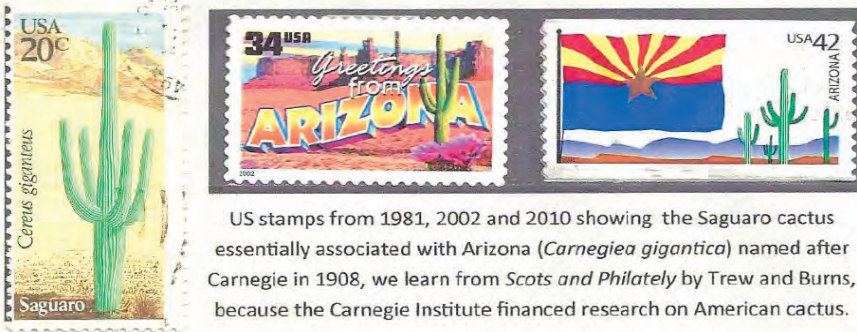


The aerogramme references from the top down Carnegie’s humble home in Dunfermline, his journey to the USA, his success in the promotion of railways and steel making, Skibo Castle, the Saguaro cactus, Dunfermline Central Library, Carnegie Hall, Carnegie and his Collie dog Laddie at Skibo in 1914 and the Carnegie Institute in Pittsburg.

work experiences to date. His employer in the railroad company was Thomas A. Scott, then general superintendent but later President of the company and he was able to steer Carnegie with regard to his career moves and investing money. For example, using “privileged information” from Scott, Carnegie risked money raised by his mother in re-mortgaging her home to invest in a transport company that used the railroad company’s services—the first of many such investments in rail-related industry and infrastructure that he became involved in. In this way the Scot began to







US stamps from 1981, 2002 and 2010 showing the Saguaro cactus essentially associated with Arizona (*Carnegiea gigantea*) named after Carnegie in 1908, we learn from *Scots and Philately* by Trew and Burns, because the Carnegie Institute financed research on American cactus.

accumulate a great deal of wealth, often including Scott and one of his business associates J. Edgar Thomson in his dealings. Carnegie arranged for a merger of a sleeping car company in which he held shares with that of one owned by George Pullman (*Maldives 1989*) which made him and his associates a great deal of money as the railroad expanded and business people wished to travel great distances in comfort.

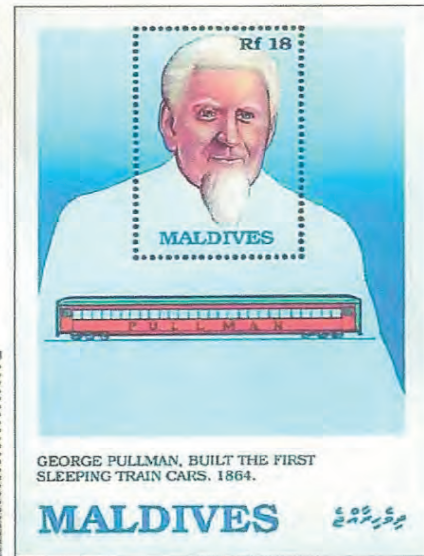
During the Civil War, Carnegie's boss Thomas Scott had been appointed Assistant Secretary of War in charge of military transportation and this new facet of Scott's influence allowed Carnegie to become involved in many further aspects of transport and communication.

Carnegie was on the right side when the war ended and with peace being restored to this vast country business possibilities were literally endless. He now had fingers in pies in oil, iron and steel but post-war he invested most of his interest in the steel industry (*USA 1957*) as he could see the need for it in the country's reconstruction and expansion. Within a few years Carnegie had cornered the market in steel in the USA and he was at the head of a vast business empire. When he sold his steel company to J.P.Morgan in 1901 he received over \$225,000,000 for it.

Carnegie was fast becoming a celebrity thanks to his skills and good judgement and his new connections opened door after door. But now a new interest was developing—philanthropy. He had far more money than he could spend and determined to show his benevolence: amongst many of his declarations were the words, "No idol is more debasing than the worship of money!"



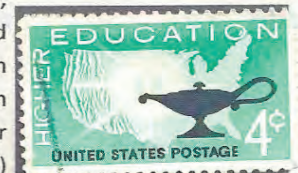
Stamps from St Vincent 1994, Canada 1996, St Lucia 2000 and Trinidad libraries erected with support from Andrew Carnegie



One of Carnegie's first acts of philanthropy was to provide funds for a swimming baths and a library in his home town of Dunfermline, to which with members of his family—his mother laid the library's foundation stone—he returned in 1881 during a grand tour of Scotland.

Carnegie also invested money in several British newspapers which allowed him to express his views that the country should become a republic, though he continued to number amongst his friends Prime Minister Gladstone (*GB 2009*). Carnegie was by now publishing his thoughts on a regular basis and in 1886 out came his *Triumphant Democracy*, an explicit attack on the outdated British monarchy, which he depicted as very inferior to the system of government in his adopted country. It was very well received in the USA.....!!

With the turn of the century, Carnegie aged 65 began to spend as much time at Skibo Castle in Sutherland (purchased in a run down state for £85,000 in 1898)



as he did in the US. His major interest now, with the welfare of his businesses entrusted to others, was promoting learning and education (*US 1962*) via his benevolence.

He established a network of public libraries in 47 of the United States (*USA 1982*), in Great Britain and in



libraries erected with support from Andrew Carnegie



English spelling reform, sympathetic to George Bernard Shaw's views on the subject. His support for an international library building programme was characterised by a matched funding approach. His new home town of Pittsburgh benefitted particularly with not only a library but the construction of the Carnegie Institute of Technology, now integrated within Carnegie Mellon University.



The Carnegie Institution supported the astronomer George Ellery Hale (*Nicaragua 1994*) in his plans to build a 100 inch telescope on Mount Wilson and it was opened in 1917.



The four ancient Scottish Universities were given £10 million between them in 1901, two hundred times the amount of money they typically received from government in a year and later Carnegie was elected Rector of St Andrews University (*GB 2010*).



In the USA because of his interest in the promotion of music he built the now legendary Carnegie Hall in New York (part of whose fascia is shown on *Ireland 2000*), the subject of the ironic tourist question (and response), "How do you get to Carnegie Hall?" - "Practise, practise, practise!!!"



Carnegie also supported the Tuskegee Institute for African-American education and helped its founder Booker T. Washington, (*USA 1940*) whose own roots (as you can see on *USA 1956*) were as humble as Carnegie's to form the National Negro Business League.



The Carnegie Hero Fund established to reward civilians who perform extraordinary feats

of courage was set up to operate in a dozen European Countries whilst money for the International Court of Justice (see *Netherlands 1951, France 1963, U.N. 1979 and Honduras 1961*) at The Hague built in the first decade of the Twentieth Century also came from Carnegie funds.



World Citizen, Andrew Carnegie died of pneumonia in August 1918 in Lenox, Massachusetts. Adjusting for inflation, in today's money throughout his lifetime he had given away over \$4,500,000,000 and his name is remembered in countless buildings and institutions across the globe.



Commenting on a 2001 Equatorial Guinea Sheet (not shown) Trew & Burns say that *Diplodocus Carnegiei* is so called on the Utah University website so there may be some justification for the likes of the above ?



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# Scots who made their mark on.....



## The Americas : 6 John Muir

### Father of America's National Parks

John Muir (1838-1914) (shown right on USA 1964) is forever associated with the development of America's National Park network and particularly with Yosemite Valley in Sierra Nevada California which was the place where he felt most at ease with Nature.



practical person and gained employment in a sawmill before returning to the USA in 1866 to work as a carpenter but the following year nearly lost his sight when a tool he was using to make a wagon wheel slipped and he was required to spend over forty days resting in a darkened room.



Different vistas of Muir's beloved Yosemite appear on American stamps. For example, the 1988 25c definitive shows the American flag flying over the mountain known as Half Dome, whilst the spectacular El Capitan is shown in the lowest value of the 1934 National Parks set. This has a sheer face in



places 3,000 feet high which intrepid climbers can take up to three days to scale sleeping on the narrowest of ledges. A



panorama of Yosemite Valley stretching out behind a portrait of the Scot and featuring El Capitan and Half Dome appears on the Muir stamp within the 2000 Celebrate the Century: 1900's



souvenir sheet and a different and misty panorama showing the "Tunnel View" can be seen on this 2006 Air rate stamp with El Capitan lit by sunlight centre left.

Muir's arrival in Yosemite Valley which was the centre of his world for the rest of his life came by a very circuitous route. He had been born in Dunbar and was taken at the age of 12 with his parents and six siblings to a farm near Portage, Wisconsin. His father Daniel was a fundamentalist Christian who had literally beaten the Bible into his children: as a result John could recite much of the Scriptures by heart and they imbued and inspired his thinking thereafter. Part of the reason for the Muir family to emigrate was to find a church movement more in line with Daniel Muir's view of Christianity, which he did in The Disciples of Christ.

Having enrolled in the University of Wisconsin in 1860 and sampled a large number of first year classes, with botany being of particular interest, John Muir who had failed to graduate followed his younger brother Daniel to Canada to avoid the American draft in 1864 and spent most of that year in the countryside living frugally. He was already a very

When his sight was secure, as he would later write, he saw everything in a different light and he appears to have had some kind of epiphany so the following year he undertook a hike through the countryside from Indiana to Florida (the distance equivalent of walking from Land's End to John o Groats—and back) taking the "path untaken" as often as he could. When he reached his destination he planned to head for South America, to study its wildernesses but he had contracted malaria and had to revise his plans. He then made passage from New York to California in March 1868 and straight away headed for Yosemite, about which he had read so much, falling in love with the place immediately and realising that he had found his true home.

His planned week in Yosemite was more than enough for him to plan the rest of his life there and he returned in the following months to explore and work (when he could get work) as a shepherd. He built his own log cabin (complete with running water) alongside Yosemite Creek and lived in it for two years. Naturally he struggled financially and despite his intelligence and education he could see no future career in what he was doing and he had to live a Spartan life as he explored as much as he could of what would later become the more than 1,000 square miles of Yosemite National Park. Muir had gained a reputation as an essential feature, a celebrity and prophet of Yosemite, though he was not living as a recluse by any means and had many visitors including in 1871 the highly respected essayist and poet Ralph Waldo Emerson (USA 1940) his senior by 35 years and who was one of his favourite authors. On their celebrated brief meeting, however, it was not clear who was the more honoured. The revered academic wanted to provide Muir with a teaching post in a university but the woodsman was not for returning to civilisation for "a mere professorship".



Muir was amongst the first scientists to declare in favour of glaciation theory at the start of the Mesolithic Period being responsible (as opposed to seismological activity) for



dramatic geographical features like Yosemite Valley. Such thoughts were relatively new having first being promulgated by Swiss palaeontologist Louis Agassiz in the 1840's. Muir's views based on deductions from his own intimate knowledge of the shapes of features in the Valley were strongly opposed by Josiah Whitney of the California Geographical Society. By now Muir was gaining a widespread reputation as an original thinker by publishing scientific papers under the aegis of his former teachers at the University of Wisconsin Professor Ezra Carr and his wife Jeanne, who were to become lifelong friends and mentors



In addition to his geological work Muir was studying and in the 1870's publishing papers on local flora concentrating on the location of groves of Giant Sequoia (aka Sierra redwood, as seen on USA 2010 and 1964

at the top of this article) .

As he reached the age of 50, however, the effects of living such an active and exposed life began to show and he resolved to spend more timing enjoying the wilderness rather than working on it in his fruit farm. He continued, however, to be concerned about conserving what he saw as a pristine territory and about the commercial farming of it, in particular the effect of grazing thousands of sheep which he compared to locusts so campaigned against it meeting fierce resistance of course.

Muir became the founding President of the Sierra Club—effectively “friends of the mountains”. His work was reaping dividends with Congressional agreement on the formation of the vast Yosemite National Park, as the second national park (after Yellowstone, established in 1872) but ironically Yosemite Valley was not included in that plan and left in California State control.



In 1903 Muir welcomed another very famous American to “his” valley, President Theodore Roosevelt, (USA 1954) who travelled with him on the long and even today still arduously twisting and undulating road into Yosemite Valley. Muir

literally had the ear of the most powerful man in the country for a couple of days as they also spent a night under the stars with just a few staff in attendance and he explained to him about what he saw as the exploitation of the country's natural resources by the State of California. Roosevelt was a ready listener having spoken strongly in favour of the creation of Yellowstone, thirty years before.

The Sierra Club's work with Muir as its leader for the next 20 years or so brought about the creation of National Forests and eventually in 1906 their force of argument brought



John Muir in 1907 and below a map of the John Muir Trail within Yosemite National Park.



The John Muir Trail (JMT) is a long-distance trail in the Sierra Nevada mountain range of California, running 211 miles (340 km) between the northern terminus at Happy Isles in Yosemite Valley and the southern terminus located on the summit of Mount Whitney

Yosemite Valley into federal control. A later example of the local state making anti-conservation decisions related to the damming of Hetch Hetchy Valley to provide a reservoir for the growing population of San Francisco. In this case however, all Muir could do with the President's support was to delay the inevitable by a decade or so and the valley was flooded in the year before his death with the approval of President Woodrow Wilson.

John Muir died of pneumonia in a hospital in Los Angeles at the age of 76 and he is buried on what was his ranch in Yosemite, as is absolutely fitting.

Muir wrote prolifically in his lifetime producing hundreds of articles and a dozen books. The Sierra Club was responsible for the establishment of several national parks after his death. The National Park Service (USA 1966) was established in 1916.



Right 1972 issue marking one hundreds years of Yellowstone National Park

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