

# SUPERMAN: CELEBRATING 80 YEARS OF AN AMERICAN ICON

## Type, Purpose, and Scope

This single-frame 16-page topical exhibit focuses on the comic book superhero Superman, the essence of a superhero character, who first appeared in *Action Comics* #1 issued in April 1938 and 80 years later in *Action Comics* #1000 in April 2018. There have been relatively few stamps, so collecting them is not expensive or difficult, but they are colorful and rich in meaning and the topic is fascinating.

## Plan / Outline

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The most recognized  
Superman shield –  
from a t-shirt label.

## Highlights

There are two items that are special in this exhibit. The first is the USPS Commemorative *Action Comics* #1 with Scott 3185f cancelled first day of issue (showing Superman Arrives 1938 from the 1930s Celebrate the Century pane) still in its original sealed condition. The second is the Celebrate the Century 1930s *Super Heroes Stamp Album*. While not unique or rare, they are hard to find, especially a complete set of all 10 stamp albums, one for each decade and pane. They both appear on separate pages outlined in red.

## Background Information

This exhibit is based on an article by the exhibitor titled "Superheroes on Stamps: Collecting World's Collide with Stamps and Comics" that was published in the January 2017 issue of *The American Philatelist*, pages 54 to 60.