

CHANTECLER

A PLAY IN FOUR ACTS

by Edmond Rostand



EDMOND ROSTAND
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Real photo bromide card.
Undivided back ©1902.
Published by Paul Boyer, Paris.

Photographer Ernest Louis Desire Le Deley was a major publisher of heliotype postcards. The Deley family were well known throughout France for their publishing work. The firm went bankrupt in 1930.

Scarce postcards.

What is happening in the scene.

Because of health reasons after the phenomenal success of my plays *Cyrano de Bergerac* and *L'Aigolon*, I spent some time in the farm country around my home in the south of France. Here I became inspired to write a verse play in four acts satirizing the modernistic artistic doctrines of the affluent Parisians who were rife with cynicism and artificiality. I set my play in a farmyard using farm animals as the characters. My main protagonist being a rooster (chantecler) was chosen because of the strutting, conceited nature of the bird. CHANTECLER premiered on 7 February 1910 at the Théâtre de la Porte Saint-Martin in Paris. It was not well received because the Parisians did not appreciate that their life style was being criticised. The postcards used for this exhibit follow the play and are contemporaneous to the period, mixing real photo and artist signed cards from France.

Edmond Rostand (1868-1918) France

DRAMATIS PERSONÆ
the characters shown in this exhibit

CHANTECLER
PATOUS
THE BLACKBIRD
THE PEACOCK
THE NIGHTINGALE
THE SCREECH OWL
THE GRAND DUKE
THE HUNTING DOG
THE TURKEY
THE DUCK
THE PHEASANT HEN
THE GUINEA FOWL
THE OLD HEN
THE WHITE HEN
THE GREY HEN
THE SPECKLED HEN
THE TOADS

SUPERMAN: CELEBRATING 80 YEARS OF AN AMERICAN ICON

Synopsis – Willamette Valley Stamp Exhibition 2019-02-16

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.

Treatment:

This exhibit focuses on the principal American superhero icon, Superman. It presents stamps showing him over an 80-year timespan, from 1938 to 2018. The exhibit is organized by country and timeline: USA: Superman Arrives, Canada: 75th Anniversary, Jersey: Man of Steel, Australia: 80th Anniversary, Metropolis: Home of Superman, and finally fake stamps.

Importance:

The comic book industry is a multi-billion dollar one that produces extremely popular stories, TV shows, and movies. Superman has appeared in many of these formats. Showing him on stamps is a way to make the stamps popular. Also, this is just a fun way to introduce people to the topic. Many people grew up reading comic books over the years.

Knowledge, Study and Research:

This exhibit just focuses on the stamps that show Superman. No attempt was made to include the many numerous postal cards issued. There is one cover with cachet illustrating Metropolis, Illinois. The exhibitor has been collecting Superman comics for about 30 years and US and UN mint stamps for about 40 years.

Rarity and Condition:

All of the stamps are in mint never hinged condition, so as to better show off Superman's costume. None of the items are rare. In fact, they are all quite common and easy to find, except for the USPS Commemorative *Action Comics* #1 with Scott 3185f cancelled first day of issue (outlined in red), and a complete set of the 10 *Superheroes Stamp Albums* issued in conjunction with the Celebrate the Century issues, one for each decade. In this exhibit is the Celebrate the Century 1930s *Super Heroes Stamp Album* (also outlined in red).

References:

Timothy M. Bergquist. "Superheroes on Stamps: Collecting World's Collide with Stamps and Comics," *The American Philatelist*, January 2017, 131(1), 54-60.

Paul Levitz (editor). *Action Comics 80 Years of Superman: The Deluxe Edition*. DC Comics, Burbank, CA, 2018.