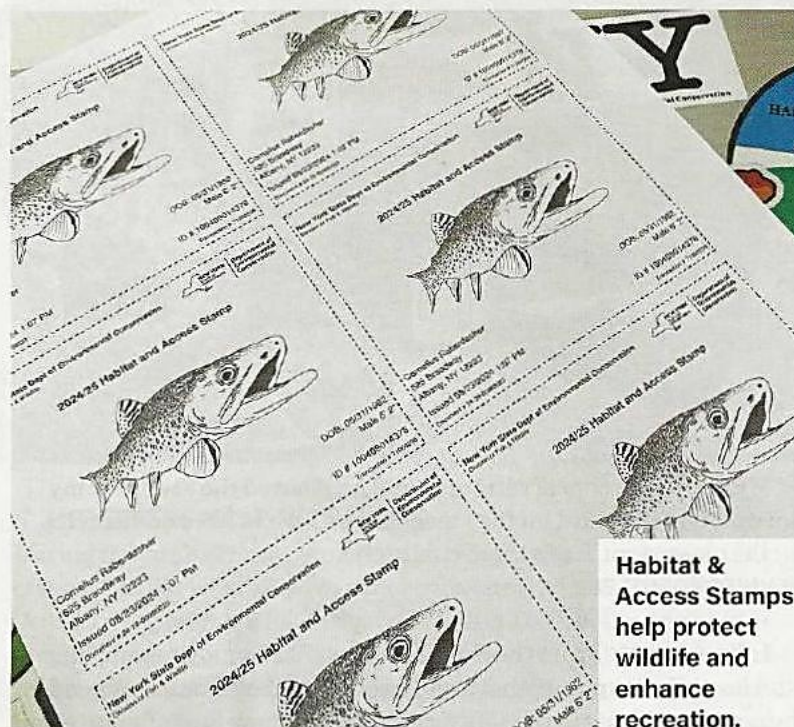


# Collecting Stamps for Fun and Conservation

BY TONY COLYER-PENDAS



**M**y father is a philatelist—he collects postage stamps. I've always been more attracted to wildlife and the outdoors. I recently learned about an initiative managed by the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) named the Habitat & Access Stamp program that sounded like a combination of both our interests, so I investigated.

I learned that the Habitat & Access Stamp initiative was created by legislation in 2002. Every year, a different animal species that is native to New York State is featured. There have been 22 species depicted since the first year of the program (2002–03). In the beginning, the species was featured on a pin; however, the pins were discontinued due to budget constraints, but limited quantities of the pins are occasionally available.

The species featured in the 2024–25 Habitat & Access Stamp is New York's official state fish, the brook trout. The species is not portrayed on a stamp that you can put on an envelope or a postcard; however, when purchasing a sporting license, you can choose to have the stamp printed and/or have a PDF of it emailed to you.

Habitat & Access Stamps can be obtained by making a \$5 donation wherever hunting and fishing licenses are sold. They can also be acquired through DEC's online licensing system at [decals.east.licensing.app/](https://decals.east.licensing.app/) or at the New York State Fair. All funds generated from donations are deposited directly into DEC's Habitat Conservation and Access Account. These funds are used for projects related to conservation of wildlife habitat and enhancing access for public recreation.

## HABITAT CONSERVATION

Funds received benefit native New York State fish and wildlife species by managing, protecting, or restoring fish and/or wildlife habitat. Specifically, they:

- benefit at-risk species;
- benefit declining game species (locally, regionally, or statewide);
- protect or enhance rare or at-risk habitat type(s); and
- benefit game species with stable populations to enhance fishing, hunting, or trapping opportunities.

## PUBLIC ACCESS

The purchase of the stamps helps create public access for fish- or wildlife-related recreation and provide access to or link:

- popular, frequently visited sites;
- places that have the potential to attract a variety of recreational users;
- properties that are accessible to population centers or other areas where public access to fish and wildlife resources is limited; and
- sites where recreation access from one area is linked to another (i.e., State Forest, Wildlife Management Area; DEC Campground or Day Use Area; or other state lands, community open space, and/or municipal park).

The stamp is not required to hunt, fish, or trap; anyone can make a \$5 donation to receive the PDF and help invest in the future of New York State's outdoor recreational opportunities. By making a donation for a Habitat & Access Stamp, you are contributing to the management, protection, and restoration of fish and wildlife habitat, and improvement and development of public access for fishing- and wildlife-related recreation.

For more information about the stamp, including where to obtain one, go to [on.ny.gov/4c2L2ls](https://on.ny.gov/4c2L2ls).

I'll be sure to tell my dad.

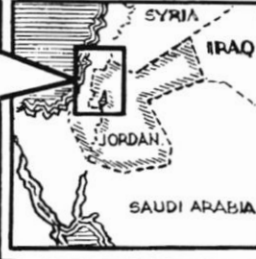
**Tony Colyer-Pendas is the Assistant Editor of the *Conservationist*.**



# THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS

NARRATED AND ILLUSTRATED BY Monty Wedd.

IN 1965, THE MIDDLE EAST STATE OF JORDAN ISSUED FOUR STAMPS TO COMMEMORATE THE DISCOVERY OF THE MOST IMPORTANT FIND OF BIBLICAL MATERIAL EVER UN-EARTHED, THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS.



THESE PRICELESS PIECES OF ANCIENT REVELATION WERE DISCOVERED IN 1947 BY A BEDOUIN SHEPHERD IN THE QUMRAN HILLS.



A 35 FILS JORDAN STAMP DEPICTING THE DEAD SEA...



WHILE SEARCHING FOR A LOST SHEEP, THE BEDOUIN WANDERED UP A STEEP VALLEY AND DISCOVERED A HOLE IN THE SIDE OF A ROCKY WALL...

A STAMP DEPICTING THE QUMRAN HILLS



CURIOSITY CAUSED THE BEDOUIN TO LOOK IN, BUT HIS EYES COULD NOT PENETRATE THE GLOOM. HE THREW IN A STONE AND HEARD SOMETHING BREAK....

A FEW DAYS LATER, HE RETURNED WITH A COMPANION AND CRAWLED THROUGH THE HOLE INTO A HUGE CAVERN...



HERE HE FOUND SEVERAL TALL EARTHENWARE JARS WITH LIDS.



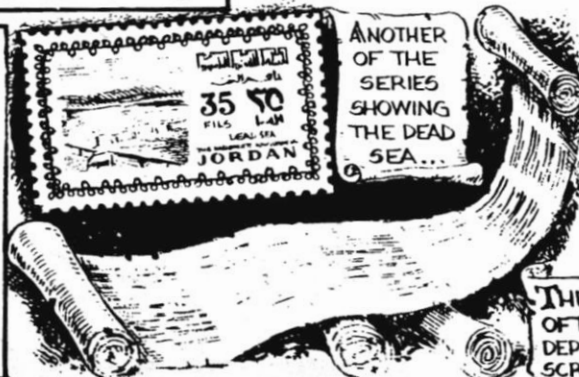
INVESTIGATION REVEALED THAT ONE JAR CONTAINED THREE ROLLS OF WHAT APPEARED TO BE LEATHER...



IGNORANT OF THEIR VALUE, THE SHEPHERD SOLD THE ROLLS FOR A PALTRY SUM.



AFTER CHANGING HANDS SEVERAL TIMES, THE ROLLS EVENTUALLY CAME INTO THE HANDS OF THE AMERICAN SCHOOL OF ORIENTAL RESEARCH IN JERUSALEM, WHERE THEY WERE IMMEDIATELY RECOGNISED AS A VERY VALUABLE FIND OF ANCIENT PARCHMENT.



ANOTHER OF THE SERIES SHOWING THE DEAD SEA...

THE SCROLLS WERE DECIPHERED AND WERE ESTIMATED TO DATE BETWEEN 200 B.C. TO 200 A.D., AND RANK AS THREE OF THE VERY FEW EXAMPLES OF SQUARE BLOCKED HEBRAIC SCRIPT IN THE WORLD. ONE, THE SCROLL OF ISAIAH, MEASURES 22 FEET LONG.

THE FOURTH STAMP OF THE SERIES DEPICTING ONE OF THE SCROLLS AND TWO OF THE JARS.

