



NEWSLETTER

Vol. 52 No.12 December 2024



Happy Holiday Seasons

Christmas stamps

By Doug Files

Many nations issue postage stamps celebrating the holiday of Christmas. Note that Christmas stamps can be used for postage, as opposed to Christmas seals (see below) which are Cinderellas used to raise funds for charity. Seals are not valid for postage.

International Christmas stamps

Which Christmas stamp was the world's first depends on how you define what a Christmas stamp is. The late 19th century Canadian world map stamp reads "XMAS 1898", but its purpose was not to celebrate Christmas. Rather it was to begin the Imperial Penny Postage rate (2 cents in Canada). The original intent had been to issue this stamp on the 9th of November that year to honor the Prince of Wales' birthday. But Queen Victoria vetoed that idea. Instead it was issued at the beginning of December. The stamp reads "XMAS 1898" because the new 2-cent postal rate took effect on the 25th of that month. Some collectors consider this a Christmas stamp and some do not.



Many decades passed and then the United Kingdom printed a Christmas stamp for troops deployed to Egypt. These were distributed in 1935 to units in booklet panes of 20. Each soldier was issued one stamp to mail a letter or a card home at Christmastime. For many years the Stanley Gibbons catalogue considered these to be seals rather than postage stamps. But in the mid-1960s they began to list them, on the basis that they did prepay postage. Thus, this stamp might be considered the first one specifically issued to celebrate Christmas. Again, some collectors consider this a Christmas stamp and others do not.

Four years later Brazil issued four Christmas-themed semi-postals. More holiday stamps followed from Hungary, and in 1951 Cuba released holiday stamps sporting poinsettias and bells. Later that same decade Christmas stamps were issued by Haiti, Luxembourg, Spain and South Korea. In the 1960s many nations began issuing a stamp each year to celebrate Christmas. Some of these nations were the U.S., the U.K. and Australia. By the

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Meetings / Activities

Meetings are held on 1st and 3rd Mondays (adjusted for holidays) at Christ Church 3440 Shroyer Rd Kettering OH 45429

For the Zoom invitation and link, please email daytonstampclub@gmail.com

Member's Socializing and Silent Auctions begin at 7:00 PM - Club Meeting & Programs begin at 7:30 PM Board Meetings begin at 7:00 PM.

Dec 2—Holiday/PEX Party Start at Church— Dinner Party At Church.

Dec 9—Board Meeting

Dec 16—No meeting—Enjoy the Holiday Season!



1/6 **AUCTION #1 - Regular Member Auction**

1/13 Board Meeting Come to the Bd Mtg & Get Extra Stamp Bucks!!

1/20 Pizza Party - 6:30 PM Marion's Piazza
Town & Country Shopping Center 50 E Stroop
MLK Day Holiday - Church Closed

2/3 **Club CASH Auction PREVIEW 7:00-7:25PM**

Holograms on Stamps DSC Member Speaker - Mike Komiensky

2/10 Board Meeting

2/17 No Meeting Presidents' Day Holiday - Church Closed

2/24 4th Monday **AUCTION #2 - Club CASH Auction**

3/3 Member Bourse & Club Open House - Buy, Sell, Trade

3/8 Saturday Ohio Precancel Club Meeting
Hosted by Dayton Stamp Club 9am-2pm All members welcome to buy, sell, trade, and talk about precancels

3/10 Board Meeting

3/17 **SILENT AUCTION 7:00-7:20PM** Team Stamp Quiz Competition

4/7 My Biggest Stamp Mess with Photo - Member Participation 4-6 Minutes

4/14 Board Meeting

4/21 **AUCTION #3 - Regular Member Auction**

5/5 Rattlesnake Island Post DSC Member Speaker - Jack Matheney

5/12 Board Meeting

5/19 **SILENT AUCTION 7:00-7:20PM** Red, White, and Blue item from your Collection
Member Participation 4-6 minutes

DSC NEWSLETTER

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Club Meetings: Christ United Methodist Church, 3440 Shroyer Rd, Kettering OH ---- 1st & 3rd Mondays, 7:00 PM

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CLUB OFFICERS 2024-2025



President	Bill Streisel
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Secretary	Doug Files
Treasurer	Dennis Rose
Chairman, Board of Directors	Mike Komienksy
Board of Directors: Bruce Brumfiel, Carol Costa, Susan Kolze, Jack Matheney, Frank Miller and Steven Solomon.	



#80083

2024 Star Routes Award



Since the mid-1800s, the Star Routes were the most challenging mail routes in the United States. APS Chapters and Affiliates serve and grow the hobby in those same tough terrains with that same mission, and the Star Route Awards are an opportunity for the APS to recognize and award their service.

The Dayton Stamp Club received a Vermeil metal for its 2024 Newsletters. Four earlier 2024 newsletters were submitted to the American Philatelic Association. The newsletters are judged based on specific criteria. Judges provide written criticism to improve the newsletter. The results were presented in a video presentation in November by Susannah Mills, the editor of the American Philatelist.

Other Dayton Stamp Club members were noted as contributors. Doug Files is a frequent and popular philatelic author of many interesting articles. Greg Brown contributes numerous photograph entries in the newsletter. Bill Smith is the newsletter editor and assistant editor is Steve Bricker.

2024 Star Route Newsletter Competition Newsletter Judges Evaluation

Your [Judges] rating should be based on your overall impression of the publication after reading the example issue.

Feedback

In your opinion, what was the best/most valuable part of this newsletter?

Calendar of club events detailing many types of club activities and for extended timeframe so members can plan ahead. Inclusion of information about events by other organizations that might interest DSC members, e.g., ATA online programs.

It contains a nice balance of treatment.

In your opinion, what part of this newsletter could use improvement?

Layout of newsletter and font size/type. Pages can have 2 or 3 or 4 columns. Some items appear to be scanned and are fuzzy. Fonts of different sizes distract from overall appearance. Some fonts are too small to read easily. The boxes used to highlight some information are distracting because of their different colors and sizes. All of this combines to create a chaotic appearance. All of this is fixable.

Fonts need to be more consistent and layout could do a bit more of a professional touch up.

Details to join and the leadership team was not quite obvious and it would be nice to have some appreciation of members.

—continued from page 1

1990s over 150 postal administrations were issuing Christmas stamps, and many of these released a stamp or a set every year. Islamic nations often offer an exception to this trend since Muslims usually do not celebrate the holidays of other religions.



British Forces in Egypt
stamp 1935

Some countries' Christmas stamps are large commemoratives but most are definitives which are widely used for holiday mail and greeting cards.

Christmas stamp design can vary from religious themes such as

the Virgin Mary and the baby Jesus to Santa Claus and winter themes like snowmen. U.S. Christmas stamps have commonly featured religious designs from art hanging in American museums. Popular sources of artworks are the Andrew Mellon and the Samuel Kress collections in the National Gallery of Art.

Countries also issue stamps for other holidays, such as Thanksgiving, Chinese New Year, Kwanzaa, Hanukkah and Easter. In recent years some Valentine's Day stamps have also appeared.

U.S. Christmas stamps

The United States Post Office Department began issuing Christmas stamps in 1962. The following year another Christmas stamp came out. Designed by Lily Spandorf, it was one of the first U.S. stamps designed by a woman. Her pattern showcased the national Christmas tree with the White House in the background. Twenty-two days after the 1963 stamp's appearance President Kennedy was shot, but the White House Christmas stamp was not pulled off the shelves because over a billion copies had been printed and distributed.



From the start, some Americans claimed that the issuance of Christmas stamps demonstrated a preference of the U.S. government for one religion over others. Post office attorneys, however, remained firm that it did not. U.S. Postal Service doctrine states that its Christmas stamps celebrate artworks rather than a specific religious faith. Reproducing art masterpieces on the stamps seemed to calm some critics, on the basis that these were cultural artifacts, not religious ones. In 1970 the U.S. began to issue one Christian-themed stamp (traditional) and one secular holiday stamp (contemporary) each year. This practice has continued to the present day. Most of the secular stamps are not even labelled "Christmas" in recent years. In the 1990s the U.S. began to issue holiday stamps for diverse communi-



ties, such as Chinese New Year, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Diwali and Eid.

Overall the U.S. has issued new Christmas stamps nearly every year since 1962, but a few years they have not. This was usually because they still had a backlog of other years' Christmas stamps.

Another seasonal option arose for postal customers starting in 2012. Since that time the postal service has usually created a holiday design for computer-vended postage labels issued out of self-service kiosks.



This year's 73-cent U.S. Christmas stamps are a Madonna and Child by Giovanni Battista Salvi and four holiday joy stamps inspired by Mexican folk artist Michelle Munoz (Antonio Alcala, designer).

Collecting Christmas stamps

Among topical collectors, Christmas is a common category. Large numbers of most Christmas stamps are issued so they are often relatively easy to find and to afford. Some collectors seek postmarks with holiday slogans or covers cancelled on a particular day (such as December 25th). Others collect covers cancelled in towns called "North Pole" (in Alaska and New York) or "Santa Claus" (in Indiana

Christmas Seals

Christmas seals are another Christmas-related collecting hobby. In 1904 Denmark began issuing stick-



ers to place on mail to raise funds for charity.

Sweden and Iceland soon followed. Tuberculosis was the primary

cause of death at that time and sanatoriums offered the best treatment option. One Brandywine Delaware institution was short of money and volunteer Emily Bissell developed a fundraising plan based on successful Scandinavian programs. She had adhesive Christmas seals printed and sold them at the post office for one cent each. The program raised ten times as much money as Bissell had expected and U.S. Christmas seals were launched. That sanatorium was able to remain open, and \$3000.00 was raised. Within two years and with increased marketing Christmas seals were generating \$250,000 annually, a significant amount of money in that era. By 1955 sales of Christmas seals were garnering over \$26 million a year. Eventually over 130 countries issued Christmas seals.

The National Tuberculosis Association, the American Red Cross and the American Lung Association all issued Christmas seals at different times and many

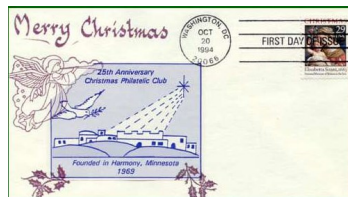
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smaller organizations have also released charity seals.

Christmas Philatelic Club

A society for collectors of Christmas philatelic items was launched in 1969 by Kenneth Mackenzie of Minnesota. Part of the organization's mission was to



popularize the collecting of Christmas stamps all year-round instead of just at the holidays. By the end of its first year the Christmas Philatelic Club boasted more than

100 members. Mackenzie edited the group's magazine, which was called the Yule Log, and he began organizing the club's 25th anniversary celebration in 1994. Sadly Mackenzie died three years before that milestone was celebrated. But in their founder's memory, the club prevailed upon the U.S. Postal Service to issue its 1994 contemporary Christmas stamps at their get-together in Harmony, Minnesota. The gathering was a big success, and is still remembered by Christmas aficionados.

The website of the Christmas Philatelic Club; www.christmasphilatelicclub.org offers lists of Christmas stamps, old issues of the group's magazine, seasonal postmark information and ideas for collecting this popular topical area. There is also an article on Christmas seal collecting, which is sometimes considered distinct from Christmas stamp collecting. In fact, it is a robust website, with much more than can be described here.

Christmas stamps offer such a broad collecting area that many collectors subspecialize by collecting only one or more of the following categories: Santa Claus, the Nativity, Angels, carols, Christmas trees, bells and children's holiday paintings.

The Christmas Seal and Charity Stamp Society

In addition to the Christmas Philatelic Club, there also exists a Christmas Seal and Charity Stamp Society (CS&CSS). It was founded in 1931 to encourage Christmas seal collecting. This group's journal Seal News is published quarterly by editor David Teisler. In addition to the journal,

the CS&CSS publishes a large number of books and pamphlets on seal collecting. For example the Green's Catalog was first issued in 1930 and it is divided into three parts: U.S. National Christmas Seals, U.S. Local TB Seals and Foreign TB Seals. U.S. Christmas seals also appear in the back of the



Scott Specialized Catalogue of U.S. Stamps.

For information about joining the Christmas Seal and Charity Stamp Society, check out the group's website at <https://www.seal-society.org/>.

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**"Post Office Carrier Services,
Fees and Stamps, 1750 to 1863"**

Wednesday, December 4th at 5:30 pm EST

Presented by Cliff Alexander & Larry Lyons

Virtually via Zoom

Register HERE

Where Can Interested Christmas Collectors Find Stamps and Material?

There are two specialty societies that focus on Christmas. One is the Christmas Philatelic Club is a group of people interested in all types of Christmas stamps and other related material. They administer a Facebook site: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ChristmasPhilatelicClub>. The other active group is The Christmas Seal and Charity Stamp Society and can be located by <https://www.seal-society.org>. The purpose is "to provide information and resources to aid members in the pursuit of this hobby; and to assist its members in acquiring and disposing of items for their collection through our member only auction, which is published in every issue of our quarterly journal."



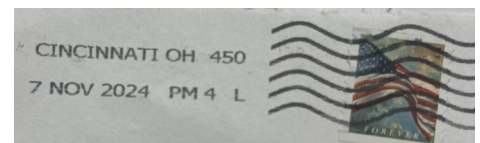
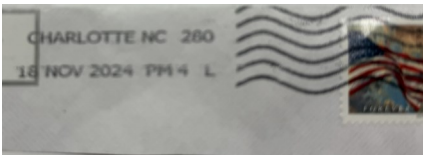
Holiday Souvenir Sheet 2018 Scott Cat. #5336. The sheet features a Haddon Sundblom painting, originally published in a 1963 Coca-Cola ad. It's an iconic scene of Santa visiting a home on Christmas Eve. It includes one semi-jumbo version of one of the four special-sized stamps included in the Sparkling Holidays set.

Postmarks Became Larger Since September

In the fall of 2024, postmarks increased in size using larger fonts and fewer words. Gradually, over the next several months more and more larger distribution mailing centers discontinued using the small font sprayed-on postmarks in keeping with national efforts to increase the size of the large sprayed-on postmarks. Explanation was provided that the large sprayed-on postmarks were more legible and easier to read.

"We are simply working to improve postmarks print and readability nationwide," said United States Postal Service Spokesperson Sue Brennan in response to a *Linn's* inquiry.

In addition to the larger postmarks, it seems that efforts are being made to limit the number of characters in the postmark. The new standards will reduce the number of characters in the names of city and state. Other terms, abbreviation and terms may need to be revised to make new phrases and references legible. The effort is to increase mail delivery time and improve efficiency.



Several different examples of larger sprayed-on postmarks and cancels from different parts of the country.

American Topical Association Expands Categories for My OnePage Exhibit 2025 program

The American Topical Association continues its *My OnePage Exhibit* program with expanded entry categories for the Dec. 15 opening entry date.

For the 2025 submissions, the category of gastronomy joins animals, arts, culture, health and safety, na-

ture, philately, plans, postal history, science and technology, sports, transportation, United States history, and world history. The ATA says new categories are added as needed to accommodate exhibits, because the exhibits are not limited to these categories.

The one-page exhibit program, which has no judging or popularity vote, includes topical and thematic subjects such as animals, transportation, postal history and philately.

Participants can submit their exhibits as PDF file uploads on the ATA website (www.americantopical.org) from Dec. 15, 2024, until Feb. 15, 2025.

The ATA does not require a fee or society membership to submit. Exhibits will be displayed online beginning April 1.

In the 2024 submissions, the program received 850 exhibits from 20 countries, with 430 entries from members of the ATA.

More information on the My One-Page Exhibit program can be found online at <https://ataexhibits.com/mope>. For more information about the ATA, write to the American Topical Association, Box 2143, Greer, SC 29652-2143, or visit www.americantopical.org.

December Dayton Stamp Club Meetings

December 2 — Dayton Stamp Club Meeting

Start at 6:30 HolidayPEX Party at Church

December 9 — Board Meeting

NO MEETING December 16— Dayton Stamp Club **NO MEETING**

Active Live and Silent Auctions Generated Interest and Fun

November created full meetings for stamp club members and visitors. The first meeting of the November offered numerous collections and various world and specialty albums for auction. Bidding was exciting and rewarding with new philatelic material. Live auctions were held six times during club meetings throughout the year.

Next year in 2025 the Board decided to offer seven live auctions with three dates being the Regular Member Auctions and another three meetings being Club Cash Auctions with a preview opportunity in advance. The Club Cash Auctions will be some better materials including sets, series and collections from club inventory.

Participation and member interest in the six live auctions will determine the format of the seventh auction in December 2025.

Silent Auctions will be held during three meetings using ONLY DSC Stamp Bucks. Auction guidelines and information is available in the newsletter and distributed in writing to members.



Christmas Seal Sheets



Christmas Seal Ephemera Milk Bottle Collars



Club President Bill Striesel and Doug Files presented talk on Christmas



SDC Members—listening to program

Alert to SCAMS claiming to be Interested in Your Meeting!

There is a guy sending emails to stamp clubs across America purporting to be relocating from France and wants a **paper application** to join your club. It is a scam and has re-occurred every year.

He calls himself **Pierre Benard** / pierreben76230@gmail.com

Dayton Stamp Club Auction Information

Regular Member Auctions (1/6/2025, 4/21/2025, 9/15/2025)

Regular member auctions are just like auctions we had in past years.

Members may put up to five items for sale, either for cash or stamp bucks. Use the standard club form and submit your list before the auction begins.

The club may also put in lots of stamps from the club inventory, stamp bucks only.

Club Cash Auctions (2/24/2025, 6/16/2025, 10/20/2025)

During this auction, better stamps from the club inventory will be sold, cash only.

Club Cash Auction Preview Nights (2/3/2025, 6/2/2024, 10/6/2025)

Stamps to be sold at club cash auctions will be put out for viewing (and taking pictures if you want) from 7:00 to 7:25 the meeting before the club cash auction meeting. Auction preview sheets will be available which will list the items, catalog value, minimum bid, and any other pertinent information about the stamp. You can make notes on the preview sheets and take them home for reference to prepare for the coming auction.

Silent Auctions (3/17/2025, 5/19/2025, 11/3/2025) - How They Work

The silent auction came about as a way to move some of the more common philatelic items that have been donated to the club.

During this auction, these stamps from the club inventory will be sold, stamp bucks only.

A silent auction uses a paper bid sheet next to the item being offered for sale. The sheet contains the item description and multiple lines for incremental bidding. Each new bid must be on a separate line with your name and bid amount so it is clear who has the highest bid and what that bid is. All bidding is in stamp bucks.

The starting bid per item is \$5 stamp bucks. Bids need to be raised by a minimum of \$5 up to \$25. Once the bidding exceeds \$25, bids must be in \$10 increments.

Bidding starts at 7pm. The last bid on the sheet at 7:20 pm wins the item. If two people are having a spirited arm-bumping, pencil-hoarding competition at 7:20, we will convert that item to a live auction between those two people. The Westby's will collect the items and tally the winning bids. Present your stamp bucks to Pat and Eric before the meeting starts at 7:30 to claim the won items.

Don't forget to bring your stamp bucks (and a box or bag to carry your winnings home)!

Monday night, December 2, at 6:30 pm

at Christ United Methodist Church, 3440 Shroyer Rd., Kettering.

at about 5:45 pm. We are always looking for help with setup and cleanup.

The Club will provide soft drinks, coffee & tea, and setups,

as well as the main dish of fresh roast turkey and dressing, turkey gravy, and vegetarian lasagna!

Boston Cream Pie, and the famous upside-down cake. Seems like we could use some additional desserts

The Dayton Stamp Board thanks all of you for joining in and sharing your friendship and food
with fellow club members and their spouses.

DAYTON STAMP CLUB		
2025 MEETING AND PROGRAM SCHEDULE		
Meetings are held on 1st and 3rd Mondays (*adjusted for holidays) at Christ Church 3440 Shroyer Rd Kettering OH 45429 Member's Socializing, Silent Auctions , Club CASH Auction PREVIEWs begin at 7:00 PM - Club Meeting & Programs begin at 7:30 PM Board Meetings begin at 7:00 PM For the Zoom invitation and link, please email daytonstampclub@gmail.com		
1/6	Club Meeting & Program - In Person & Zoom	AUCTION #1 - Regular Member Auction
1/13	Board Meeting	Come to the Bd Mtg & Get Extra Stamp Bucks!!
1/20	Pizza Party - 6:30 PM Marion's Piazza Town & Country Shopping Center 50 E Stroop	MLK Day Holiday - Church Closed
2/3	>>Club CASH Auction PREVIEW 7:00-7:25PM<< Club Meeting & Program - In Person & Zoom	Holograms on Stamps DSC Member Speaker - Mike Komienksy
2/10	Board Meeting	
2/17	No Meeting	Presidents' Day Holiday - Church Closed
2/24* 4th Monday	Club Meeting & Program - In Person & Zoom	AUCTION #2 - Club CASH Auction
3/3	Club Meeting & Program - In Person & Zoom	Member Bourse & Club Open House - Buy, Sell, Trade
3/8* Saturday		Ohio Precancel Club Meeting Hosted by Dayton Stamp Club 9am-2pm All members welcome to buy, sell, trade, and talk about precancels
3/10	Board Meeting	
3/17	***SILENT AUCTION 7:00-7:20PM*** Club Meeting & Program - In Person & Zoom	Team Stamp Quiz Competition
4/7	Club Meeting & Program - In Person & Zoom	My Biggest Stamp Mess with Photo - Member Participation 4-6 Minutes
4/14	Board Meeting	
4/21	Club Meeting & Program - In Person & Zoom	AUCTION #3 - Regular Member Auction
5/5	Club Meeting & Program - In Person & Zoom	Rattlesnake Island Post DSC Member Speaker - Jack Matheney
5/12	Board Meeting	
5/19	***SILENT AUCTION 7:00-7:20PM*** Club Meeting & Program - In Person & Zoom	Red, White, and Blue item from your Collection Member Participation 4-6 minutes
6/2	>>Club CASH Auction PREVIEW 7:00-7:25PM<< Club Meeting & Program - In Person & Zoom	International Baseball DSC Member Speaker - Joe Shearer
6/9	Board Meeting	
6/16	Club Meeting & Program - In Person & Zoom	AUCTION #4 - Club CASH Auction
7/7	Club Meeting & Program - In Person & Zoom	German Influence on Airmail to South America DSC Member Speaker - Jeff Fisher
7/14	Board Meeting	
7/21	Picnic at Church Picnic Shelter - 6:30 PM	
8/4	Club Meeting & Program - In Person & Zoom	My Other Hobby - Member Participation - 4-6 minutes
8/11	Board Meeting	AIRPEX Preview
8/18	Club Meeting & Program - In Person & Zoom	Panel of DSC Members Discuss What and Why They Collect Foreign Stamps Led by DSC Member Carol Costa
Aug 22-23 (Fri-Sat)		**AIRPEX @ IBEW Hall (F:12-6pm; Sa:10am-4pm)**
9/1	No Meeting	Labor Day Holiday - Church Closed
9/8	Board Meeting	AIRPEX Review
9/15	Club Meeting & Program - In Person & Zoom	AUCTION #5 - Regular Member Auction
9/29* 5th Monday	Club Meeting & Program - In Person & Zoom	Stamp/Cover That Illustrates an Item on My Bucket List (or would, if I had a one) Member Participation - 4-6 minutes
10/6	>>Club CASH Auction PREVIEW 7:00-7:25PM<< Club Meeting & Program - In Person & Zoom	Mineral & Fossil Stamps DSC Member Speaker - Greg Brown and Pat Westby
10/13	Board Meeting	
10/20	Club Meeting & Program - In Person & Zoom	AUCTION #6 - Club CASH Auction
11/3	***SILENT AUCTION 7:00-7:20PM*** Club Meeting & Program - In Person & Zoom	Round-Table Discussions on Buying & Selling via APS, eBay, & HipStamp
11/10	Board Meeting	Set 2025 calendar & budget review
11/17	Club Meeting & Program - In Person & Zoom	Club Election for 2025 & How to Evaluate (or Research) a US Cover DSC Member Speakers - Dennis Callison & Doug Files
12/1	HolidayPEX Party Starts at 6:30pm at Church	Dinner Party at Church
12/8* 2nd Monday	Club Meeting & Program - In Person & Zoom	AUCTION #7 - Auction - Type TBD
12/15* 3rd Monday	Board Meeting	
Revised: 11/18/2024		