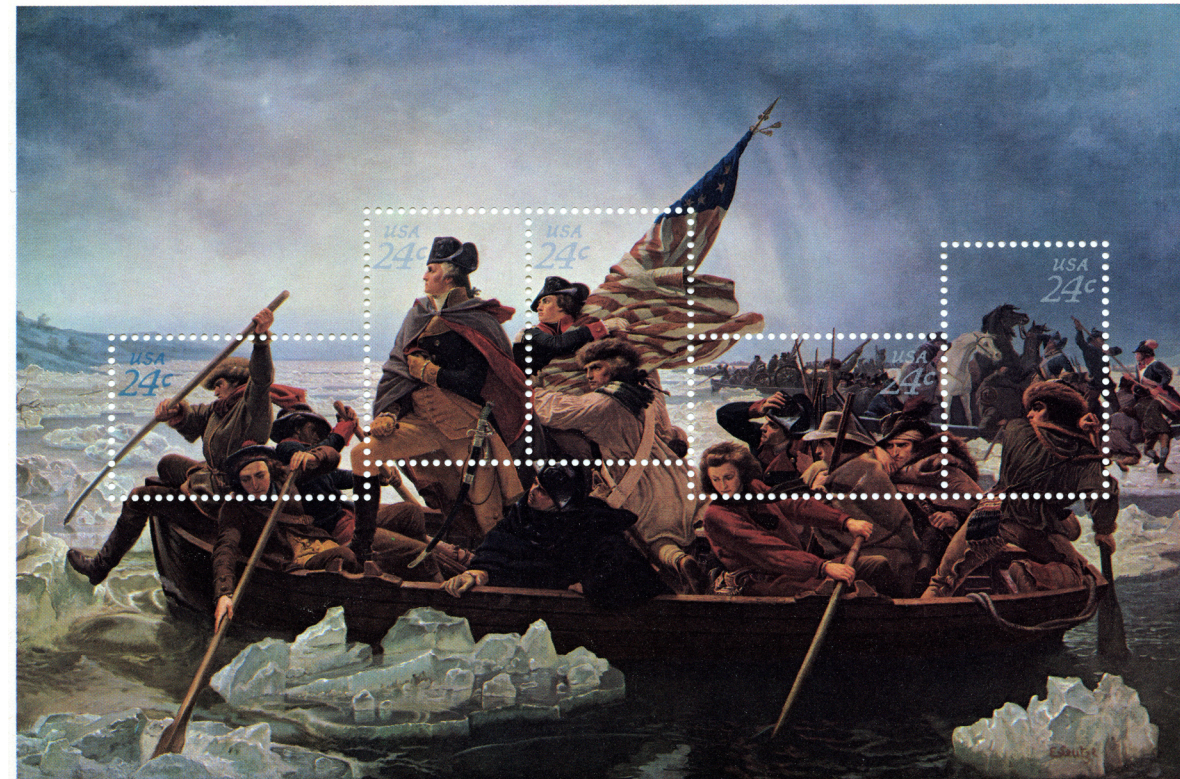


Emanuel Leutze

Artist (1816 – 1868)



Washington Crossing the Delaware
From a Painting by Emanuel Leutze / Eastman Johnson

The Post office erroneously gives EASTMAN JOHNSON equal credit for *Washington Crossing the Delaware*. Johnson helped Leutze with some of the details, such as Washington's uniform, but did not assist him with the painting. Another error, this one by Leutze, is the flag, which did not exist in 1776.

Leutze was born in Württemberg, Germany and was brought to America as a child when his family settled in Philadelphia. He received his first instruction in art from J. A. Smith, a portrait painter in that city. In 1840 one of his pictures attracted attention and procured him several orders, which enabled him to go to Düsseldorf. He intended to return to the U.S. but when his teenage bride became pregnant he stayed in Germany, returning in 1859, the year he joined the Century.

A strong supporter of Europe's revolutions of 1848, Leutze decided to paint an image that would encourage their liberal reformers with the example of the American Revolution. Using American tourists and art students as models and assistants, Leutze finished *Washington Crossing the Delaware* in 1850. It is owned by the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. In 1854, Leutze finished his depiction of the Battle of Monmouth, *Washington rallying the troops at Monmouth*, commissioned by an important Leutze patron, banker David Leavitt of New York City.

In 1859, Leutze painted a portrait of Chief Justice Roger Brooke Taney, which hangs in the Harvard Law School. Leutze also executed other portraits, including one of fellow painter RICHARD MORRIS HUNT. That portrait was owned by Hunt's brother LEAVITT HUNT, a New York attorney. In 1860, Leutze was commissioned by the U.S. Congress to decorate a stairway in the Capitol Building in Washington, for which he painted a large composition, *Westward the Course of Empire Takes Its Way*.