

Thomas Moran was an American painter and graphic artist, specialized in landscape painting. His gigantic canvases depict the grandeur and immensity of the Far West.

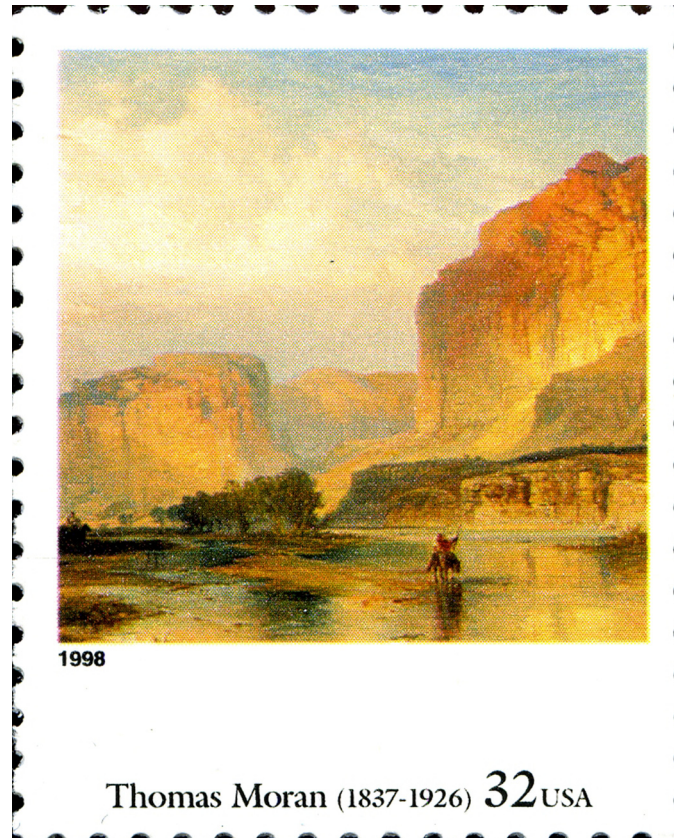
Moran was born in Bolton, Lancashire, England, taken to Philadelphia at the age of seven, where he was educated in public schools. Three of Moran's brothers were artists, and he learned to paint from his brother Edward. Early on he became familiar with the work of Washington Allston, Rembrandt Peale, John Neagle, and other American artists.

In 1853, Moran was apprenticed to a wood engraver in Philadelphia. It was in this position that he began to paint and draw seriously, working diligently on his skills as both a watercolorist and an illustrator. In 1861, Moran went to London to study firsthand with Turner and returned to America the following year. He found that he was increasingly fascinated by the grandiose and vastness found in nature. In 1871, serving as a guest artist with the Geological Survey of the Territories, he traveled into the Yellowstone country. The following year he toured the Yosemite Valley in California.

In 1873, he was with Major John Wesley Powell's expedition to the West. It was on this trip that Moran painted his two most famous works, *The Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone* and *The Chasm of the Colorado*, both of which were purchased (for a previously unheard-of sum of \$10,000 each) by Congress to be displayed in the Capitol in Washington. With the money he was earning from his new-found fame, Moran again traveled to Europe, this time to Venice, where he purchased a gondola and shipped it back to the U.S. in order to use it as a model for a variety of Venice scenes he produced after 1890. He moved West in his old age and died in Santa Barbara, California in 1926.

Thomas Moran

Artist (1837 – 1926)



The painting is
Cliffs of the Green River.
Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.



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