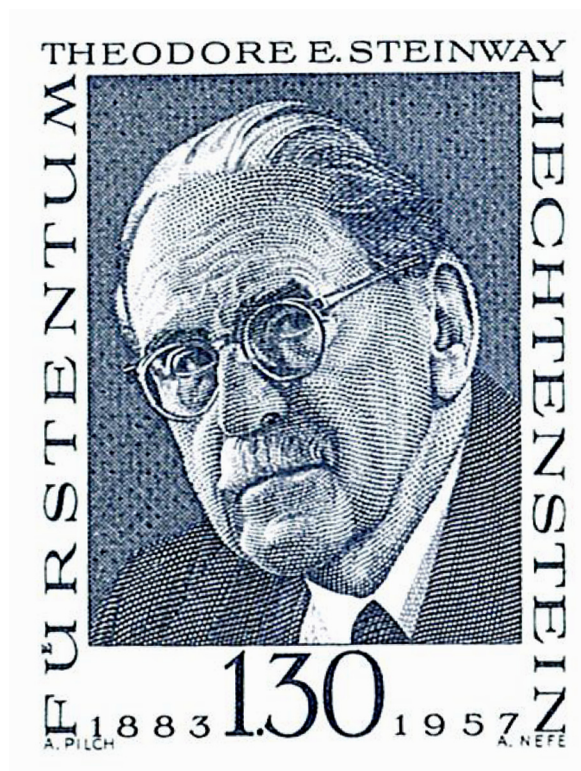




Photograph by YOUSUF KARSH



Theodore E. Steinway

Entrepreneur, philatelist (1883 – 1957)

The Steinway name is well known to most Americans. The company was founded in 1853 by German immigrant Henry Engelhard Steinway in a Manhattan loft on Varick Street.

By the time Henry established Steinway & Sons, he had built 482 pianos. The first piano produced by the company, number 483, was sold to a New York family for \$500, and is now displayed at New York City's Metropolitan Museum of Art. Over the next 40 years, Henry and his sons, Henry Jr., Albert, C.F. Theodore, William, and Charles, developed the modern piano. Almost half of the company's 114 patented inventions were registered during this period.

Theodore Steinway was born in 1883. He joined the Collectors Club, the major stamp collecting organization of New York, in 1912. In 1922, he provided the funds for the Collectors Club to purchase the extensive philatelic library assembled by Lord Chief Justice Suppantschitsch of England. This was a momentous step for the Collectors Club, and from that time their philatelic library became and has remained one of the most extensive in the world. In 1952, he was awarded the first Liechtenstein Medal for his efforts in the field of philately.

Steinway was perhaps the first prominent philatelist to embrace topical or "thematic" collecting. In addition to collecting stamps associated with music—the family business—Steinway amassed an exhaustive collection of Centurions on stamps. His collection is in five leather-bound volumes housed at the club and was last shown publicly in the mid-1940s. A number of the stamps in this exhibit come from his impressive collection.

Mr. Steinway joined the club as an "amateur" in 1936.