

# New Star Wars Sheet Coming This Spring

by John F. Dunn

The first characters fans meet in the first “Star Wars” film, “Star Wars: A New Hope,” are droids — namely C-3PO and R2-D2 — and droids have continued to play pivotal roles throughout the “Star Wars” galaxy.

With that in mind, the Postal People have announced that on May 4 in a Virtual Ceremony their second Star Wars issue will salute the “beloved droids from the Star Wars galaxy and the imagination that brings these technological marvels to the screen. Representing more than four decades of innovation and storytelling, the droids featured in this pane of 20 stamps are IG-11, R2-D2, K-2SO, D-O, L3-37, BB-8, C-3PO, a GNK (or Gonk) power droid, 2-1B surgical droid and CI-10P, commonly known as ‘Chopper’.”

The Postal People tell us that “the characters are shown against backgrounds representing settings of memorable adventures.” Perhaps avid Star Wars fans will disagree, but the backgrounds are hardly discernible as settings of memorable adventures. We are also told, “the selvage features a passageway from the floating Cloud City above the planet Bespin, introduced in ‘Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back’.” Okay, if you say so.

Further from the Postal People, “this set of droids is a nod to Lucasfilm’s, as well as its parent company, Disney’s, commitment to science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) learning and the continued



collaboration between ‘Star Wars: Force for Change’ and global pre-K-12 nonprofit organization ‘FIRST’ (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology). ‘Star Wars: Force for Change’ and ‘FIRST’ have joined forces to expand access to STEM learning to more young people around the world, and to help them envision a brighter, more inclusive future.

To get some additional information on this program, I turned to Wikipedia, which tells us, “Star Wars: Force for Change is a Star Wars-themed charity program run by Lucasfilm and The Walt Disney Company that collects donations to fund solutions for global problems. The organization also sells Star Wars-themed merchandise using the profits for charitable causes.

“Launched in 2014, the program worked closely with UNICEF by selling sweepstakes for the seventh Star Wars film of the saga Star Wars: The Force Awakens and raised approximately \$4.2 million. In addition to recent campaigns [involving] selling lucky draws to people who could make cameo appearances in The Force Awakens, some of the actors from the films such as Mark Hamill visited Los Angeles Children’s Hospital, while Harrison Ford appeared in a

charity video to surprise fans.”

Lucasfilm, the studio that created the “Star Wars” franchise, is celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2021. Greg Breeding was the designer of the stamps and pane. William Gicker was the art director.