

Quilling Art on 2016 Love Stamp

Riding the wave of renewed interest in a Renaissance era art form on January 12 in Dallas, Texas, the U.S. Postal Service issued its Quilled Paper Heart Forever stamp in a pressure-sensitive adhesive pane of 20 stamps. The First Day of Issue ceremony was held in the Moss Lee Love Garden at Dallas Love Airport.

The Airport tells us, on its website, that “On September 4, 1913, First Lieutenant Moss Lee Love, 11th Cavalry was killed in a Type C Wright pusher bi-plane at North Island, San Diego, California, practicing for his Military Aviator Test....In April 1913, he was detailed for aviation duty with the Signal Corps and ordered to Texas City, Texas with the 1st Aero Squadron. He was relieved of this post in June and ordered to San Diego for duty with the Signal Corps Aviation School.”

This 2016 Love series stamp features an ornate heart created using quilling. Also called paper filigree, quilling involves rolling and shaping narrow strips of paper, laying them on their edges, and gluing them in place to form intricate designs. The heart shape in the center of this stamp is made from paper strips of many colors and is surrounded by white paper swirls.



The background is white with shadows cast by the dimensional pieces of quilled paper. Art director Antonio Alcalá designed the stamp, using the creation of paper artist and illustrator Yulia Brodskaya.

From Wikipedia, where Brodskaya is cited as one of today’s most well known quilling artists, we learn that French and Italian nuns and monks used quilling during the Renaissance to decorate book covers and religious items. In the 18th century, quilling became popular in Europe. From there, it spread to the Americas.

After interest waned, quilling has staged a comeback, and has become a popular art form, thanks to the simplicity of the techniques, the low cost of the material, and the relaxation it offers. Among other possibilities, it is used to decorate invitations, wrappings, announcements and boxes. It can even be found in art galleries in Europe and in the United States and is an art that is practiced around the world.

Wikipedia also tell us, “quilling is also a great craft for kids as it teaches them fine motor skills and is a great craft to train their hand-eye coordination. To see quilling used in the classroom, you can contact your child’s school district.”