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JOHN LENNON'S FIRST ALBUM





by **Kacie Candela**

6.01.16 12:51pm

For a poor lad from Liverpool in the 1940s, stamp collecting was a cheap and easy way to explore the world. Before he toured the globe as a member of the Fab Four, John Lennon collected stamps from faraway places. Although the stamps themselves aren't very rare, they allowed Lennon to have a tangible piece - or rather, pieces - of history.

Alex Haimann is a stamp collector and former Specialist at the Smithsonian Postal Museum. He said there is more to the album than the stamps themselves. On the inside cover, Lennon drew beards and mustaches on the likenesses of Queen Victoria and King George VI. Lennon also kept a running tally at different times of the number of stamps he had in his album.

"So you can see the development of a child who is engaging in something that is very, in some respects, 'adult' - which is kind of exploring the world through these really fun pieces of paper that are physical connections - but is also still a child," he said.

Lennon's stamps may have fostered his sense of wanderlust.

"Just as he was taking little pieces of different parts, different countries all over the world and putting them in one place, I think he saw himself as a citizen of that world," Haimann said.

Not surprisingly, Lennon pasted a great city scene of the New York skyline right in the center of one of the pages.

Lennon's stamp album is currently on display at the [World Stamp Show](#), happening this week at the Javits Center.

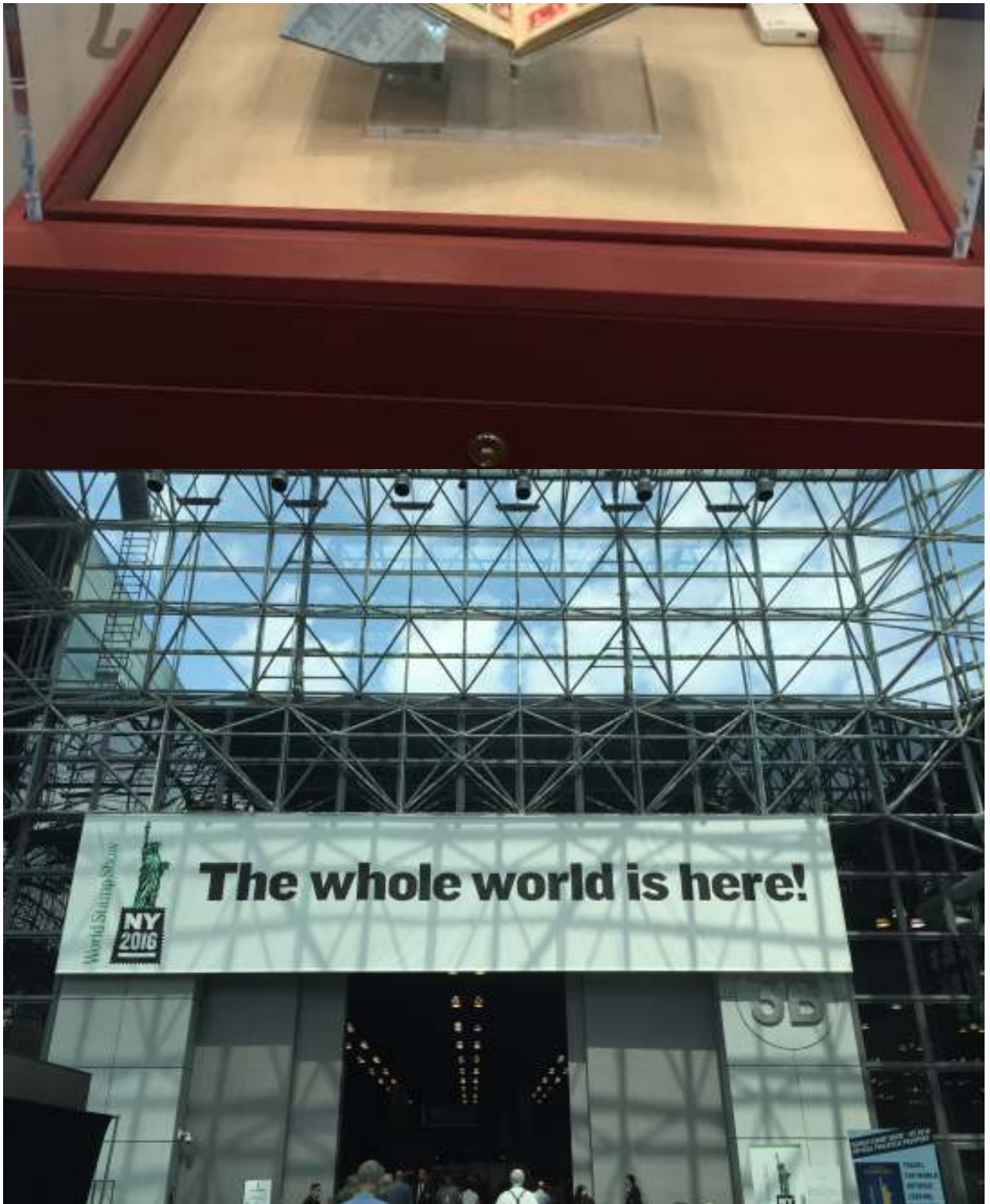


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Kacie Candela // Wed, 01/06/2016 - 12:51pm

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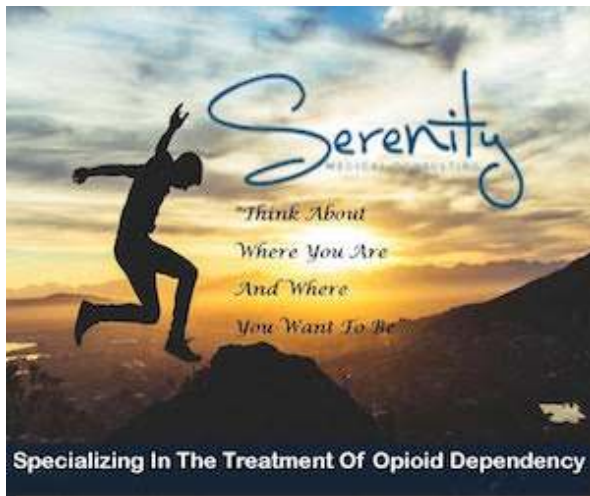
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