

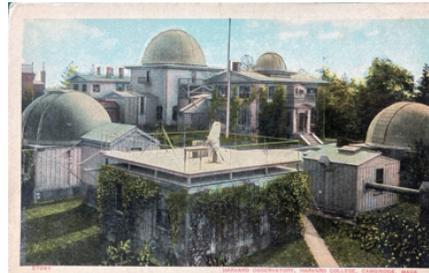
Woman Astronomers on Stamps

Almost all of the stamps depicting astronomers are men. Copernicus, Newton, Brahe, Kepler, and Galileo, dominate. Women have also played a major role in astronomy, but have not had the recognition they deserve in their chosen profession nor on stamps. There are a few exceptions shown here and none, except one, from the country of their birth.

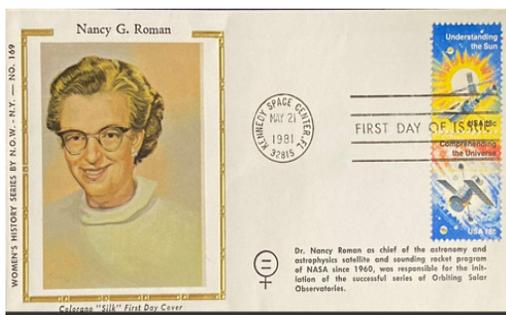


Caroline Herschel (1750-1848) was the sister of the famous astronomer, William Herschel. She was famous, too! She discovered a comet and made meticulous observations of the night sky. She was the first woman to publish scientific findings and the first woman to receive a salary as a scientist.

An early postcard of the Harvard College Observatory (HCO). The women "computers" at HCO made the first modern catalogs of stars, analyzed photographic plates, determined the classification of stars, and made enormous contributions to astronomy in the late 19th and early 20th century. Notable women astronomers were: **Annie Jump Cannon**, **Mary Anna Palmer Draper**, **Williamina Fleming**, **Henrietta Swan Leavitt**, and many others. Most of these women were college graduates. They certainly deserve a commemorative stamp for their dedication and contribution



Maria Mitchell (1818-1889) was an American astronomer. In 1847 she discovered a comet, which became known as "Miss Mitchell's Comet." She founded the Maria Mitchell Observatory on her native Nantucket Island, Massachusetts. She was the first woman elected Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and to the American Association for the Advancement of Science.



Nancy G. Roman (1925-2018), known as the "Mother of Hubble" for planning NASA's Hubble Space Telescope. She was the first female executive at NASA serving as the first Chief of Astronomy. She made important contributions to stellar classification and motion.



New Zealand is the only country that has recognized their own woman astronomer on not one, but two stamps. **Beatrice Hill Tinsley** (1941-1981), a British-born New Zealand astronomer and cosmologist specialized in the formation and evolution of galaxies and the expansion of the universe. She was the first female professor of astronomy at Yale University. In 1986 the American Astronomical Society established the Beatrice H. Tinsley Prize - the only major award created by an American scientific society which honors a woman scientist.