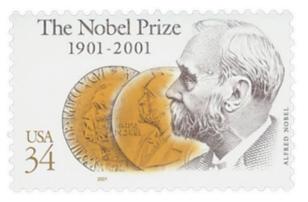


BORN 190 YEARS AGO TODAY

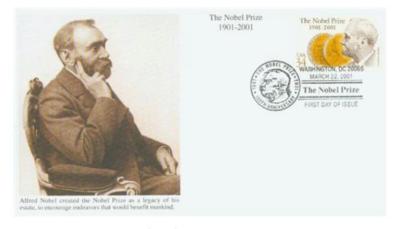
Birth of Alfred Nobel



US #3504 was issued for the 100th anniversary of the Nobel Prize.

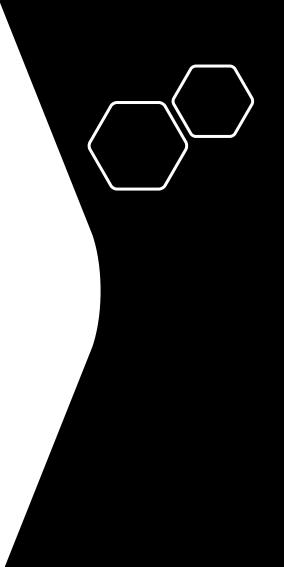
Alfred Bernhard Nobel was born on October 21, 1833, in Stockholm, Sweden.

One of eight children, Nobel was the descendant of Swedish scientist Olaus Rudbeck. He had an interest in engineering and explosives from an early age, with his father teaching him some of the basic science.



US #3504 – Mystic First Day Cover

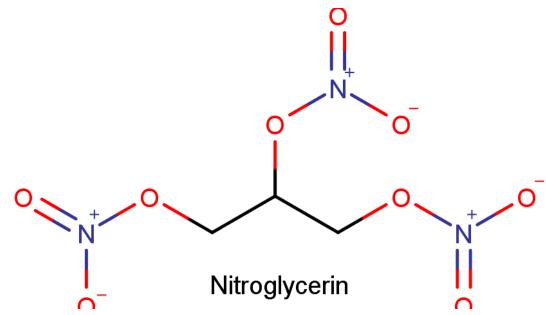
In 1837, Nobel's father moved to Saint
Petersburg where he became a
successful manufacturer of tools and
explosives. This allowed Nobel and his
family to move there as well and receive
a good education. Nobel did well in
chemistry and learned English, French,
German, and Russian.



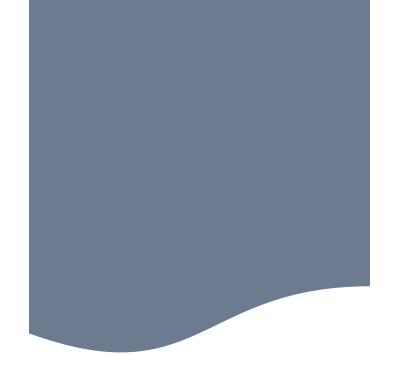


Grenada #**827-33** – 1978 Grenada stamps honoring Nobel and his prize.

After attending school for 18 months,
Nobel studied with a chemist in Paris
who invented nitroglycerin. While
Ascanio Sobrero, the man who invented
it opposed its use because it was
unpredictable, Nobel believed he could
find a way to control it and make
commercial explosives.



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Item #AC43 – US and Sweden Nobel Joint Issue First Day Cover

Nobel then went to the US for a year to work with Swedish-American inventor John Ericsson. While in the US, he filed for his first patent, for a gas meter. He received his first Swedish patent in 1863, for "ways to prepare gunpowder." Nobel then devoted the majority of his time to the study of explosives and the safe use of nitroglycerin. He then invented a detonator and blasting cap. In 1867, he invented dynamite, which was easier and safer to handle than nitroglycerin.





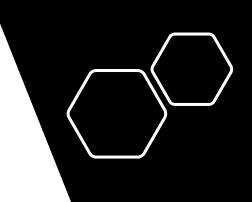
Item #571167B – Nobel Prize cover autographed by renowned stamp engraver Czeslaw Slania.

Over the course of his life, Nobel received 355 patents and built over 90 armament factories, though he was personally a pacifist. He invested in his brothers' oilfields and built a substantial fortune during his lifetime.



Maldive Islands #2573 – Souvenir Sheet honoring the centennial of the first Nobel Prize.

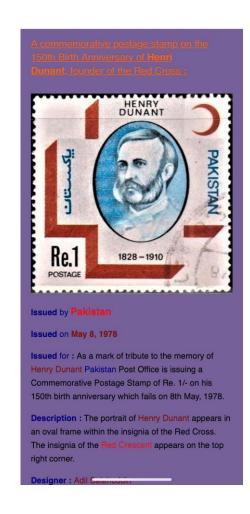
In 1888, one of his brothers died and a newspaper erroneously ran an obituary about Alfred instead, titled, "The merchant of death is dead." Nobel was horrified to think that he would be remembered that way and sought to improve his legacy. This inspired him to establish the Nobel Prize. He placed his fortune into a trust that would establish the awards after his death. He died from a heart issue and a stroke on December 10, 1896.



According to Nobel's will, the awards would be given, with no regard to nationality, "...to those who, during the preceding year, shall have conferred the greatest benefit on mankind" in the fields of physics, chemistry, physiology or medicine, literature, and peace. The Bank of Sweden funded an additional award for economics in 1968.



Uganda #1374 honors notable Nobel Laureates.

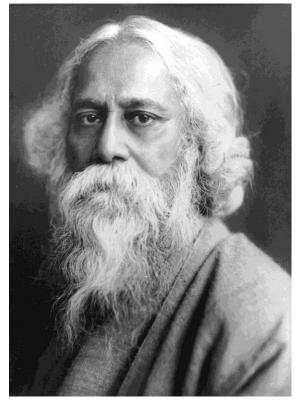


The first Nobel Prizes were awarded December 10, 1901, the fifth anniversary of Nobel's death. The first Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to Jean-Henry Dunant, the founder of the Red Cross. Although living in a Swiss poorhouse at the time of his award, Dunant continued his nature of generosity by giving the prize money to charity.

To date, there have been 597 prizes awarded to 950 laureates. The prize consists of a gold medal, a citation, and a significant sum of money – about \$1.3 million. Up to three people may be awarded each prize. In that case, the prize money is divided between them. The Nobel Prize remains the world's most highly regarded award.

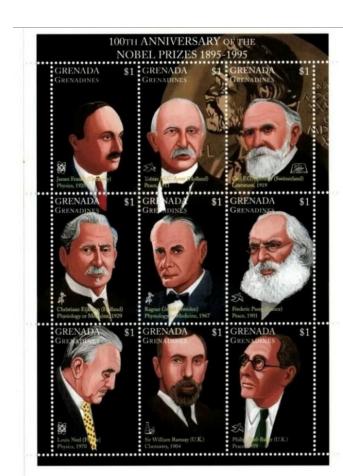


RABINDRANATH TAGORE won the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1913. He was an Indian poet, writer, playwright, composer, philosopher, social reformer and painter that reshaped Bengali literature and music as well as Indian art.



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Award of 1979 Noble Peace Prize to Mother Teresa





Catalog Codes Mi:IN 837, Sn:IN 871, Yt:IN 636,

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