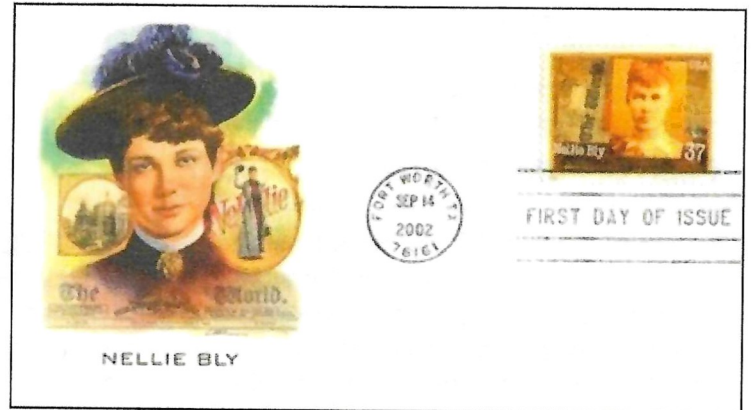


Nellie Bly, Investigative Journalist

By Cynthia Scott

Elizabeth Cochrane Seaman (aka Nellie Bly) packed a large amount of adventure and advocacy for social change into her short 57 years of life, 1864-1922. Breaking into the male-dominated journalism world of 1885, she first wrote about the lives of women working in oppressive factory jobs in Pittsburgh. This was not popular with the factory owners; she was soon relegated to fashion, society, and gardening pieces.

In 1887, after landing a job for Joseph Pulitzer's *The New York World*, she worked an undercover assignment to investigate rumors of brutality and blatant neglect at the Women's Lunatic Asylum on Blackwell's Island. Her report was a sensation and caused the asylum to reform. It was later published as a book titled *Ten Days in a Mad-House*. This launched a decade of "detective" reporting, a precursor to investigative reporting, according to her biographer Brook Kroeger.



Fleetwood FDC honoring Nellie Bly, 9/14/202.

Elizabeth Cochrane Seaman, better known by her pen name Nellie Bly, was an American journalist, who was widely known for her record-breaking trip around the world in 72 days in emulation of Jules Verne's [Wikipedia](#)

Born: May 5, 1864, Cochran Mills, PA

Died: January 27, 1922 (age 57 years), St. Mark's Hospital at Northwick Park Hospital, Harrow, United Kingdom

Education: Indiana University of Pennsylvania

Siblings: Thomas Jefferson Cochran, MORE

Spouse: Robert Seaman (m. 1895-1904)

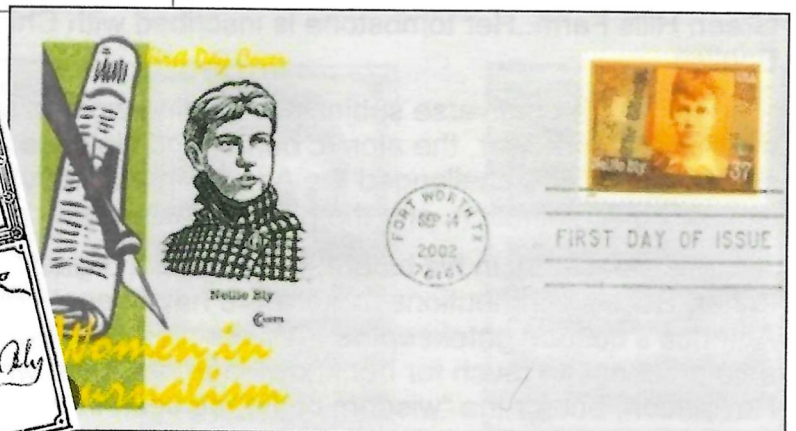
Parents: Mary Jane Cochran, Michael Cochran



Women Journalists Ethel L. Payne, Ida Tarbell, Marguerite Higgins, and Nellie Bly honored by the USPS in 2002.



A board game based on her 72-day trip around the world.



Mystic Stamp Co. FDC honoring Nellie Bly, 9/14/202.