

Poway Stamp Club

NEWSLETTER



San Diego County's Best Stamp Collecting Club

April 8, 2023

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Poway Stamp Club Goals

To promote a closer social relationship among stamp collectors of Poway, San Diego and vicinity, and to assist in spreading the knowledge of stamps and the pleasures derived from stamp collecting to those interested in philately.

Contact Us

Poway Stamp Club
12675 Danielson Ct #413,
Poway, CA 92064

Club E-mail

PSCphilately@gmail.com

PSC Website:

Powaystampclub.com



Next Club Meetings

The Wednesday April 12th program will be:

Member Voice Sale

(Bring your 6 Lots!)

There will not be regular Club Business, the meeting will begin with the "Club Voice Sale".

Meeting time: The meeting will begin promptly at 6:30 PM.
Meeting Place: 12675 Danielson Court, Suite #413 (in the back of the business complex), Poway, California 92064.

Please remember to bring your badge.

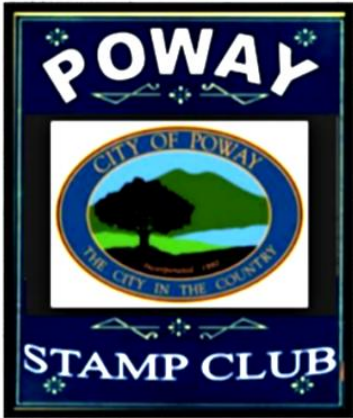
The Wednesday April 26th Program will be a philatelic presentation by:

Scott Boyd

&

Voice Sale & Member Trading

The meeting will begin with our regular Club business followed by the member presentation and a "Club Voice Sale". Following the sale and show and tell, the meeting will progress with Member trading and socialization. Members are encouraged to bring in stamps and other items for sale or trade with other club members. This is an opportunity for all our members to sell or trade with one another their duplicate stamps.



Poway Stamp Club

2023-23 Club Meeting Schedule/Presentations:

The following is this year's proposed meeting schedule; all events are proposed and subject to change as necessary to accommodate other events such as Auctions etc.

April	Apr	12, 2023	Member Voice Sale
	Apr	26, 2023	Scott Boyd - Presentation
May	May	10, 2023	Colin Fort - Malta
	May	24, 2023	TBD - Presentation
June	Jun	14, 2023	TBD - Presentation
	Jun	28, 2023	Member Voice Sale
July	Jul	12, 2023	TBD - Presentation
	Jul	26, 2023	TBD - Presentation
August	Aug	9, 2023	TBD - Presentation
	Aug	23, 2023	TBD - Presentation
September	Sep	13, 2023	TBD - Presentation
	Sep	27, 2023	Member Voice Sale
October	Oct	11, 2023	TBD - Presentation
	Oct	25, 2023	Ugly Stamp Contest
November	Nov	8, 2023	APS Movie - Presentation
	Nov	22, 2023	No Meeting
December	Dec	13, 2023	Holiday Dinner
	Dec	--	No Meeting
January	Jan	10, 2024	Club Elections
	Jan	24, 2024	TBD - Presentation
February	Feb	14, 2024	TBD - Presentation
	Feb	28, 2024	TBD - Presentation
March	Mar	13, 2024	TBD - Presentation
	Mar	27, 2024	TBD - Presentation

2023 Club Board:

President: Art Berg
V President David Klauber
Treasurer: Bill Kolb
Secretary: Trice Klauber
Board (At Large) Bill O'Connor
Board (At Large) Jim Grundy
Prev. President Thor Strom
Program Dir. Bill Wacenske

2023 PSC Club Volunteers:

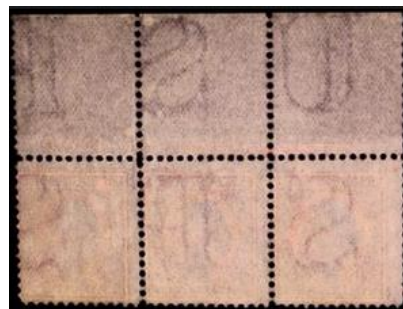
Registrar: Trice Klauber
Auctioneer: Duane Pryhoda
Asst. Auctioneer Jim Grundy
Club Librarian Scott Boyd
Newsletter Editor David Klauber
Letter Contributors Jon Schrag
 Bob McArthur
 Bill O'Connor
 Manny Marti
 Jim Grundy
Library Rep: Bob Eygenhuysen
Opp. Drawing Scott Boyd
WebMaster David Klauber
Public Relations Valerie Merritt

PSC Representatives:

Federal Rep: Bill O'Connor
S.D. Phil. Council: Nick Soroka
Rep (Alternate) Art Berg
APS Rep Trice Klauber
ATA Rep Bob McArthur

ON PAGE 1

Is a U.S. # 832b \$1 Wilson, 1938. The stamp was printed in 1951 in Wash. D.C. with a quantity of between 160 and 499k. A small number of stamps were accidentally printed on USIR-watermarked paper, intended for U.S. IRS tax stamps. How the paper was used is a mystery, as is the exact number of stamps printed. Many were used and discarded, limiting the number available to collectors today. (Courtesy D. Klauber)



834b USIR DLWM

-- See Column Left --

**POWAY STAMP CLUB
MEMBER**



APS

There are thirty-two PSC club members who are also members of the American Philatelic Society. The PSC is also a member of the APS. If 33% of our members are also members of the APS the club receives a free years membership.

Meetings

Club meetings are held every second and fourth Wednesday of each month except November & December at:

Philatelic Library
12675 Danielson Ct #413,
Poway, CA 92064

Participation

All Stamp Club members are strongly encouraged to provide input for the monthly Club newsletter. Your knowledge and expertise should really be shared. Please submit items to the Club Secretary at:

PSCphilately@gmail.com

Club Website

PowayStampClub.com

You will find our activities and affiliations, interesting links, contact information including the current and previous versions of this Newsletter! Give it a try! You can use the Web site to introduce others to our Club.

Club Notes:

1. **Local Poway Show** (New shows this year!)

SANDIPEX 2023

- April 2
- May 7
- June 11
- July 9
- August 13
- September 10
- October 15
- Nov 19
- Dec 17

Free Admission! – Free Parking!
Doors Open from 10am – 4pm

The show in its 23rd year is located just 4 blocks to the north of the Philatelic Library on Poway Road. The show is held at the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks Lodge, 13219 Poway Road Poway, CA 92064 . Ph# 714-476-3698 Email: cbcstamp@aol.com

2. **Quality Shows** - Stephen Pattillo, *P.O. Box 604, Fullerton, CA 92836, Phone: 562-694-2828* email: number1banana@hotmail.com

The "Original" Van Nuys Sunday Stampshow		Five Star Glendale Saturday Stampshow	The Quality Sunday Stampshow
Masonic Hall 14750 Sherman Way Van Nuys, CA 91450		No Location Yet	Brookhurst Community Center 2271 Crescent Avenue Anaheim, CA 92801
January	dark	January	January
February	5	February	February 12
March	5	March	March 19
April	2	April	April 16
May	7	May	May 21
June	4	June	June 18
July	2	July	July 16
August	6	August	August 20
September	3	September	September 17
October	1	October	October 15
November	5	November	November 12
December	3	December	December 10

9:30 AM to 4 PM
Free Admission, Parking & Appraisals
Buying & Selling



Visit PSC on the web by scanning the QR code above with your cellphone.

2. **April Bid Board** – The second member only Bid Board of the year will run from Saturday April 1 - April 15 at noon. Items for sale must be submitted by March 27th. Our PSC members are both participating as sellers and others as buyers. Please support this effort as 10% of all sales go to support the club!
3. **American Topical Association** - Notice: The Poway Stamp Club is an official Club Affiliate #137. If you collect a topic and you are not a member of the ATA but are interested in learning more about the ATA contact Bob. (rmatsukasa@gmail.com)

4. **Join the APS** – Along with joining the Poway Stamp Club being a member of APS supports the hobby and brings its members valuable services including:



- A subscription to [The American Philatelist](#). All of the articles are written by members and feature colorful illustrations.
- Buy stamps on-line safely at HipStamp. All APS transactions are guaranteed by APS.
- Build your collection from the hundreds of thousands of competitively priced stamps offered by other members, or sell some of your own material via CIRCUIT sales..
- Borrow reference items by mail or in person from the American Philatelic Research Library. The APRL has one of the world's largest and most accessible collections of philatelic literature.
- Save on APS-sponsored Stamp Insurance
- Learn more about philately at APS seminars!
- Obtain authoritative opinions on the genuineness of stamps and covers from the American Philatelic Expertizing Service (APEX).

5. **Club Participation** – We thank our Club members who help us each month by contributing to this newsletter. Club members are strongly encouraged to provide input for the bi-monthly newsletter. Your participation is critical to our successes as a Club. Please submit items to the Club Secretary at Indysmama@gmail.com.



6. **Great American Stamp Show 2023 Cleveland** - Aug 10-13, APS ATA & FDACS. Huntington Convention Center. Westin Cleveland Downtown 300 Lakeside Ave, Cleveland.
email: stampshow@stamps.org.



Bid Board Frequently Asked Questions(FAQs) :

- You must be a paid member of PSC to buy or sell.
- You may join the PSC, contact PSCPhilately@gmail.com
- 10% of the sale price will go to support our club.
- Sellers may list ten items each session, Minimum bids must include local shipping.
- All unsold lots will automatically be relisted next session.
- Seller must notify us to remove a listing.
- Sellers must notify us to remove or change a listing price.
- Minimum prices of items must contain the cost to ship the item listed locally (i.e., San Diego County)
- Buyers outside of SD County are responsible for additional shipping charges.
- The Minimum prices listed on the Site are not updated, a list of the current bids will be posted "periodically" for buyers, this is not eBay
- At the end of each session, Buyer-Sellers will be contacted and introduced via E-mail to allow the coordination of the payment and shipping.

<https://powaystampclub.com/bid-board>

7. **WANTED** – The Poway Stamp Club invites you to share your philatelic passion by presenting at one of our meetings or authoring a short article for our newsletter. If you are interested or want to find out more, Bill Wacenske or email pscphilately@gmail.com or talk to one of our Club's officers.
8. **Closed Album** – It has come to our attention that life member **David Hartman** has passed in November of 2021. Thank you to Lee Clark for providing us with the information. Our Secretary has been trying to locate Mr. Hartman for several years after he had moved to Tennessee.
9. **Linn's Stamp News – Journals Changing** Amos Media Co. Announced in January that starting with their March cover-date publications, that the Scott Stamp Monthly magazine will replace Linn's Stamp News monthly magazine and will be now published once a month, for a total of 12 issues per year. The new print publication will largely focus on feature articles and will continue to include the Scott New Issues update sections. For Linn's Stamp News The frequency will now be 52 issues each year, with 24 of them being printed and mailed and 28 delivered digitally only. The Linn's March 6 issue was the first digital-only issue. Amos has stated the "Our print publication strategy continues to be a vital part of our strategy at Amos Media Co.", Amos believes that they are making the changes in response to the current industry trends. They plan to add more of their back issues of both Linn's and Scott Stamp Monthly to the digital archive, giving their readers access to earlier articles.
10. **NEW Website Addition** – Lee Clark of Escondido is a Philatelist and publisher of Worldwide stamp mailing lists. This month, the Club has provided Lee an advertisement in our Newsletter and Lee will fresh off the press provide us with his "Bargain List". The Lists will be made available to our club members before their regular distribution. So, if you want to, go to www.powaystampclub.com/lc-corner and see what Lee has available for your collection hopefully before anyone else, good luck. The early bird gets the worm!



LC Stamps
Bargain Lists



New Member Spotlight!

By Newsletter Editor



The Poway Stamp Club Newsletter highlights its new members each issue. Today's spotlight is on 5 new members.

Stacey Klaman
Jeff Davis
David Waller
Bernard Vertelov
Stephen Pattillo

We have received 5 new requests for membership which was received and granted to the following person(s):

#543 Stacey Klaman of San Diego California. Was presented for membership by Phyllis Charlton . She is new to Philately and has not yet determined a philatelic interest. We apologize that we misspelled “Stacey” in the last issue. We look forward to having Stacey at the Wednesday meetings. Welcome to our Club!

#546 Jeff Davis of Claremont California was presented for membership by Art Berg. Jeff collects British Commonwealth and Middle east stamps. It was our pleasure to meet Jeff at our last get together. We look forward to seeing Jeff at all our meetings. We welcome another enthusiastic collector to the fold.



#547 David Waller of Imperial Beach Was presented for membership by Art Berg. David collect US commemoratives, Columbians through the Farley's and associate ephemera. Welcome Aboard!

#548 Bernard Vertelov of San Diego was presented for membership by Art Berg at our last meeting. Bernard joined us and participated in the meeting as well as the raffle and voice sales. Bernard collects Tropical & other Worldwide stamps. It's great to have so many new and youthful members joining our club, welcome aboard Bernard.

#549 Stephen Pattillo of Fullerton California was presented for membership by Trice Klauber. Steve mailed in his application after visiting us at the San Diego Stamp Show. Stephen is a collector/dealer and professional show promoter. He has been part of the San Diego and Southern California Philatelic community for many years. Welcome back to the Poway Stamp Club Stephen.

This brings our current active membership count to 112. We look forward to getting together at PSC meetings with our new members.



Really! Just Stamps, No Cat toys on eBay?



Editors Corner

By D. Klauber

The Mystery of the Punch Hole Columbian Solved?



FIGURE 1. 1893 50c Columbian Stamp with punch holes
(Courtesy B. McArthur who won the Auction!)



1893 50c Columbian Stamp
with punch holes
(Courtesy B. McArthur)

In the fall of 2022, when I first came across this odd 50c 1893 hole punched Columbian stamp on eBay, (**Figure 1.**)

I wondered who and/or why had this stamp been “punched”? Was this stamp a **one-off**, **Specimen Security** (punched), **Revenue** or **telegram** stamp, **pre-cancel** (punched), **remnant** punched, a **Proof/Essay** or simply a punched **newspaper revenue** stamp? Or was the answer, on its face, simply a maliciously damaged stamp?

A one-off - When I first encountered the stamp, I wondered and others speculated, “could it be a malicious one off”? However, after a modicum of internet searching, it soon became evident (**Figure 1a & 1b**) that during the last several decades, there have been at least a half-dozen of these stamps which have appeared in the marketplace. So, it was clearly **not a one-off**.



Figure 1a eBay listings #240 50c Slate(eBay listing)



Visit PSC on the web by scanning the QR code above with your cellphone.



Figure 1b - Another Auction Sale block or 6 dispelling one-off assertion (Courtesy Stamp Auction Network)

Specimens (Security Hole Punched) - Could the stamp(s) have been Security Punched as a Specimen? I thought maybe, I have seen other specimen stamps that had been defaced (i.e., a hole being punched in the stamp in question). Another type of hole punching is something I have seen before on stamps by the British printer *Waterlow & Sons Ltd.* (figure 2) Waterlow is known to have created specimens and or plate inspection sheets, however these stamps are typically hole punched (security cut-out) in the lower left corner and are frequently accompanied with a black overprint WATERLOW & SONS, LIMITED / SPECIMEN (on two separate lines.) These stamps are often certified as “Imperforate Proof Stamps” by the Calhoun’s Collectors Society.¹

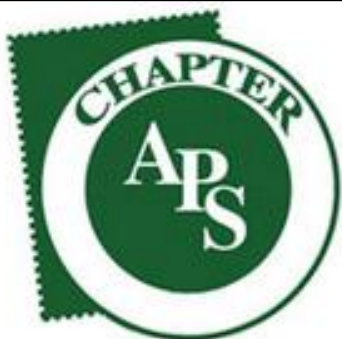


FIGURE 2; Waterlow & Sons Ltd. 1955 Hole punched Specimen stamp.

However, none of the Waterlow specimen stamps resemble our Columbian stamp nor do the punch holes themselves. So again, it is unlikely that our Columbian stamp is specimen of the Waterlow or Waterlow archive type.



FIGURE 3; 1909-24, American Bank Note Company "SPECIMEN" overprints



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Panama “SPECIMEN” overprints with punch holes stamps were also used by the American Bank Note Company during 1909-24, some unissued 4c surcharged Postage Due stamp. Each of these stamps has a red or blue overprint and a small punch hole at the bottom showing they were from the American Bank Note Company archives.

Revenue (Fiscal Entry) Punch holes - Other types of punch holes exist in modern stamps, there were initially many conjectures about the nature of the Bermuda stamp below, (Figure 3) on the Stamp chat boards, this beauty turned out to be identified as a Bermuda 127a which was fiscally used for collecting passenger tax when entering the country. Many are found with additional cancels applied by the shipping line.



FIGURE 3; Fiscal Entry revenue punched stamp.⁴

Fiscal revenue handstamps exist for each of the five Presidencies (Antigua, Dominica, Montserrat, St. Kitts-Nevis and the Virgin Islands). They used an 'Administrator handstamp for cancelling stamps fiscally used on documents. during the (King George VI period (1937-1953) for revenue-only stamps of Nyasaland, Ceylon, Tanganyika, Uganda, Kenya, Straits Settlements, British Military Administration Malaya (BMA), Singapore, Malacca, and Penang. These stamps were used to record transactions such as contracts, indentures, mortgages, company incorporations and share transfer agreements, and in some colonies court fees and tax payments. Stamps equal to the duty or fee were affixed to show proof of payment, and then were cancelled, usually by an embossed red-ink seal or handstamp, but sometimes in manuscript or by **punch hole**. These **revenue** punches were made significantly after our Columbian stamps were created.



#1137-112097



Figure 4 - American Rapid Telegraph Co. stamps printed by the ABNC and Western Union Telegraph Co.

Telegraph Punches - Many stamps with single holes in them turn out to be **telegraph punch** stamps rather than Perfins. The telegraph was directly responsible for the demise of the short-lived Pony Express. The Rapid Telegraph stamps were used by private companies for use on their own telegrams. Like U.S. postage stamps, they featured high-quality engraving and printing to deter counterfeiters⁴. In 1870-1889 the Spanish punched many of their postage stamps for use on telegrams and was called "telegraph drilling". A stamp that was affixed to a telegram was to be punched. There is conjecture that they were punched to prevent them from being soaked and then reused later as postage. Additionally, Telegraph hole punch stamps are most seen on Indian revenues between 1850 and 1940 but are still not that unusual elsewhere in the world.³

Pre-Cancel (Hole Punched) - Could the stamp(s) be a Pre-cancels? I was not able to substantiate that US stamps were ever precancelled like the method on our Columbians. As such I have ruled out this possibility.

Perfins - Could the Columbian stamps be some other form of a Perfin? A number of these mystery stamps have come up for sale over the years and described in as many ways as the number of times they have been listed. Specially perforated stamps are called "perfins." The name combines the words "perforated initials" or "perforated insignia." The Columbian punched stamps do not have any initials or insignias punched in them.

As a result, it is my belief the stamps are not listed in any perfin documentation and are not listed anywhere as a form of standard perfins.



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Remnant or Remainder Punched Stamps - "Remnant punch" or "sold as a remainder". Remainder stamps are stocks of a stamp which are unsold at the time the issue is declared obsolete. Many are punched prior to resale. Some have stated that Remnant punches are considered a type of cancellation, but remnant stamps were never issued so they are considered "used", nor are they listed as essays. You can buy quantities of many other remainders for pennies a stamp. With remnant stamps a hole is punched in the stamp instead of simply just throwing it away. For US Revenues, US State Revenues, and Telegraphs, while a punch hole may be a cancellation, it often can mean that if the stamp was sold Mint that in may have been a remainder.

Why are the Columbians not Remainder stamps. It has been specifically suggested for the Columbians, that there was no reason to remnant punch any of the remaining Columbian stamps since they had been sent specifically to be "destroyed" and that punching them prior to their destruction was simply non-sensical. Secondly the patterns of hole(s) for known remnant stamps do not match those on the known punched Columbians.

Punched Essay or Proofs - I cannot find very much information about "Essay/Proof Holes". There do seem to be a lot of Rhodesia proofs stamps that come up for auction and have one or more interesting punch holes in them. These proofs were produced over 50 years after the Columbians were and the hole sizes are larger and do not appear to be the same as those on the Columbians.



Figure 5 - Southern Rhodesia 1924 plate proof block of four with punch holes.
(Ex Waterlow archive)



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Newspaper Bundle Cancels⁵ - A newspaper stamp is a special type of postage stamp that was used to pay the cost of mailing newspapers and other periodicals. Although many types were issued in the 19th century, typically representing rates reduced from regular mail, they generally fell out of use in the mid-20th century, as mail services began to arrange bulk handling directly with publishers.

The exact use of newspaper stamps varied; small-value stamps were generally intended to be affixed to **newspaper wrappers**, in much the fashion of regular mail, but with values usually less than regular stamps. Notice that the stamps were meant to be affixed. Which implies that they were used and would no longer have their original gum. Higher values were used on bundles of newspapers, and later receipts. The newspaper stamps of the United States, in use from 1865 to 1898, were always intended for bulk shipments, and with face values ranging up to US \$100 and were the highest-value newspaper stamps of the period.

Newspaper and Periodical stamps were issued to record payment of postage on newspapers and periodicals. The stamps were affixed to wrappers on bundles of newspapers. The stamps were discontinued in 1898. Private express companies were originally used to accept delivery of newspapers at the train or vessel that carried to the delivery persons upon arrival. In 1863, Congress passed an act that allowed route agents to accept newspaper parcels at the train or vessel and turn them over for delivery from the train or vessel without having to physically route them through a post office. Postage fees were paid **in cash** upon presentation of the parcels to the route agent. In 1865, the Post Office Department introduced newspaper and periodical stamps as an accounting tool to preclude unscrupulous agents from pocketing the fees.⁵

Usage of the stamps was discontinued in 1869, and the old system was resumed. By the Act of June 23, 1874, Congress again authorized the use of newspaper and periodical stamps after two-thirds of the postage collected was never turned in. The rate was set at 2¢ to 3¢ per pound or fraction thereof for publications issued less than once a week. The new newspaper and periodical stamps were printed and delivered to postmasters in December 1874. The stamps were placed in use effective Jan. 1, 1875.



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The newspaper stamps of 1875 and later were never designed or intended to be affixed directly to bundles of papers. (i.e., Unused) At first the stamps were sold in advance to publishers, who would turn in the required amount when shipments of papers were presented for mailing.

In Rick Millers article , *“Extra! Extra! Read all about U.S. newspaper stamps”*, Rick states that “A receipt was issued to the publisher, and the stamps were affixed to the receipt stub maintained by the post office and **were canceled, initially by punching and later by pen cancellation.**” This is possibly the Proof that the Post office had a precedence for punching stamps used for Newspaper revenues. Stamps of this era in collector hands today were salvaged from postal rubbish. On July 1, 1894, the contract for producing United States postage stamps was awarded to the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. Using the plates from the previous printers, the Bureau produced 12 newspaper stamps in face values from 1¢ to \$6 on white, semi-transparent paper. The plates were cleaned up and re-entered, and the stamps produced have a generally clearer impression and were printed in slightly different colors. Was there a shortage created as part of the switch over to BEP, was there a gap and a need for postage stamps to be used as Newspaper? Though I was not able to substantiate this claim. The use of newspaper and periodical stamps was discontinued as of July 1, 1898, and the stamps were demonetized.

The Stamps in Figure 6 were identified on eBay as Newspaper precancels, there has been much debate about this definition others in Auctions and eBay listings declare the stamps as Newspaper Punch hole stamps from shipments of bundles of papers. This description has been consistent for the past 2 decades but has not to my knowledge until now been explained as to where the information came from and appears to be a description which has transferred from one seller to another seller.



Figure 6 - Block of 6 Listed on eBay for 895.00



#1137-112097

I have taken the discussion one step further by determining that the stamps are not just one-offs or a one stamp modification of the 50c denomination. In Figure 7, I have identified that another stamp a \$1 Columbian that sold for \$325 and was clearly created the same way as the many 50c Columbians its existence dispells several of the existing theorys and possibly presenting the evidence that these stamps were actually used for Newspaper bundle shipment revenue.

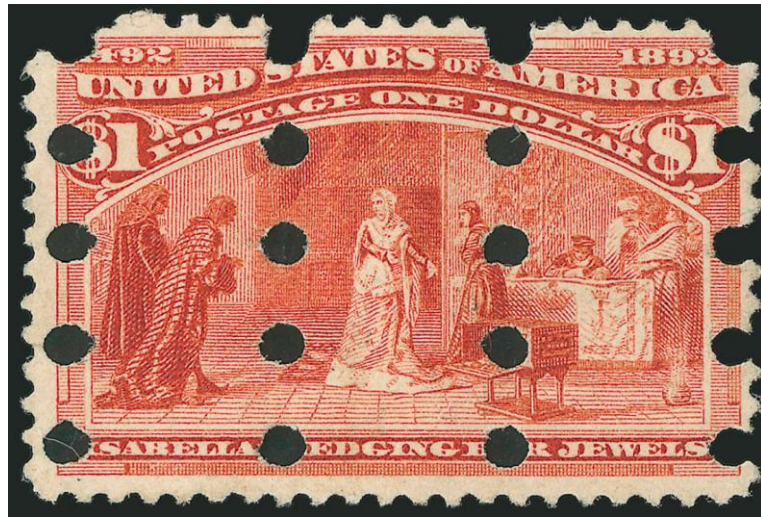


Figure 7 – Single \$1 Columbian with similar punching
(Courtesy Siegel Auction Galleries)⁶

The lesson of the story is that I have discovered more about obscure holes in stamps than anyone ever should. But the real mystery it seems is that sometimes you learn more about the characteristics of what a stamp “is not” rather than what a stamp it “actually is”!

Again, Varieties & EFO’s make an exciting and educational addition to any stamp collection for they speak to us about how stamps are produced and how mistakes can be made during their production.

1. International Civil Aviation Organization, Albert Plesser, 1-10-2023, UN Specialized Agency, The Postal History of ICAO,
2. “Stamps with holes punched in them ? Not perfins”, Stampboards, Notbruce, 27 Sep 2011, <https://www.stampboards.com/>
3. Bermuda Fiscal Entry Stamp, Bermuda 127a, eBay, <https://www.ebay.com/itm/114773883376>
4. Rapid Telegraph Stamps, Telegraph Stamps – Document the Growth of America, Mystic Stamps, /www.mysticstamp.com/, 2023.
5. Linn’s, Stamp News, Rick Miller, Extra! Extra! Read all about U.S. newspaper stamps, Feb 9, 2004.
6. Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries, Sale 891, March 22, 2005. New York, NY 10018



Poway Stamp Club

Member Article

By Bill O'Connor

Picture Post Cards Of the U.S. Grant Hotel, San Diego, California



Part I, 1908-1930s

Back in 1895 Fannie Chaffee Grant, the wife of the son of the former President of the United States purchased the Horton House in downtown San Diego. The structure was demolished in 1905 and the U. S. Grant Hotel was built and opened in 1910.

The hotel is still functioning today and has seen much history over the decades of its existence. In the 1930s, radio station KFSD operated out of the hotel and one can see the radio towers on the top of the hotel via post cards from this period. A most interesting event took place in 1969 when a group of prominent local women forced the hotel to allow them to make a reservation for lunch at the Grant Grill. Prior to this time only men, mostly businessmen, lawyers, and politicians etc., were able to make reservations for the so called "power lunches" of the day.

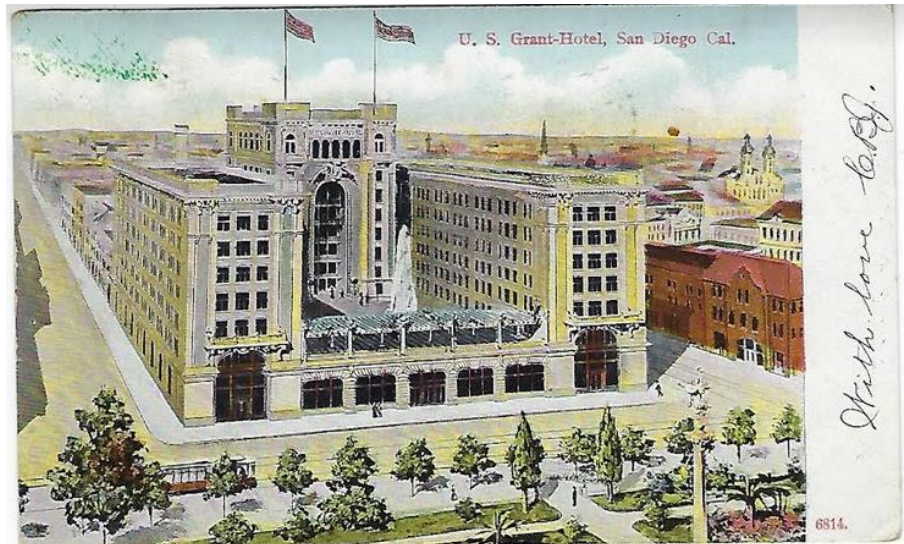
In 1970 the first San Diego Comic Con was held and today this is perhaps the most important continuing event held in San Diego. Additionally, many famous people and presidents have stayed at the hotel. Albert Einstein, Charles Lindbergh, and President Woodrow Wilson are just a few of such luminaries that have stayed at the hotel.

In 2003 the hotel was purchased by the Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation and reopened in 2006. The hotel continues to be one of the premier hotels in the city, and hopefully will continue to be a beacon of hospitality and comfort for many years to come.



#1137-112097

For this first installment of this article, I have selected six post cards that show the glory of this wonderful, venerable hotel in the early days.



U.S. Grant Hotel before it opened in 1910 (Courtesy Bill O'Connor)

This rendition of the U.S. Grant Hotel shows the hotel before it opened in 1910. This card is post marked June 19, 1908.

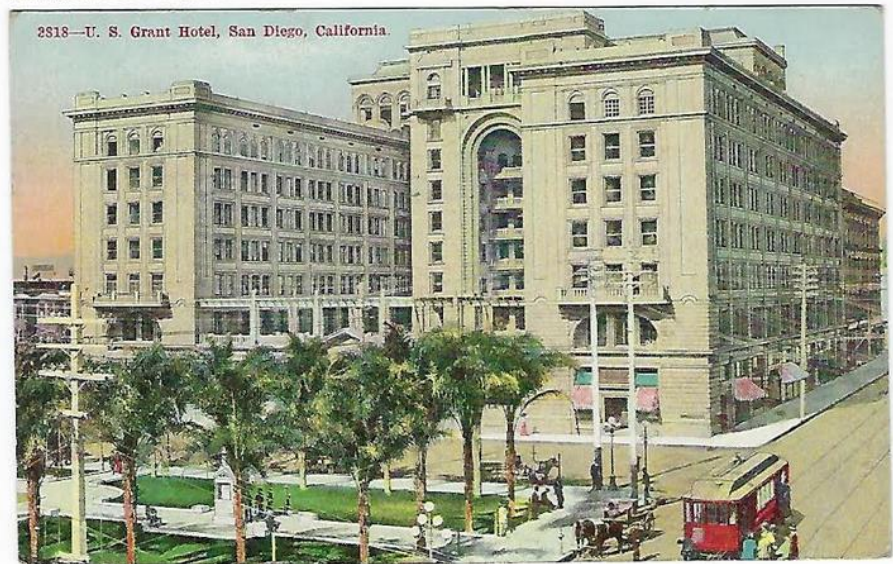


U.S. Grant Hotel Night View (Courtesy Bill O'Connor)

The next post card is a night view of the hotel. The copyright of the card is 1910. Notice what today is called Horton Plaza in the forefront of this picture.

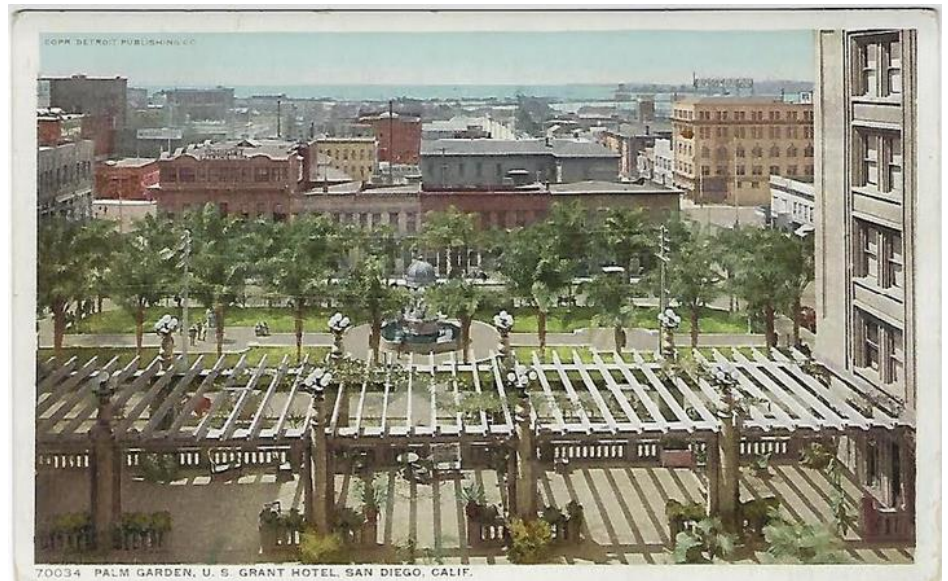


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U.S. Grant Hotel 1913 with Tram. (Courtesy Bill O'Connor)

The third card is post marked December 7, 1913. A tram system was functioning very well during this time, one line eventually went as far as La Jolla.



U.S. Grant Hotel Palm Garden (Courtesy Bill O'Connor)

This view shows looking out towards the bay with Horton Plaza, the water fountain, and the palm trees in front of the hotel.



#1137-112097



U.S. Grant Hotel Water Fountain (Courtesy Bill O'Connor)

The next to the last post card has a splendid view of the water fountain looking towards the front of the hotel. The card was post marked August 21, 1927.



U.S. Grant Hotel 1930's Radio Towers. (Courtesy Bill O'Connor)

The final card for this article shows the radio towers on top of the U.S. Grant. The towers were constructed during the 1930s. KFSD left the hotel in 1939.

Every Cover



Tells A Story

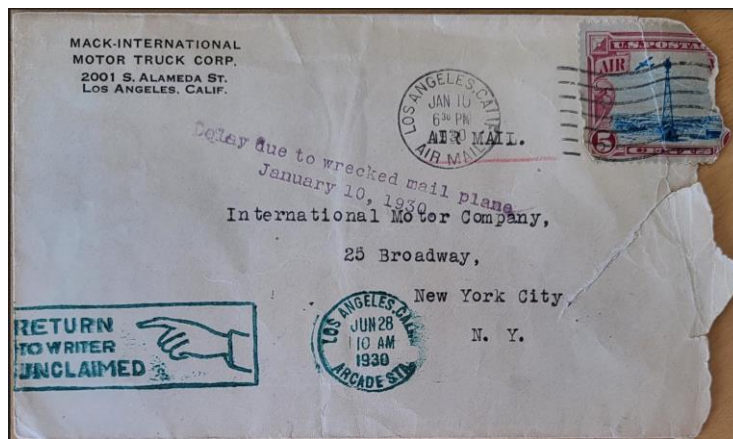
Member Article

By Jim Grundy

Every Cover Tells a Story



The rubber stamp message on the front of the cover reads “Delay due to wrecked mail plane January 10, 1930”. This is a crash cover. This is probably the best-looking crash cover that I have seen. Most are burnt, singed, torn, crumpled, water damaged, etc. but this one shows no signs of damage. From the cancellation date and the date in the message, we know the plane crashed on the night of January 10, 1930. From the date and cancel, it can be assumed that plane was a Western Airlines plane delivering the mail from Los Angeles to Salt Lake City along C.A.M. (Contract Airmail) Route #4. The question is what happened during the 169 days between the January 10th and June 28th cancellations.



Crash Cover (Courtesy Jim Grundy)

Maurice Graham was the pilot of the January 10th flight. Graham flew with the American Expeditionary Forces during WW I and was a highly decorated war hero. The Kelly Act of 1925 made it possible for him and other contract (civilian) pilots to fly planes carrying the mail. In 1926, Western Air Lines won the contract to fly the mail along C.A.M. Route #4. The first leg, from Los Angeles to Las Vegas, of the first flight on C.A.M. Route #4 was flown by Graham in April of 1927. By January of 1930, he had flown 175,000 miles on this route.

On the night of January 10th, the weather was bad in Los Angeles and there were heavy snow warnings in the mountains



along his flight path. The Western Airline Boeing Model 95 was loaded with 691 pounds of mail and a package of bonds and securities. The plane took off just after ten o'clock in the evening. Graham's next stop was to be Las Vegas to refuel but because of the approaching storm, he, for some unknown reason, decided to fly to Cedar City, Utah. The heavy snow had turned into a blizzard at Cedar City, and he could not land. Maurice was last heard from flying over Cedar City. He was never heard from again. When the weather cleared there was a massive search conducted by civilian and military planes. Western Air Lines offered a \$5000.00 reward for the return of the pilot and mail. Newspapers ran stories that Maurice Graham had flown to Mexico with the one million dollars in securities to live a life of luxury. Another had him captured by the Paiute Indians. Days turned into months and the mystery continued, where was Maurice Graham?

It wasn't until June 24th that the Boeing 95 was found intact, South of Cedar City, on top of Mount Kanarra. Maurice Graham had made a perfect landing on top of a mountain, in a blizzard, and in the dark. The mail was undamaged and locked in metal bins. Maurice left a note saying that he had the securities and that he was walking in an easterly direction. The mail was recovered and then returned to the senders with a postmark of June 28, 1930. However, Maurice Graham and the securities were still missing. Once again there was an air and ground search for him. It wasn't until late July that Maurice Graham's body and the securities were discovered about six miles from his airplane. His family had his body cremated and his remains were scattered from an airplane as it flew along C.A.M. Route #4.

When I chose to write about this cover, I felt that it would be a simple story to tell—plane takes off, plane crashes, plane discovered, and mail recovered—end of story. This was not the case. The disappearance of Maurice Graham and his airplane was a major news story for the first seven months of 1930. The newspapers wrote stories that were both fact and fiction. People that were involved in the search for the plane, recovery of the mail, and finding Graham's body provided accounts that were also fact and fiction. I tried to present the nuggets of truth that I found and ignore the rest. If you would like to see for yourself, you can Google "Maurice Graham, pilot" and sort out the facts from what the Urban Legend of Maurice Graham's flight had become.

Jim.



Poway Stamp Club

Member Article

By David B. Waller

Philatelic Grading



The following editorial article was submitted by one of our newer PSC members Mr. David B. Waller. The newsletter editor looks forward to many more future article submissions.

Some time ago, I was intrigued by three listings on eBay that became the inspiration for this article. These listings were:

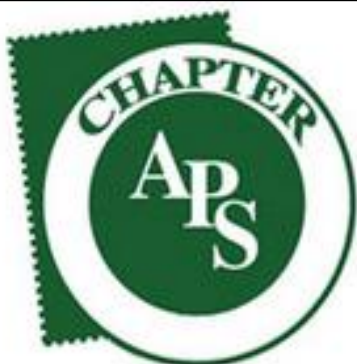
Scott No. 749, 10-Cent National Parks Commemorative Series, PSE-100 at a starting bid of \$999;

Scott No. 702, Red Cross 50th Anniversary Commemorative Issue, PSE-98 that sold for \$167; and

Scott No. 909, Overrun Nations Commemorative Series PSE-100 that sold for \$117.

The title of the first listing was “Mint NH 3(10)c PSE GRADED 100 - SUPERB GEM, ONLY 5 COPIES EXIST WITH THIS HIGH GRADE - NONE HIGHER”. The item was Scott No. 749 being offered at a starting bid of \$999. My first thought was that the decimal point had been misplaced. After further consideration it became clear that it had to do with “PSE graded 100”. I was familiar with the numerical grading system for coins but had not realized that a similar system had been adopted for stamps. Even so, the thought of a 1934 10-cent National Parks Series stamp commanding a price just short of \$1,000 deserved some investigation.

I have been an amateur stamp collector, on and off, for about 55 years and up until recently stamps have always been graded “F” for fine, “G” for good, “VF” for very fine and “XF” for extra fine. I had seen the letter “S” for superb and “Gem” used more recently for exceptional quality stamps. Those with S or Gem grades were generally more expensive, but even these stamps never reached the prices now being quoted by Stamp Market Quarterly (SMQ).



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The SMQ, a publication of the Professional Stamp Experts (PSE), is a magazine that monitors and lists the current prices, at that time, for Scott Nos.: 1-921; 1030-1053; C1-C86; E1-E23; J1-78; K1-K18; O1-O126; PR1-PR125; Q1-12; JQ1-5; QE1-QE4; and RW1-RW73 based on PSE grade and condition (used, original gum previously hinged (OGph) and never hinged (NH)). Scott No.: 749 PSE-100 is listed as having a value of \$820. Consequently, an opening bid of \$999 on eBay might not have been unexpected.

As a collector, it is important to know the value of a collection not only for obtaining insurance, but also for selling, donating or gifting your collection. Historically, the criteria for assigning a letter grade were difficult to apply consistently. Often resulting in grades that varied substantially from one collector or seller to another and because of this, determining an actual value was likewise difficult. About twenty years ago, PSE took the lead in beginning to define a more reliable system.

PSE grades stamps based on four factors: soundness, centering, eye appeal and gum condition. Soundness refers to the presence or absence of faults such as creases, gum skips, thins, stains, tears, or missing perforations. Centering is determined by the balance or equivalency of the distance between the engraving of the stamp and the edge of the paper for each of the margins. Eye appeal encompasses the color, size, impression and overall “freshness” of the stamp and gum condition is determined based on the presence of a hinge or hinge mark and flaws such as natural gum skips, creases, fingerprints, and unevenness.

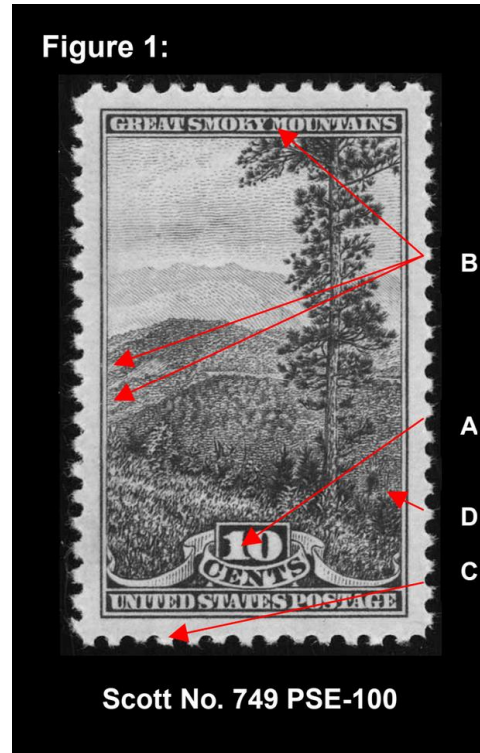
For this new system to be effective, it is important that the criteria used to evaluate factors are objective to avoid inconsistencies in grading. Even so, assuring consistency among multiple examiners can be difficult. For example, even to the trained eye, it is difficult to distinguish the differences in the grades ranging from 80 to 90 in the sample images in “A Guide to Grading and Expertizing United States Stamps” 2007 Ed. by PSE. Yet, the price almost triples. However, in the PSE system, when a stamp is given a grade of 100, by definition, it is a perfect example of that stamp. Correspondingly, every stamp graded PSE-100 should be identical to every other PSE-100 stamp for a given Scott number.



#1137-112097

In this case, Scott number 749, PSE-100, is not a perfect example of this stamp. The most obvious imperfection is the presence of a small pimple on the number “1” (**Figure 1A**). This type of engraving error is not uncommon and is often a result of a flaw in the printing process.

Figure 1:



Scott No. 749 PSE-100

Courtesy D. Waller

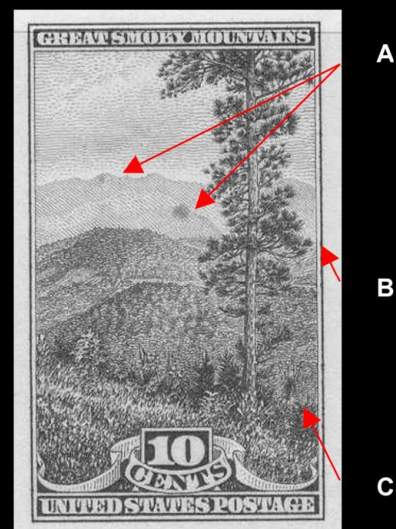
For more than a century, the United States produced all stamps through line-engraved intaglio. In this process, the engraver followed a design called a “model”, cutting the design by hand into a small metal plate called a “die”. Test printings called “die proofs” were made with the die. Once approved, the die was copied to a transfer roll. This roll was used to impress hundreds of copies of the design into a metal plate, typically four panes to make up to 100 stamps each. During printing the plate was covered with ink then wiped by a “doctor blade” removing the surface ink and leaving ink only in the grooves of the design. Paper was pressed onto the plate and ink transferred to the paper, creating the stamp image. If a bubble formed in a groove during the process, for example in the number “1”, an unpigmented pimple would result like the one in this stamp. Continued use of these metal plates also resulted in wear causing the engraving to lose clarity or damage, such as cracking, due to the stress on the plate during printing.



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One tool that can be used to evaluate the integrity of the engraving is die proofs. Proofs are created from the original die before metal plates are made to produce stamps and therefore offer the best engraving examples of a stamp. In searching the literature, I was able to find a set of die proofs of the 1934 National Park Series (**Figure 2**, the line at the top of the stamp is the edge of the mounting). As can be readily seen, even this proof is not perfect. There are two stains or natural paper inclusions in the center of the stamp (**Figure 2A**) and the outer border on the right side is jagged (**Figure 2B**), probably the result of roughed paper fibers in this area of the sheet. Even so, other die proofs could be obtained that together provide a complete impression for reference.

Figure 2:



Scott No. 749 Proof

Courtesy D. Waller

By comparing this stamp to the proof, other imperfections can be observed including an incomplete outer left border and excess ink deposited above the “Y” in “SMOKY” (**Figure 1B**). The importance for engraving references can also be demonstrated by considering the area just to the right of the base of the tree in **Figure 1D**, which looks as though the image could be smudged. However, this area in the proof (**Figure 2C**) is identical thereby eliminating this possibility. Consequently, die proofs are an invaluable tool in identifying engraving imperfections.



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Another important aspect of grading is the condition of the perforations. Stamps graded 100 should have clear and distinct perforations, all with remnants of similar length and intact tips. The perforations on the top and right side of Scott number 749, PSE-100 meet these requirements. However, the remnant between perforations two and three on the bottom is short (**Figure 1C**) and all perforations on the left side are ragged. The ragged perforations could be due to fraying or teasing. Fraying occurs as a result of dulled pins during the perforating process. Instead of making clean cuts the dulled pins tear the paper leaving frayed edges. Teasing is the act of pulling the fibers of the paper to extend the perforation tips or bases to a desired distance. When the perforations are not clearly defined, it is difficult to determine the evenness and equality of the borders, which is essential to determining PSE-100.

The final analysis of Scott number 749, PSE-100, indicates that it has several imperfections that are not consistent with this grade.

The second listing that drew my attention was Scott No.: 702, PSE grade of 98 shown in **Figure 3**. The SMQ value for this stamp is \$170.



Courtesy D. Waller

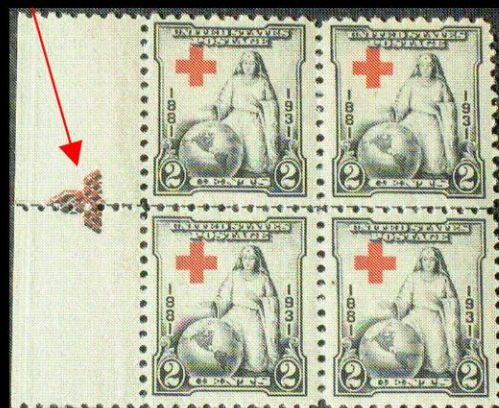
What is obvious in this stamp is the off-centered cross that balances between the thumb and forefinger of the caregiver's hand. This emphasizes the importance of registration for determining grade. Registration refers to the alignment of images in multicolored stamps.



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To align the images for engraving of multicolored stamps, registration marks are printed on the edges of the sheet simultaneously with the image. When these marks are impressed in the designated location, the images are aligned for proper registration. The indicators in the margin for dividing the larger printed sheets into smaller sheets of 200 stamps, double as registration marks. If properly aligned, the red registration mark is printed directly over the black registration mark. In this example, the red mark is aligned side to side but slightly higher than the black mark (**Figure 4**). This shifts the cross upward so that it touches the “P” in “Postage”.

Figure 4:



**Scott No. 702
Arrow Registration Marks**

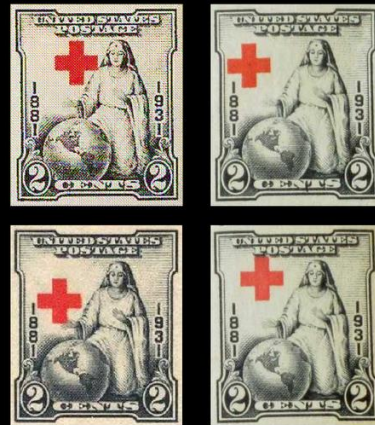
Courtesy D. Waller

In this stamp, the positioning of the cross can vary significantly (**Figure 5**). The proper positioning of the cross can be determined from engraving proofs or by studying the registration marks of existing arrow blocks or sheets. However, if these are not available, the optimum position of the cross may be determined mathematically. The cross is well-centered when the distance between the top of the cross and the base of the “P” in “Postage” and the bottom of the cross to the care giver’s thumb are equivalent and the distance between the lower corner of the right side of the cross to the care giver’s shoulder; and the lower corner of the left side of the cross to the “1” in “1881” are equivalent.



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Figure 5:

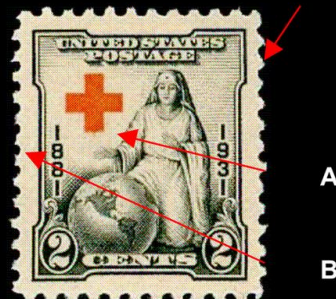


Scott No. 702
Shifting Cross

Courtesy D. Waller

While registration in multicolored stamps is important, so too is the engraving (**Figure 6**). Another example of Scott number 702, graded PSE-98 was selected for comparison. In this example, the base of the cross has bled toward the caregiver's hand (**Figure 6A**) most likely due to ink trailing. Trailing can occur when there is excess ink in a groove. Following the impression step the ink remains attached to the paper and the plate. When the ink finally releases it falls onto the stamp forming an ink trail. This stamp also has short perforation tips along both sides with the right side substantially worn and possibly reperfornated (**Figure 6B-C**). Reperforating is the act of recutting the holes that form the perforations to make them appear more even and consistent with the other perforations of the stamp.

Figure 6:



Scott No. 702 PSE-98

Courtesy D. Waller



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The grade for Scott number 702 (**Figure 3**), is consistent with its centering but not registration. The shifting of the cross is so substantial that a lower grade than ninety-eight is more appropriate.

The third stamp that captured my attention was Scott No.: 909 Mint NH OG PSE Graded GEM 100, which sold for \$117 (**Figure 7**). What caught my eye was the engraving of the vignette, which is not as clear as would be expected from its perfect PSE grade of 100.

Figure 8 shows Scott No.: 918 Mint NH OG PSE Graded 100, was selected for comparison purposes.

Figure 7:



Scott No. 909 PSE-100

Figure 8:



Scott No. 918 PSE-100

Courtesy D. Waller

In this stamp, the face of the woman freed from bondage is much clearer and more distinguishable than the face of the same woman in **Figure 7**. This could be due to wear of the roller plate from extended use. In addition, the coloration of the Polish flag is not even possibly due to the ink not adhering to the paper in some areas (**Figure 9A**). Incomplete ink transfer is often due to rough paper fibers and is a common occurrence in this stamp. However, there are examples (**Figure 9B**) where the coloration is more consistent. Consequently, the engraving of Scott number 909 is not consistent with a PSE grade of 100.



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In conclusion, the factors used in any system must be objective to avoid inconsistencies in grading.

Figure 9:



Flag Coloration Saturation

Courtesy D. Waller

The use of die proofs can elucidate engraving imperfections that may help reduce subjective aspects of “Eye Appeal.” “Soundness” should include an evaluation of the perforations, not only considering missing remnants, but also address the overall condition of the perforations including fraying teasing and possible re-perforating. Registration should be a factor considered by PSE because it is necessary to assure that the impressions are properly aligned. Finally, PSE should provide guidelines or descriptions of what each grade encompasses. For example, a description of PSE-100 might state that a grade of 100 does not mean that the stamp is perfect in every regard but takes into account minor imperfections that do not deter from the beauty of the stamp. These include minor engraving flaws that are expected with the tools and processes used at the time these stamps were produced.

Figure 10 is an example of a proposed grading certificate, like those used in the gemstone grading industry, that addresses the issues raised in this article. The certificate provides an image (**Figure 10a**) of the graded stamp with notations on the image and an analysis sheet with six distinct grading categories referencing and explaining these notations.

A grade is provided for each category, with the overall average of these grades displayed at the top center of the certificate.

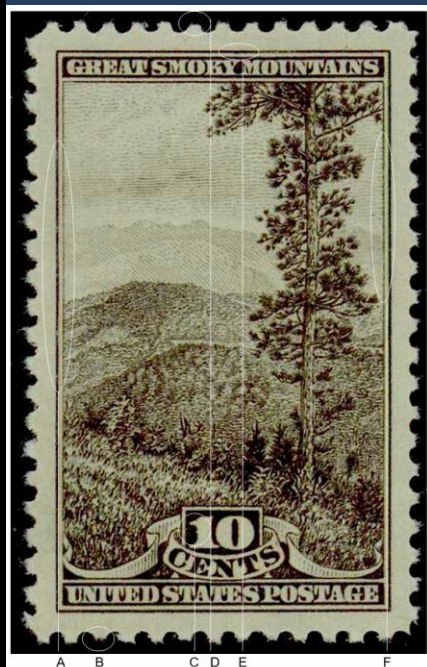


Figure 10a

Scott Catalogue No.:
749
10-Cent Smoky Mountains
1934 National Park Series

Grade 95

Analysis:

<p>Centering <u>98</u> Grade</p> <p>Comments Generally even centering. Bottom margin slightly larger than the other three margins</p> <p>Left: 6.5 upper and 6.5 lower Right: 6.5 upper and 6.5 lower Top: 6.5 left and 6.5 right Bottom: 7.0 left and 7.0 right <small>(units are arbitrary and are based on measurements of the photo above)</small></p> <p>Engraving <u>95</u> Grade</p> <p>Comments Engraving is generally good with a few notable imperfections. A: Outer border missing portions of its impression, some locations on the left are cited. C: Pimple to the left and about the middle of the number "1". Missing ink. E: Possible smudge on outer frame border above and between "Y" and "M". F: The interior border on the right side and upper left corner, not shown.</p> <p>Gum <u>100</u> Grade</p> <p>Comments Unremarkable</p>	<p>Perforations <u>90</u> Grade</p> <p>Comments Perforation are in generally good condition on top, bottom and right sides. Left side possibly altered. B: short perforation D: short perforation</p> <p>Left: Ragged possibly teased Right: Perforations 4 and 5 from top ragged Top: Perforation 6 from left shorter than others Bottom: Perforation 3 from left is short</p> <p>Registration <u>N/A</u> Grade</p> <p>Comments Single color engraving. Not Applicable</p> <p>Color</p> <p>Comments The color used for this issue was gray 135A.</p>
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Certificate Number: 000100
October 15, 2007
by
David B. Waller

Figure 10

Proposed Certificate (Courtesy D. Waller)

It is this author's opinion that the PSE grading system is presently the most comprehensive system available for grading stamps (see www.psestamp.com). However, the inconsistencies identified above demonstrate that additional care must be taken when assigning grades. Comparison of identically graded stamps and particularly those having the grade of 100 supports this opinion.

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#1137-112097

Member Classifieds

If you would like to have a Free advertisement in the PSC Newsletter, please email: PSCphilately@gmail.com

For Sale:

For Sale: I have an extensive collection of US mint plate blocks, sheets, panes, etc. The years range primarily from 1940 to 2002. If you are looking for specific blocks, I may be able to help. Please send an email, to waoconnor@aol.com, or call/leave a message, at 760-723-7372. Want lists can also be sent to Bill O'Connor, 3803 Foxglove Lane, Fallbrook, CA 92028-8764

For Sale: Want lists serviced for stamps of Puerto Rico. Fill holes in your collection with mostly lower catalog value stamps. See Bob at a PSC meeting or call 858-278-7873 Bob Schappelle

For Sale: Worldwide sets, Singles, and Souvenir sheets. Sixty percent off Catalog to all Club Members. Offer valid anywhere you see me.
Phone: 714-476-3698 Email: CBCSTAMP@AOL.com.
Chuck Bigler.

For Sale: Stamps at Bargain Prices, See my Stock. By appointment so please call to set up a time. Home Phone: 858-271-0262 Mobile Phone: 858-449-3047 Al Kish

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• Country Price Lists • Collections • Mixtures • Special Offerings
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Wanted:

Wanted: U.S. Columbian issue stamps with fancy cancels. Top prices paid. Contact West Virginia Bob McArthur at rmatsukasa@gmail.com or 1-858-486-9932.

Wanted: All Vietnam. Stamps and covers. Ready to trade or buy outright. Contact: jschrag1@san.rr.com

Wanted: Puerto Rico Town cancels. Bring to a meeting. Will trade or buy. See member M. Marti PSC # 410.

Wanted: Used/New Scott's Specialized Color Guide for United States Stamps, Spiral-bound with color chips. Will trade or buy. See member D. Klauber PSC #454



#1137-112097

Stamp News 2023:

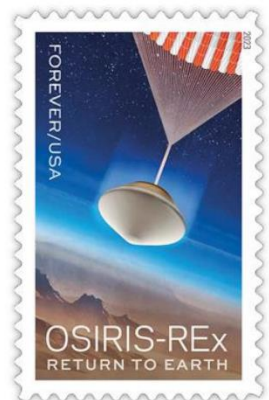


The 2023 stamp program features a broad range of subjects and designs. These miniature works of art highlight our unique American culture and offer a broad selection for those looking to collect stamps or send their mail around the nation or the world,” said USPS Stamp Services Director William Gicker.

This is a partial list, with more to be revealed in the weeks and months ahead. All stamp designs are preliminary and subject to change.

OSIRIS-Rex Mission stamp added to U.S.

Program - “OSIRIS-REx — a collaboration between NASA, the University of Arizona, and Lockheed Martin — exemplifies American ingenuity, perseverance, and teamwork,” the USPS said. “OSIRIS-REx is an acronym for the mission’s goals: Origins, Spectral Interpretation, Resource Identification, and Security–Regolith Explorer.” The issue date and location for the OSIRIS-REx stamp are forthcoming, the USPS said.



Lunar New Year - Year of the Rabbit

The fourth of twelve stamps in the latest Lunar New Year stamp series celebrates the Year of the Rabbit. Calling to mind the elaborately decorated masks used in the dragon or lion dances often performed in Lunar New Year parades, this three-dimensional mask depicting a rabbit is a contemporary take on the long tradition of paper-cut folk art crafts created during this auspicious time of year. The rabbit mask design incorporates colors and patterns with symbolic meaning. Art director Antonio Alcalá designed the stamp and pane with original art by Camille Chew.



Love

Celebrate 50 years since the first Love stamp was issued with two new Love stamps, one featuring a kitten and the other a puppy with their front paws resting atop a big heart. The word “LOVE” is featured in all caps behind each animal. The stamp designs were painted with oils on wood panel,



then scanned and edited digitally. Art director Ethel Kessler designed the stamps with original art by Chris Buzelli.

Florida Everglades (Priority Mail)

Spanning some 2 million acres in southern Florida, from Lake Okeechobee to Florida Bay, the Everglades is one of the largest wetlands in the world and the most significant breeding ground for tropical wading birds in North America. This new Priority Mail stamp celebrates the Florida Everglades with stamp



art that shows a sawgrass marsh as seen at sunset from the edge of a cypress dome. Designed by art director Greg Breeding, the stamp showcases a digital illustration by Dan Cosgrove. The Florida Everglades Priority Mail stamp will be issued in Homestead, FL, on Jan. 22 without a ceremony.

Great Smoky Mountains (Priority Mail Express) - Home to the most

visited national park in the United States, the Great Smoky Mountains boast extensive national forests and a vast array of native plants and animals. Equally rich in history, folkways and culture, they are an American treasure, which the Postal Service celebrates with this new Priority Mail Express stamp. The stamp art captures an iconic mountain scene located near



Newfound Gap between Gatlinburg, TN, and Cherokee, NC. In the foreground, a red-tailed hawk flies over the landscape. Art director Greg Breeding designed the stamp with original art by Dan Cosgrove.

U.S. Flag

The Postal Service continues its tradition of celebrating the U.S. flag with this stamp, available in panes of twenty, booklets of 20, and coils of 100, 3,000 and 10,000. The stamp art bears a straightforward graphic design of Old Glory. Providing a solid foundation for the flag are the word “FREEDOM” in gray and, below it, “FOREVER/USA.” Art director Antonio Alcalá designed the stamp with existing art by Hong Li.



Ernest J. Gaines

The 46th stamp in the Black Heritage series honors Ernest J. Gaines (1933-2019). Best known for such novels as “The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman” and “A Lesson Before Dying,” Gaines drew from his childhood as the son of sharecroppers on a Louisiana plantation to explore the untold stories of rural African Americans, adding a vital voice to American literature. The stamp features an oil painting of Gaines, based on a 2001 photograph. Mike Ryan designed the stamp with art by Robert Peterson. Greg Breeding served as art director.



\$10 Floral Geometry - A new Floral Geometry stamp, denominated at \$10, will be available for purchase, complementing the similarly designed \$2 and \$5 stamps issued in 2022. The stamps lend an elegant and contemporary appearance to packages, large envelopes and other mailings. The stamp art features a series of overlapping geometric shapes that mimic the symmetry of floral patterns found in nature. The watercolor background and the glimmer of the foil-stamped design and typography create a sophisticated look. The stamp will be issued in panes of four. The stamps were designed and created by the firm Spaeth Hill. Antonio Alcalá was the art director. **First Day program at The San Diego Stamp Show in February.**



Piñatas! - Celebrate the fun and tradition of piñatas with a colorful new booklet of 20 stamps. The stamp art features four lively, digital illustrations of two traditional piñata designs — a donkey and a seven-point star. The bright, saturated color palette was inspired by Mexican culture, including the vibrant colors of small-town houses, traditional hand-sewn dresses, handmade toys and flowers, and classic piñatas themselves. Víctor Meléndez created the original art and designed the stamps. Antonio Alcalá was the art director.



Red Fox - The handsome face of a red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) graces this new 40-cent stamp. Sold in panes of twenty and in self-adhesive coils of 3,000 and 10,000, the stamp is intended for use by bulk mailers for items such as circulars, newsletters and catalogs. It can also be used by customers who enjoy using a variety of stamps on their envelopes and packages. The stamp art features a pencil-and-watercolor illustration from preexisting artwork by wildlife illustrator Dugald Stermer (1936-2011). His penciled calligraphy on the stamp indicates the animal's common name and its scientific classification. Art director Ethel Kessler designed the stamp.



Sailboats - Sailboats stamps celebrate a favorite American outdoor activity with two colorful new postcard stamps. They feature abstract illustrations that capture the joyful sensation of being on the water on a beautiful day. The graphic art was designed and created by artist Libby VanderPloeg, who also created the lettering for the word “postcard,” freehand on a digital tablet. Antonio Alcalá was art director for the project.



Snow Globes - Beloved by children and adults alike, snow globes can be miniature works of art, kitschy souvenirs or anything in between. Celebrating the spirit of the holidays, the Postal Service captures the playful pleasure of Christmas snow globes on four new stamps. Painting in oil, the artist created spherical snow globes featuring icons of the season: a snowman wearing a jaunty red-and-white scarf; Santa Claus on a rooftop preparing to climb down the chimney; a reindeer standing in a snowy forest; and a snowy tree decorated with colorful ornaments. Art director Derry Noyes designed the stamps with original art by Gregory Manchess.



Thinking of You Aug. 11- Capturing the excitement and delight of receiving a card in the mail meant just for you, Thinking of You features five stamps in a pane of 20 and a host of die-cut, self-adhesive messages — perfect to accompany letters or cards sent to brighten someone’s day. Each stamp is designed in fun colors with different whimsical images, including flowers, balloons, cute animals, sweet treats and symbols of good luck. Words of encouragement and thoughtful affirmations surround the stamps on the pane. Art director Greg Breeding designed the stamps with original artwork by Ellen Surrey.

Tulip Blossoms April

5 - Close-up photographs of 10 beautiful tulips in a rainbow of colors grace this new booklet of 20 stamps. One blossom



fills almost the entire frame of each stamp, with just the top of a stem peeking out from underneath. Since Dutch immigrants brought tulip bulbs to North America hundreds of years ago, the flower has become a dazzling part of our landscape. Art director Greg Breeding designed the stamps with existing photographs by Denise Ippolito.



Bridges (Presorted First-Class Mail) Aug. 24 - Four new Presorted First-Class Mail stamps will be available for purchase by bulk mail users in coils of 3,000 and 10,000. The stamps feature existing photographs of four different bridges that range from modern to historic, pedestrian to car-carrying, but all are important landmarks in their communities. They are the Arrigoni Bridge in Middletown, CT; the Bob Kerrey Pedestrian Bridge in Omaha, NE; the Skydance Bridge in Oklahoma City; and the Iowa-Illinois Memorial Bridge in Bettendorf, IA, and Moline, IL. Art director Ethel Kessler designed the stamps with existing photographs.

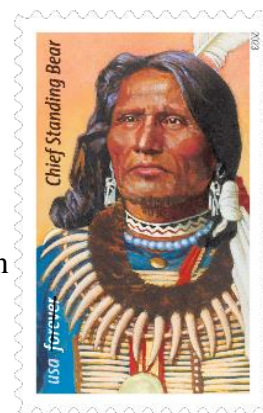
Winter Woodland Animals

Connect to the natural beauty of the winter season and celebrate four species that make their homes in the woodlands of North America. Among the most familiar of wildlife, deer, rabbits, owls and foxes are found across much of the American landscape. This booklet of 20 stamps features graphic illustrations of these four animals in different woodland settings in winter. Art director Antonio Alcalá designed the stamps with Katie Kirk, who illustrated the stamps.



Chief Standing Bear May 12th

This stamp issuance honors Chief Standing Bear (ca. 1829-1908), who won a landmark court ruling in 1879 that determined that Native Americans were persons under the law with inherent rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. The stamp features a portrait of Chief Standing Bear by Thomas Blackshear II, based on a black-and-white photograph taken in 1877. The color of Standing Bear's attire was based on contemporary descriptions. Art director Derry Noyes designed the stamp.



Endangered Species – May 9th

Under the Endangered Species Act, which marks its 50th anniversary in 2023, more than 1,300 imperiled plant and animal species are safeguarded to increase their chances of survival. With this pane of 20 stamps, the Postal Service presents a photographic portfolio of 20 representative endangered animal species. Those featured are found within the 50 states and U.S. territories and possessions or living near U.S. borders. The images are among more than 13,000 in photographer Joel Sartore's "Photo Ark," his project to document as many animal species as possible. Art director Derry Noyes designed the stamps with Sartore's existing photographs.



Railroad Stations March 9th

Noteworthy railroad stations began brightening the American landscape by the 1870s and, although many were torn down once they had outlived their original purpose, hundreds survived. This issuance of 20 stamps features five architectural gems that continue to play important roles in their communities: Tamaqua Station in Pennsylvania; Point of Rocks Station in Maryland; Main Street Station in Richmond, VA; Santa Fe Station in San Bernardino, CA; and Union Terminal in Cincinnati, OH. Passenger trains stop at all of them except Tamaqua. Derry Noyes served as art director. Down the Street Designs created the digital illustrations and typography.

Ruth Bader Ginsburg - This stamp honors Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg (1933-2020), the 107th Supreme Court Justice of the United States. After beginning her career as an activist lawyer fighting gender discrimination, Justice Ginsburg became a respected jurist whose important majority opinions advancing equality and strong dissents on socially controversial rulings made her a passionate proponent of equal justice and an icon of American culture. The stamp features an oil painting of Justice Ginsburg facing the viewer in her black judicial robe with an intricate white collar. Art director Ethel Kessler designed the stamp with art by Michael J. Deas, based on a photograph by Philip Bermingham.



Toni Morrison March 7
 Author Toni Morrison (1931-2019) is honored in this stamp issuance. Her artfully crafted novels explored the diverse voices and multifaceted experiences of African Americans. Known for such books as “The Bluest Eye,” “Song of Solomon” and “Beloved,” Morrison was the rare author who achieved both bestseller status and critical success. In 1993, she made history as the first African



American woman to win the Nobel Prize for Literature. The stamp features a photograph of Morrison taken in 2000. Art director Ethel Kessler designed the stamp with photography by Deborah Feingold.



Roy Lichtenstein April 24
 The work of the iconic American artist of the pop art movement, Roy Lichtenstein (1923-1997) is celebrated with a stamp issuance in his honor. Each of the five stamps in this pane of 20 features one work of art by Lichtenstein: “Standing Explosion (Red)” (porcelain enamel on steel, 1965); “Modern Painting I” (acrylic, oil, graphite pencil on canvas, 1966); “Still Life with Crystal Bowl” (acrylic, oil, graphite pencil on canvas, 1972); “Still Life with Goldfish” (acrylic, oil, graphite pencil on canvas, 1972); and “Portrait of a Woman” (acrylic, oil, graphite pencil on canvas, 1979). The selvage features a photograph of Lichtenstein by Bob Adelman with the artist’s face framed by a model of his 1983 sculpture Brushstrokes in Flight. Derry Noyes served as art director and designer for this issuance.

Waterfalls June 13 in Yellowstone Nat. Park.

Among nature’s most beautiful wonders, waterfalls come in all shapes and sizes, from serene cascades to mighty cataracts. The Postal Service celebrates the variety and beauty of American waterfalls with 12 new stamps. Each stamp features a photograph with the name of the waterfall and state in which it is located. Art director Greg Breeding designed the stamps and pane with existing photographs.



Women’s Soccer – Feb 16th This

stamp issuance celebrates women’s soccer in the United States. From youth leagues to the elite world champion U.S. national team, millions of girls and women throughout the country participate in this fast-paced, competitive sport. The graphic stamp artwork



depicts a female soccer player in action, walloping a ball with a side volley. Conjuring the aesthetic of mid-century print design, the illustrator used simplified shapes and bold colors to convey the high energy and fast motion of the sport. The somewhat grainy rendering lends a timeless quality to the design, evoking not just a single all-star athlete or era but the entire legacy of women’s soccer. Art director Antonio Alcalá designed the stamp with an original illustration by Noah MacMillan (1988-2022).

School Bus - School Bus will be new additional-ounce stamp, available in panes of 20 and coils of 100. The issuance celebrates the iconic yellow school bus and its role in ensuring that millions of children get to school and home again every day. The stamp features a stylized illustration of 21st century yellow school bus, in profile in front of a silhouetted schoolhouse that is more evocative of an earlier era. Artist Steve Wolf



worked with art director Greg Breeding and stamp designer Mike Ryan.

Patriotic Block – March 1 Patriotic Block will be a new nondenominated, nonprofit-price stamp intended for bulk mailings by authorized nonprofit organizations and will be sold in self-adhesive coils of 3,000 and 10,000. This stamp displays the components of the American flag — the stars and stripes — arranged in a four-quadrant block on a white background. Carol Beehler designed the stamp with art direction by Antonio Alcalá.



Life Magnified Aug. 10 Cleveland OH.

These stamps reveal life on Earth like many have never seen it. Twenty stamps feature 20 different images taken with microscopes and highly specialized photographic techniques that capture details of life undetectable by the human eye. The images show the phenomena of life in exquisitely fine detail.



While stunning on their own as works of art, these images also hold scientific significance. Art director Derry Noyes designed the stamps using existing photographs.

Tomie dePaola – May 5 This stamp honors prolific children’s book author and illustrator Tomie dePaola (1934-2020), whose extraordinarily varied body of work encompasses folktales and legends, informational books, religious and holiday stories, and touching autobiographical tales.



The stamp art features a detail from the cover of “Strega Nona” (1975), the Caldecott Honor winning first book in the series. Set in southern Italy, the gently humorous story focuses on Strega Nona, “Grandma Witch,” who uses magic to help with matters of the heart and to cure her neighbors’ ills. Art director Derry Noyes designed the stamp with Tomie dePaola’s original art.

John Lewis July 21 In Atlanta

This stamp celebrates the life and legacy of civil rights leader and U.S. Rep. John Lewis (1940-2020) of Georgia. Devoted to equality and justice for all Americans, Lewis spent more than 30 years in Congress steadfastly defending and building on key civil rights gains that he had helped achieve in the 1960s. Even in the face of hatred and violence, as well as some 45 arrests, Lewis remained resolute in his commitment to what he liked to call “good trouble.” The stamp features a photograph of Lewis taken by Marco Grob on assignment for the Aug. 26, 2013, issue of Time magazine. The selvage showcases a photograph of Lewis taken by Steve Schapiro in 1963 outside a workshop about nonviolent protest in Clarksdale, MS. Derry Noyes served as art director for this project.



Art of the Skateboard - March 24, 2023. The bold artwork on a skateboard deck is often as eye-catching and individualistic as a skater’s most breathtaking moves. These four stamps celebrate the Art of the Skateboard with vibrant designs that capture skateboarding’s excitement. Art director Antonio Alcalá designed the stamp issuance using photographs of skateboards created by artist Crystal Worl, an Alaskan whose blue and indigo salmon formline design expresses her Tlingit/Athabascan heritage; self-taught artist William James Taylor Jr. of Virginia, who created an energetic red and orange graphic abstraction; Di’Orr Greenwood of Arizona who represents her Navajo culture with a turquoise-inlaid skateboard that features eagle feathers and colors of the rising or setting sun and Colombian-born, Washington, DC-raised muralist MazPaz (Federico Frum), who painted a stylized jaguar.

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