



Poway Stamp Club

NEWSLETTER



San Diego County's Best Stamp Collecting Club

June 14, 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, **June 14th** Program will be a philatelic presentation by:

Scott Boyd

"Playing With Stamps."

&

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.

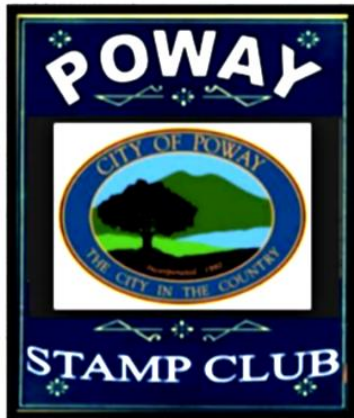
The Wednesday, **June 28th** program will be:

APS Movie

Stamps of the Trans-Mississippi Issue:

The meeting will begin with our regular Club business followed by the movie and a "Club Voice Sale". Following the sale and show and tell, the meeting will progress with Member trading and socialization. This is an opportunity for all our members to sell or trade with one another their duplicate stamps.

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.



Poway Stamp Club

2023-24 Club Meeting Schedule/Presentations:

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

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

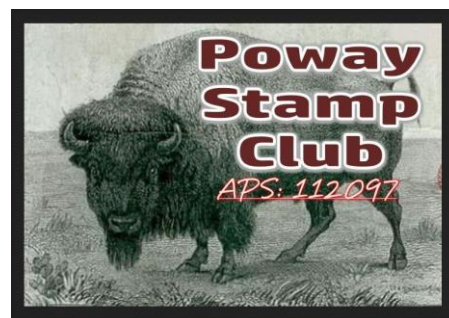
PSC Representatives:

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. # 530a Imperforate. The true double transfer stamps are associated with engraved stamps only. Because example #530(a) on page 1 has obtained catalog status this **Freak** has also reached (**Error**) status. SCV: **\$40 - \$90 MNH**
 (Courtesy D. Klauber)

June	Jun	14, 2023	Scott Boyd "Fun with Stamps"
	Jun	28, 2023	APS – Movie The Trans-Mississippi Issues
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
April	Apr	10, 2024	TBD - Presentation
	Apr	24, 2024	TBD - Presentation
May	May	8, 2024	TBD - Presentation
	May	22, 2024	TBD - Presentation





APS

Thirty-two PSC club members 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 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, and contact information including this Newsletter's current and previous versions! Give it a try!

You can use the Web site to introduce others to our Club.

Club Notes:

1. **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 psephilately@gmail.com or talk to one of our Club's officers.

2. **Great American Stamp Show 2023 Cleveland** - Aug 10-13, APS ATA & FDACS. Huntington

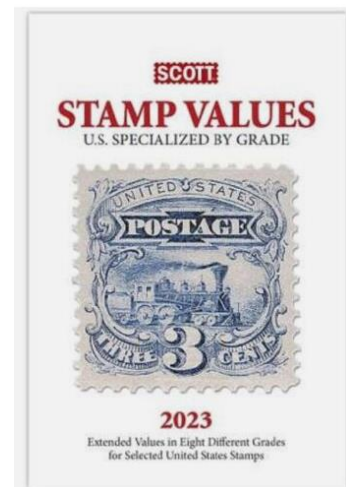


Convention Center. Westin Cleveland Downtown 300 Lakeside Ave, Cleveland.
email: stampshow@stamps.org.

3. **Next Bid Board Scheduled** - Notice: The next Poway Stamp Club bid board spectacular, will start at Noon Saturday, July 8th, and end at Noon Saturday, July 22nd. Please have your items submitted for inclusion NLT Sunday, July 2nd.

4. **New United States Pocket Stamp Catalogue/Checklist.** -

The new 2023 catalog is the perfect size to use as a checklist. The pages measure about 4 x 7 inches. It provides simplified listings for U.S. stamps found in Vol. 1 of the Scott Standard Catalogue. It was designed to be used as a quick reference guide or a handy checklist. Five small boxes are provided next to each listing for you to use to mark what you have in your collection. A space at the top of each page allows you to personalize the headings for your checkboxes. **Seen on eBay as low as US \$18.95!**



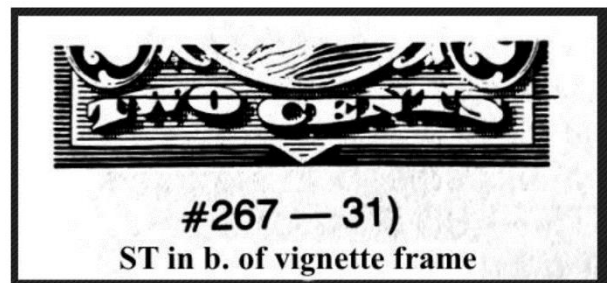
5. **What is Hard White Paper?** - Hard white paper is a stiffer paper than soft paper. The hard white paper was commonly used by the National and Continental Bank Note Companies between 1870 and 1873. One of the major distinctions of hard white paper is that it contains high rag content.

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
- Ten percent 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.
- The seller must notify us to remove a listing.
- Sellers must notify us to remove or change the 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>

6. **Siderographer** – One that makes steel plate engravings; a person who used the mechanical process developed by Jacob Perkins in the early 1800s enabling the unlimited reproduction of engraved steel plates. The process enables the transfer of an impression from a steel plate to a steel cylinder in a rolling press
7. **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 online 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 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).
8. **Shifted Transfer** – (STs) Occur when a rocking-in sweep of the transfer roll is made with too much pressure, causing the plate to move slightly forward in the transfer press. The next pass of the transfer roll to deepen the impression then does not seal exactly into the first impression and lines are doubled outward at the forward edge of the design Scott 267 – 31 illustrates this variety. – French -



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

SANDIPEX 2023

June 11
July 9
August 13
September 10
October 15
Nov 19
Dec 17

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

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

10. **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

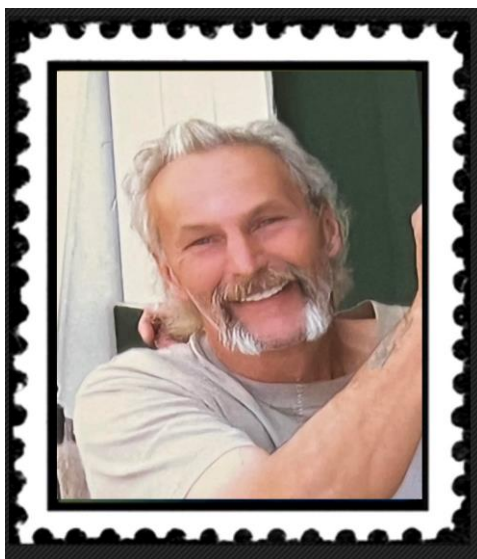


CLOSED ALBUM



CLOSED ALBUM

By David Klauber



It is with great sadness that we must announce that one of our long-term and cherished members, **Duane Pryhoda** has passed. He passed on May 17th at 10 a.m. in Poway, surrounded by his family and friends in his final hours. He will be greatly missed.

Duane was a long-time member of the Poway Stamp Club and a devoted volunteer for both the Club and the San Diego Philatelic Library. He functioned as the Poway Stamp Clubs Official Auctioneer for over 5 years. Duane was my friend, and I will miss him; he always had a unique sense of humor often joking with me; that between us, all we lacked was a Parrot to make one heck of a Pirate (his leg and my patched eye) and he didn't use the word "heck". Duane was an avid collector of U.S. Banknote Fancy Cancels, Advertising Covers, US, and Worldwide stamps.

Many Club members will remember Duane as that guy who always carried a blue bank pouch, containing his immediate stamp-collecting supplies, including a pair of tongs, a lighted magnifier tool, and not one but two large magnifying glasses. I know because he was always leaving it behind after meetings.

Duane was a NASCAR enthusiast; he would watch his races every weekend. During these persistent left-turn events, phone call interruptions were tolerated but never appreciated. He collected NASCAR memorabilia specifically those items associated with his favorite driver Jimmy Johnson. Duane also collected stamps with specific cancellations from Rochester N.Y., which was the town where he grew up. Duane would frequently talk about his years in Rochester and his sisters (especially his little sister Karen) who still lives there.

Duane is survived by a son and daughter and his 3 sisters a niece and a grandniece. Duane will be missed by all those whose lives he touched.

May Duane Rest in Peace





Member Spotlight!

By Newsletter Editor



The Poway Stamp Club Newsletter highlights its new members in each issue. Today's spotlight is on our 2 new members.

**Darby Walker
Michel Babin**

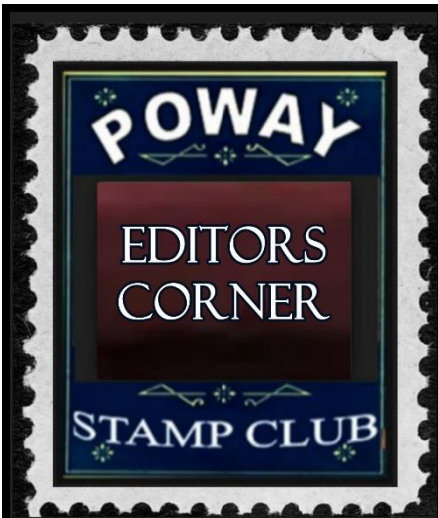
We have received 2 new requests for membership which was received and granted to the following person(s):

#550 Darby Walker of Encinitas California, was presented to the club by Art Berg. Darby collects United States Stamps. Darby has recently re-engaged in one of the hobbies of his youth, and the Club will do everything we can to support it. We look forward to working with him at shows and on our website bid board.

#551 Michel Babin of Scripps Ranch San Diego California, was presented to the club by Art Berg. Michel eagerly collects United States Stamps. We hope to see Michel at our monthly meetings and become an integral part of our growing club. Michel was an active part of his first meeting, participating in our Stamp "Super Sale". Welcome to the Club!

This brings our total membership to **114**. We look forward to getting together with all our new and existing members.

Let me also impress upon each existing member the goal of increasing our membership, and that each member should strive to increase our roster by at least one new member each year.



Definitions

The following definition of EFO and other terms support the ongoing Editors Corner series on Varieties, EFO's and Counterfeits.

EFO is the shorthand for "Error, Freak, or Oddity". It's a term applied to philatelic items that were formed unintentionally abnormal.

Errors: These are usually "major" errors with catalog status, where something has gone entirely wrong. Examples of "errors" are consistent, unintentional deviations from the normal. Typically, errors are stamps that are wrongly perforated, both between or completely imperforated, Fully incorrect, shifted or omitted color(s), inverted centers or frames, multiple impressions, missing/inverted surcharges, missing or wrong watermarks or tagging, and FULL stamps on either side of an interpane, gutter, factually wrong or misspelled information, etc.

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Editors Corner

By David Klauber

EFO Revealed



SC #698 Cracked Plate Issue Fourth Bureau Varieties



Typical Golden Gate U.S. SC# 698
(Courtesy David Klauber)

Golden Gate Issue, San Francisco #698

20¢ Carmine Rose; Deep Carmine rose; double transfers
~672,000,000 - Rotary Press Printing - Perf. 10.5 x 11
9/8/1931

Recently one of our PSC members asked me about Cracked Plates, so I will resurrect an article from 2019 that describes one of the more dramatic examples from your editor's collection. Stamp #698 was issued during the U.S., Great Depression, and was meant to capture the majesty and grandeur of our nation. The SC #698 issue represents the Golden Gate which was given its name by American explorer John C Fremont.³ The series of 1926-31 was printed using a Stickney rotary Intaglio press to save precious dollars. The full-rigged ship depicted in the painting and on the stamp was reportedly the "W.F. Babcock."⁴

Freaks: Also called “varieties”, are generally defined as a lesser degree of a production problem. Typically freaks have flaws that are not consistent or do not have catalog status. Examples of freaks include ink smudges, off-center perforation shifts, partially missing colors or partial/random color shifts, pre-printing paper folds, paper creases, over or under-inked stamps, and so forth. Freaks often sell for less than their “error” counterparts. Printing plate cracks, wear, and other flaws such as repairs, or *re-entries* are freaks and not typically considered to be errors.

Oddities:

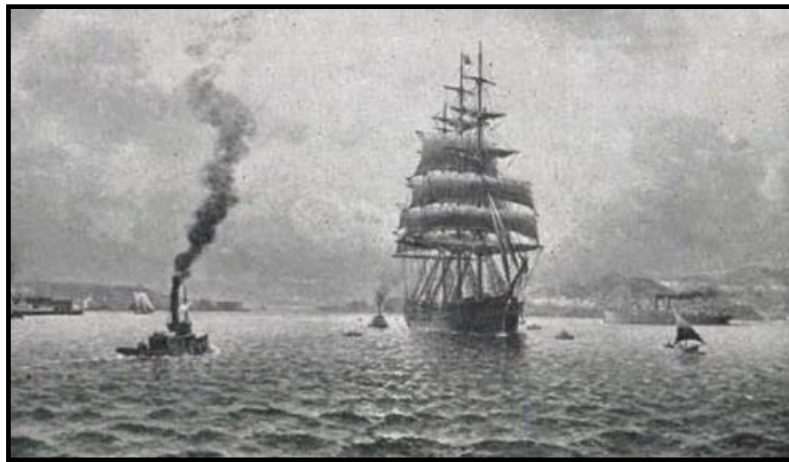
The catch-all category for anything that is left. Oddities can be subtle problems that do not have catalog status. Examples include cancel and plate varieties, inverted USPS cancels, minor perforation shifts, and minor color shifts. Most oddities are curiosities and have lower EFO values.

There continues to be a debate about the definition of freaks vs oddities. This is one area where classification can be a matter of opinion. Frequently the debate is over pre-printing paper folds and centers on how minor (oddy) or how major (freaky) a fold is. As it turns out, one man’s freak is another man’s oddity.

Counterfeit, Forgery, or Fake.

Counterfeit: Fraudulent reproduction of a stamp meant to defraud the issuing authority. (Typically used as postage)

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Paintings by William Alexander Coulter, were the inspiration for the Golden Gate stamps vignette design^{1,5}

One of the most interesting plate varieties of this stamp, one which has caused considerable differences of opinion in describing it, is in the lower right pane of plate 20538 (the Plate number below stamp No. 100). The 26th stamp appeared to have a heavy vertical gash in the upper right corner which was generally believed to be a crack and is listed in the *Johl Vol. III catalogs*. Other descriptions have listed it as a double transfer.⁵ Johl describes the marks as being two distinct vertical lines and two horizontal marks which are consistent with and believed to have been caused by the unintended dropping of the transfer roll on the plate which has impressed part of the frame line and a nearby part of the design.



Plate Crack is located in the upper right area of Stamp #698. Images (Courtesy David. Klauber)

Forgery: Fraudulent reproduction or alteration of a stamp meant to defraud (not the issuing authority), In philately, forged stamps are altered to defraud you the buyer.

Fakes: An imitation stamp, or reprint. Many fakes are on the market, typically sold as fakes but rarely sold as genuine. In philately, fakes are expressions of art that are not offered as genuine to defraud. (Reprints may be considered fakes)

More Important Definitions

Reissues

A reprint of a currently available stamp)

Reprints

Copies of the obsolete originals, or previously issued. They are sold by the Government they are not classified as proofs and are sometimes printed for collector's purposes only.

Special Printings

(Original plate stamps for non-postal use, while originals are still valid for postage)

Government-issued Reproductions

(Not printed from the original plates, not valid postage, considered likenesses.)

Examples US Scott 3-4

Se-tenant Pair

A planned pair, strip, or block of adjacent stamps (either horizontal or vertical), which were printed from the same plate and/or sheet. The stamps must be un-separated and deliberately different from each other by design, color, denomination, or overprint.

Scott issue 698 does not list a cracked plate for the Golden Gate stamp. The *Encyclopedia of Plate Varieties on U.S. Bureau Printed Postage Stamps* by Loran C ("Cloudy") French, published in 1979 by the Bureau Issues Association, then renamed the United States Stamp Society in 2000, lists this variety as *LR 26 Scratch in ur. Corner – MW 11/2/31.* The listing shows the known position as pane 20538; LR26 along with a mislabeled image #3 as LR 12. Since French lists it both ways it would be interesting to find a complete pane of this issue to determine which is correct LR 26 or 12? *Does anyone of our readers have one?*



Plate Crack is located in the upper right area of Stamp #698.

Images (Courtesy David. Klauber)

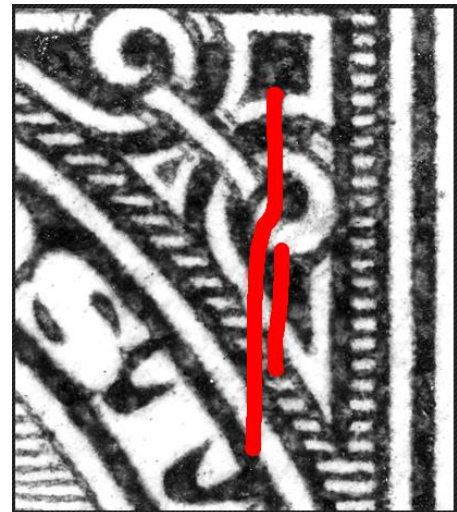


Plate Crack left and Right cracks shown in **RED** of Stamp #698.

Images (Courtesy David. Klauber)

Type-Variety/Combination

Pair – An unplanned pair, strip, or block of adjacent stamps (either horizontal or vertical). The stamps must be un-severed and differ by variety, meaning that at least one member of the pair/strip/block differs in some detail from the “normal” issue. The detail may or may not be an actual philatelic “error”.



The entirety of the Plate Crack is shown left in **RED** of Stamp #698.

Images (Courtesy David Klauber)



Images (Courtesy David Klauber)

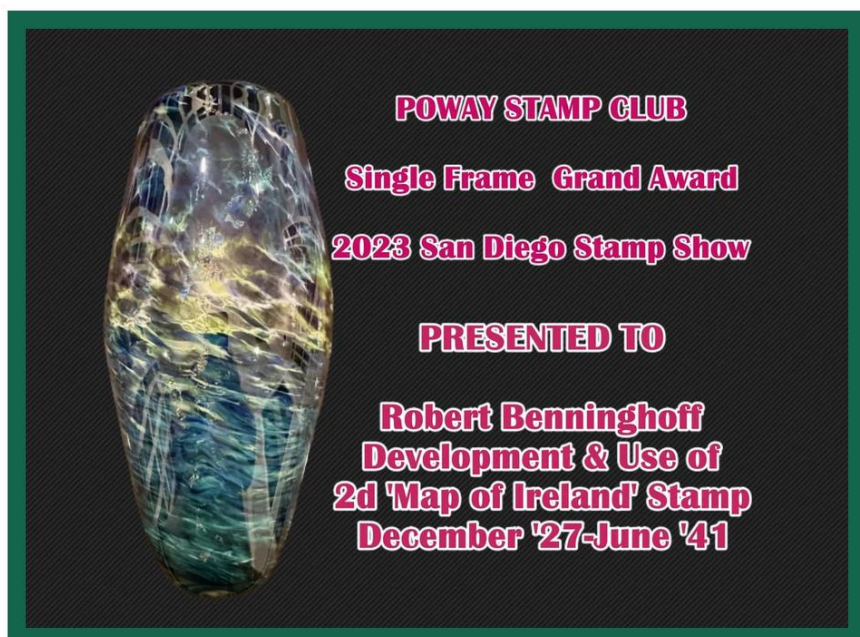
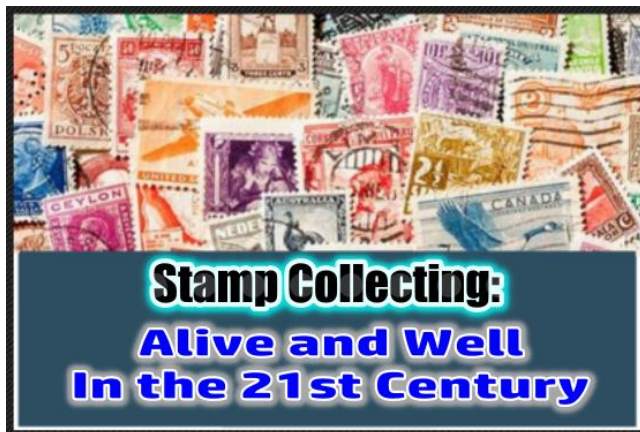
Plate Variety collecting is a deep and rich field that can provide hours of fun. All you need is a magnifier, but a copy of French’s book would help.²

Again, EFOs 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 the production of stamps.



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

1. *Stamp Information*, #698, <https://www.theswedishtiger.com/698-scotts.html>
2. *U.S. Stamp Notes* – By John M. Hotchner; *Plate varieties found on Fourth Bureau Issue*; 2018.
3. *3 U.S. #698 1931 20¢ Golden Gate*;
<https://www.mysticstamp.com/Products/United-States/698/USA/>
4. *4 20-cent Golden Gate*; *Arago People, Postage & The Post*; Rod Juell, May 16, 2006, https://arago.si.edu/category_2033936.html
5. *"The United States Postage Stamps of the 20th Century"* Vol. III; Johl
6. [Klauber], *Photographs taken using a Celestron MP Handheld Digital Microscope Pro*





Member Article

By Bill O'Connor

United States Postage Due A brief History to 1941



Part 1

A postage due notification on an envelope indicates that insufficient payment was provided to send the article to the destination indicated on the cover or package. Prior to 1879, a written or hand stamp was attached to the article indicating the payment due. In 1879 by an Act of Congress, stamps were authorized to indicate the specific amount due. This enhanced the accountability for all Postmasters to be more accurate in collecting fees due the postal system.

By 1985 with the advent of legislating full payment for all classifications of the mail at the time of mailing, the use of postage due stamps became obsolete. What follows is a look at several covers in my collection that indicate a payment due and the reason for such. In some cases, some speculation is inevitable due to the paucity of information given on the cover by the US postal service at the time.

The first cover shown from Albany to Saratoga Springs, New York has a written 3 cents due and one of the early postage due stamps affixed, either a J3 or hopefully a J17. The postage provided is correct for a one-half ounce rate, so perhaps a one-ounce letter requiring six cents postage was necessary. The year date is not provided in the Albany cancel and on the back cancel for Saratoga Springs so precise dating would need more study.



First Cover; 3 Cent Postage Due on cover Albany to Saratoga Springs; Late 1870s to Early 1880s.

The next cover is one sent from Los Angeles to Japan in 1913. A domestic 2-cent stamp is provided, but the international rate was 5 cents: thus, a deficiency of 3 cents. The international system using the French, 30 centimes, corresponding to a total of 6 cents postage due, also indicated by a Due 6 Cents hand stamp.



Second Cover; Los Angeles to Japan, November 17, 1913, with postage due indications of 6 cents.

As this letter was returned to a new address in Chicago, the 6 cents in postage due affixed to the back of the cover would explain the 30-centime rate of 5 Centimes equaling one cent. If it were 10 centimes to the cent, then the original deficiency would have been paid but no fee for the return of the cover. One other possibility could be that a double fee was charged in Japan; could that mean that the fee was split between the two countries? The back shows the 6 cents in postage due stamps, one cent and 5 cents, most likely J45 and J48. The Japanese back stamps indicate the letter was received in Japan.



Back of Second Cover; Postage Due stamps showing 6 Cents, and Japan back stamps. The next cover simply indicates a failure to apply the correct 2-cent postage to this small-sized envelope. The standard DUE 2 CENTS hand stamp indicated the appropriate fee for sending this letter to the correct address in St. Louis.



Third Cover; 2 cent Postage Due, Saint Louis, 1926

Although an analogous situation to the last example, as no stamps seemed to have been affixed to this envelope, no reference is provided as to the correct postage due other than the stamps applied. Why double the postage due this time? This is a remarkably interesting mourning cover sent to an incredibly famous scientist/engineer, but why 4 cents rather than 2 cents?



Fourth cover; Mourning Cover, Grand Central Station, N.Y. to Schenectady, 1927.

By 1927 airmail rates were becoming much more standardized so the rate for this cover was 10 cents per one-half oz. Why is the additional 10 cents postage due? Perhaps this letter's weight was one oz., which would require an additional 10 cents. The amount of the postage due is penciled in so that gives more flexibility for the carrier to determine what is due.



Fifth Cover; Portland to Los Angeles, 1927; 10 cents postage due.

The next cover, Los Angeles to Chicago, is also an airmail example and is one of the more interesting ones that I have acquired. The rates for 1930 had been reduced to 5 cents per oz., which made airmail usage much more reasonable. As this was a special flight the pilot autographed the envelope but used the stamp rather than part of the cover. This invalidated the stamp and thus a postage-due charge. The pilot, Al Wilson, 1895-1932, was associated with Cecil B. DeMille but tragically died of injuries from a plane crash in 1932. According to a note in the envelope, 50 such covers were to be produced. I wonder how many survived?



Sixth cover; 1930, Special Flight from Los Angeles to Chicago; 5 cents postage due.

The next to the last example is a postcard from the post office, form 3547-S, Notice to Sender of Forwarding Address. Why is the fee for 38 cents? Perhaps a package was sent that required this amount of postage.



Seventh Cover; 1940, St. Louis, Post Office Card requesting Forwarding Postage.

The final cover presented in this first part of a two-part presentation comes from the First Marine Brigade. The cover from Iceland to San Diego, 1941. According to our good friend, Larry Sherman, this movement of troops from San Diego to Iceland was to forestall a German landing. As the free franking privilege for the military was not authorized until late December 1941, domestic postage rates applied to letters being sent from bases overseas. As the domestic letter rate was 3 cents, and no such postage was available at the time this letter was posted, a 3-cent postage due rate was applied. According to Mr. Sherman, local post offices and local postal personnel often waived or paid the postage for such letters. Accordingly, one does not see too many of these letters with a postage-due indication.



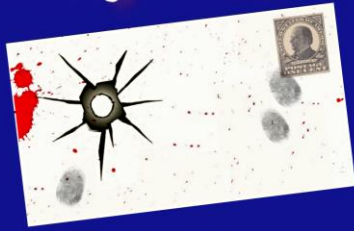
Eighth cover; Marine Mail, No Stamps Available, Iceland to San Diego, CA, August 4, 1941.

Notes:

I would like to thank Larry Sherman, Ron Couchot, Les Lanphear, Bob Egenhuysen, and the members of the Philatelic 25 for their comments and additional information concerning some of the covers presented. Scott Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps and Covers, 2018 edition provided much of the specific information concerning rates and types of postage due stamps used during this period.



Every Cover



Tells A Story

Member Article

By Jim Grundy

Every Cover Tells a Story



This cover poses a lot of questions. Why are there so many signatures on this 1965 cover from Waimea, Kauai, Hawaii? What event would bring all these people to the Pacific Missile Range Tracking Facility on March 23, 1965? Why would you need three doctors? A clue may be visible in the middle of the far-left side of the cover. Why would Neal Armstrong, a NASA astronaut, be there? Let's try to answer these questions and see what we find.

With all these people being at the Pacific Missile Range Training Facility in Waimea, Hawaii, it would make one think that they are there to track a missile. March 25, 1965, is significant because NASA launched the Gemini III space capsule on that date. The capsule was launched in Florida, not Hawaii. Why were these people in Hawaii, not Florida?

NASA had three space programs that were all focused on landing a man on the Moon. The first was called Mercury. Its purpose was to put one astronaut in space at a time to get familiar with the space environment. The next was called Gemini. It was designed to carry two astronauts at a time into space, stay there for a longer period of time, and to learn how to connect and disconnect from another vessel in Earth orbit. These experiments were conducted in preparation for the transition from Earth orbit to the Moon.

The Apollo Program had three astronauts in the capsule with the goal of going to and landing on the Moon. In the Gemini and Apollo Programs, the first two capsules that were launched were unmanned. This means that Gemini III, with Gus Grissom and John Young aboard, was the first time that this capsule would be flown by two astronauts in space. The first manned flight in the Gemini Program could cause mechanical and physical problems for the astronauts.

To address these possible mechanical and physical issues, NASA stationed teams of astronauts, doctors, and engineers at key sites along the spacecraft's orbit around the Earth. One of these sites was in Hawaii. Why was staffing these sites necessary? Couldn't any problems that could have arisen have been handled by the NASA staff in Florida or from NASA's Headquarters in Texas? The answer is no. In the 1960s, communicating with people around the world was a problem. The satellite communication that we have today was only a dream. Communicating with astronauts orbiting the Earth at speeds faster than 17,500 an hour made this problem even more complicated. As long as the Gemini III capsule was in the neighborhood of one of the sites, the astronauts in space and the people on the ground site could exchange information and address any problems. Specially equipped communication ships were placed in ocean communication voids to maintain contact with the capsule. The Station Manager, doctors, engineers, and astronauts all played a part in maintaining the safety of the men in space and signed the cover as witness to this event.

What happened to the astronauts involved in this article? John Young was one of NASA's most active astronauts. Besides Gemini III, he flew on Gemini X, Apollo 10, and 16, and Space Shuttle flights STS-1 and STS-9. Young was the ninth man to walk on the Moon. He died in 2018. After Gemini III, Gus Grissom transferred to the Apollo Program. He was a member of the three-man crew scheduled to fly their first mission. Unfortunately, Grissom died along with his two crew mates when a fire broke out in the capsule while they were practicing for their flight on January 27, 1957. The astronaut that signed this cover was Neil Armstrong. Armstrong was part of the two-man crew on Gemini VIII. Neil went to the Moon on Apollo 11 and cemented his place in history by becoming the first Earthling to walk on the lunar surface. He died in 2012.

Member Article

By Jon Schrag

Japan Sheets (Fakes)



Our dear friend Jerry Tronier had about 2,000 FAKE Japan 1934 airmail souvenir sheets sitting in his collection a year before he passed away. He gave me 200 of his fake sheets in super-neat post office fresh-type packages. The catalog value of the real Japan sheets is currently Y320,000 in the Sakura catalog (about \$3,000) each but his were all FAKES. He acquired them in a “box lot” from a non-collector friend. His cost was pennies. See attached photo of a fake sheet.



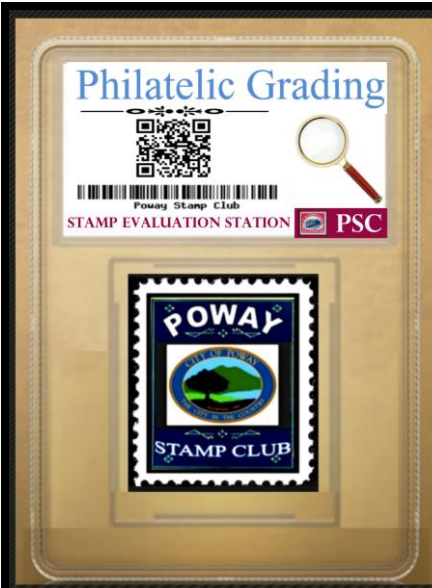
The German culprit-originator of the fake Japan sheets did an excellent job. But like most greedy criminals he wanted more. So, he made all his fake sheets IMPERFORATE. No stamp catalog in the world shows that imperforates were ever produced for this issue in Japan. So, identification as fakes was obvious. If it was IMPERFORATE, it was FAKE.

Fake stamps have been in existence since the early days of stamp collecting. One of the most common types of fakes involves **OVERPRINTS**. There is the famous US Airmail “RF” overprint from WWII US-occupation postal operations in France. It only can be verified, and it only makes sense on cover but thousands of individual RF overprinted U S airmails exist off cover. Why?



A handy rubber “RF” stamper and ink pad from your local office-supply store is all it takes to turn a 20c common US airmail stamp into a seemingly valuable collector item. Do not be fooled when you find a super-value RF airmail overprinted stamp in your one-pound economy stamp mixture! It is a homemade fake.

Jon



Member Article

By David B. Waller

Philatelic Grading: Centering



In April, the Poway Stamp Club published an article on Philatelic Grading that elaborated on six criteria used when grading stamps. This article discusses in more detail the importance of proper registration when grading early issue United States bicolored stamps.

The first bicolored U.S. stamps were the 1869 Pictorial Issues (Scott nos. 118-122 and 129-132) and the first bicolored U.S. commemorative stamps (produced by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing) were the Pan-American Exposition issue of 1901 (Scott nos. 294-299). Two of the 1901 commemorative issue stamps are used here as examples to further elaborate on the registration process and demonstrate how important this criterion can be for grading these higher-valued stamps.

The technology in the late 19th and early 20th centuries could not print both colors simultaneously. Consequently, these stamps were printed from two plates in two separate operations, one for each color of ink (*i.e.*, the intaglio multiplate printing process).

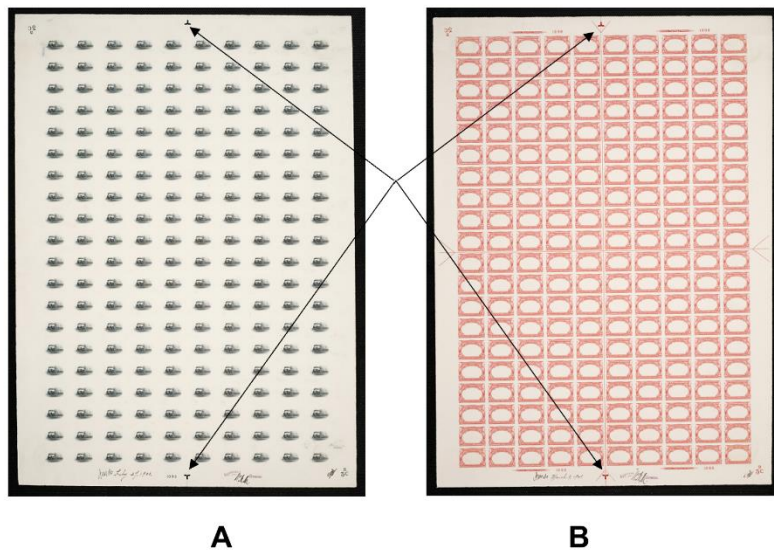


Figure 1: A) shows a vignette sheet for Scott no. 295 and B) shows a frame sheet for Scott no. 295. Registration marks on these sheets at the top and bottom are indicated by arrows.

In the Pan-American Exposition issues, the center image, or “vignette,” of these stamps were printed in one color (*i.e.*, black, Figure 1A) and engraved on one plate. The outer image, or “frame” was printed in a different color (*i.e.*, green for the 1-cent, carmine for the 2-cent, red-brown for the 4-cent, ultramarine for the 5-cent, brown-violet for the 8-cent and yellow-brown for the 10-cent denominations, Figure 1 B) and engraved on a different plate. During printing, the paper went through the press twice, once for each color (<https://postalmuseum.si.edu/exhibition/stamps-take-flight-creating-america%E2%80%99s-stamps-classic-engraving/adding-a-second-color>).

Unfortunately, the use of two plates and two printing passes created opportunities for errors. While almost all the stamps were printed correctly, errors occurred when the registration marks were not properly aligned, (*i.e.*, one mark directly on top of the other, Figures 2A-B, 3A-D), a plate was reversed after cleaning, or the paper was rotated before it went through a second time. The last two events produced the famous inverted specimens of the 1-cent, 2-cent, and 4-cent denominations (Figure 4).



A

B

Figure 2: **A)** shows the registration marks for this Scott no. 295 with the black registration mark shifted up and slightly to the right and **B)** shows the registration marks for this Scott no. 295 with the black registration mark shifted up and slightly to the left. When properly registered, the second mark is aligned directly over the first mark so that when printed the two merge into a single mark that appears all black.



A



B



C



D

Figure 3: **A)** shows vignette shifted upward and slightly to the right, **B)** shows the vignette shifted downward, **C)** shows the vignette shifted to the right and downward and **D)** shows the vignette shifted to the left and upward.



Figure 4: shows vignette of Scott nos. 294 (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pan-American_invert), 295 (<https://www.usphila.com/us/stamp/price/scott-295-page-1>) and 296 (<https://www.usphila.com/us/stamp/price/scott-296-page-2>) inverted in the frame.

Several sheets with errors were caught and destroyed, but at least one of each of these inverted error sheets made it through to a Washington, D.C., post office. To avoid future problems, the word “TOP” was added to each plate of subsequent bicolored issues. In Figure 5, this mark appears in red at the top of the sheet for Scott No. 651.



Figure 5: shows the upper portion of a sheet of Scott no. 651. The arrow points to the “TOP” designation that was added to later stamp issues to prevent inversion of the vignette in the frame. Both plates contained this designation, so one was printed with the frame in red and the other was printed with the vignette in black.

So how is proper registration determined? Proper registration may be observed in a die-proof or determined from an intact grouping of stamps with salvage containing registration marks (Figure 2A-B). In the Pan-American Exposition issue, each denomination has a differently shaped frame. Consequently, each must be treated independently when establishing a method for determining proper registration. In this article, Scott nos. 294 and 295, have been selected as examples of how proper registration can be calculated.

If the registration marks shown in Figures 2A-B were properly aligned, then the position of the vignette in the frame for Scott no. 295 would appear to be that shown in Figure 6A. However, while the registration in Figure 6A appears to be what was intended, there is also the option of a perfectly centered vignette (*i.e.*, shifted slightly higher in the frame) as shown in Figure 6B. The presence of two desirable orientations can be explained because the vignette is oval, but the frame is not. As a collector, I would like a properly registered specimen, but esthetically, I might prefer a perfectly centered specimen. Unfortunately, if these two stamps were graded based on proper registration, then only the stamp in Figure 6A could receive a grade of 100. Because these two configurations are desirable, it may be beneficial to grade them the same but designate on the grading certificate that the grade is based either on registration or centering of the vignette within the frame. Whether such a designation would affect the value of one stamp over the other is unknown.



A



B

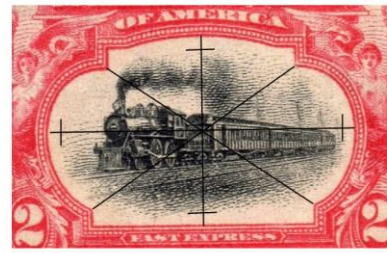
Figure 6: A) shows what would appear to be the proper positioning of the vignette in the frame based on the registration marks as seen in Figure 2 above, slightly lower than in Figure 6B and B) shows the vignette almost perfectly centered in the frame.

So, if a stamp does not have the benefit of registration marks, how can one determine if the centering is proper? As suggested above, calculations to establish standard distances can be obtained from proofs or from a grouping of stamps having salvage containing registration marks. The values calculated for a given stamp can then be compared to these standard distances. However, calculating becomes difficult when the vignette touches or extends over the frame (*i.e.*, no space is available for measuring) or the vignettted image is not clear, or all the engraved markings of the vignette are not present (*i.e.*, extended use of the plate can compromise the integrity of the engraved image). While some of these vignette shifts may be desirable, the focus of this discussion will be on those stamps that do not have these characteristics.

One possible method to calculate the quality of the registration for Scott no. 295 would be to create an enlarged image of the stamp so that physical measurements of distances between the vignette and the inside of the frame for each of the four sides can be determined. To make these calculations, two diagonal lines from the vertices of the interior of the frame are drawn, then a vertical and horizontal centerline is drawn from where the two diagonal lines intersect. Calculations of the distance from the vignette that falls on these centerlines to the inside of the frame are measured for all four sides (Figure 7). Since there are two potentially desirable configurations, there are two distance normalization ratio configurations, one in which the vignette is visually centered (ratio, 1:1:1:1) and one in which the vignette and frame are in proper registration (ratio, 1:00 (top):0.63 (left side):0.25 (bottom):0.63 (right-side)).



A



B

Figure 7: **A)** shows diagonal and centerlines for a properly registered specimen of Scott no. 295 with the hash marks on these centerlines where the vignette falls for making distance determinations and **B)** shows diagonal and centerlines for a perfectly centered vignette of Scott no. 295 with the hash marks on these centerlines where the vignette falls for making distance determinations.

The normalization ratio obtained in Figure 7A is used to determine the values of the top, bottom, left-side and right-side margins between the vignette and frame of the stamp to be graded. This is accomplished by preparing an enlarged image of the stamp, physically measuring the four distances, multiplying the normalization ratio by the highest value measured, dividing each of the measured values by their corresponding normalized ratio value, multiplying these values by 100, adding the four values together, dividing by four and rounding up to obtain a two-digit registration value. For example, a hypothetical stamp has the measurements 7.0mm (top), 3.5mm (left side), 1.5mm (bottom), and 4.0mm (right side). The normalization ratio is multiplied by the largest distance to obtain a normalized ratio of 7.0 (top):4.4 (left side):1.75 (bottom):4.4 (right side).

Each of the measured distances is divided by its corresponding normalized ratio value (*i.e.*, 1.000:0.794:0.857:0.907). Each of these values is multiplied by 100 (*i.e.*, 100:79.4:85.7:90.7), they are added together, divided by four, and rounded up to give the registration grade of 89 for our hypothetical stamp.

Scott no. 294 has a vignette that can fit nicely within its frame providing distances that can be easily measured. Since both the vignette and interior of the frame are oval there is only one configuration unlike Scott no. 295. The method used to calculate the quality of the registration for this issue could be similar to that used for Scott no. 295. Create an enlarged image of the stamp, then draw a vertical and horizontal centerline at the greatest distance from the interior of the frame top to bottom, and side to side.

Calculate the distance from the vignette that falls on these centerlines to the inside of the frame for all four sides. The normalization ratio of these measurements is 0.49 (top):1.00 (right side):0.49 (bottom):1.00 (left side) (Figure 8). The calculations described above for Scott no. 295 can then be performed to determine the registration grade of any relatively well-centered Scott no. 294 specimen.



Figure 8: shows centerlines for a properly registered specimen of Scott no. 294 with the hash marks on these centerlines where the vignette falls for making distance determinations.

So then how do we grade those stamps in which the vignette touches or overlaps the frame? This has yet to be determined. Many of the Pan-American Exposition issue stamps have vignettes that overlap the frame. For Scott no. 295, there are two centering positions in which there is no overlap. However, the vignettes of the 5-cent and 8-cent denominations barely fit within the area provided in the frame, and the 4-cent and 10-cent denomination vignette exceeds the area provided. Consequently, a different method will have to be used for these denominations.

Similar types of calculations may be made for the other early issue bicolored stamps, particularly those of higher value (*i.e.*, Pictorial Issues, Scott nos. 118-122, 129-132, 1917 regular issues, Scott Nos. 523, 524, 1920 regular issue Scott No. 547 and 1922-25 regular issue, Scott no. 573). If these or similar methods are accepted, then the grading certificates should also contain the measurements, margin ratios, and enlargement scale as well as the final grade. It would also be helpful to provide an image of the stamp showing the centerlines and other markings, to avoid confusion and allow future experts to confirm previous calculations.

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A rectangular advertisement with a dark background and white text. The text reads: "Complete your U.S. and International Stamp Collections" in large, bold letters. Below this, in smaller text, are "• Country Price Lists • Collections • Mixtures • Special Offerings". At the bottom, the website "www.Lcstamps.com" is written in large, bold letters, with "(60+ years of serving the stamp hobby)" in smaller text underneath.

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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

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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

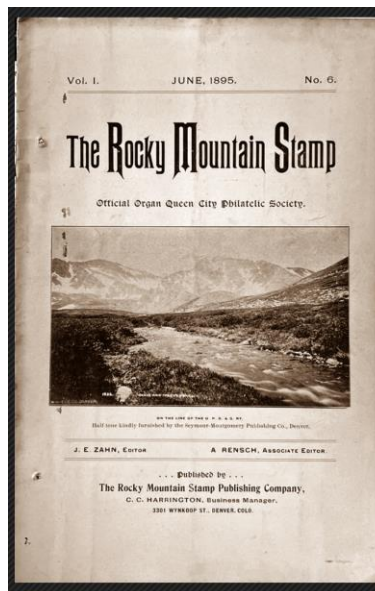
STAMP NEWS



U.S. Postal
Service Reveals
More Stamps

Stamp News 1895

By D. Klauber



In June 1895, 128 years ago this month “**The Rocky Mountain Stamp.**” Printed the following article titled “Boston Notes.” By Tilton S. Bell. It is interesting to see how much and yet how little has changed in those years since.

Every now and then we hear or see some collector who is a little “pinched” for ready money and in consequence offers his Columbian “set” for sale. Only last week a collector came into the writer’s place of business and had a set each of used and unused for sale at a very moderate price. They were two of the finest sets I ever saw, and it might be quite a surprise when at the next auction sale of one of our societies these same stamps are held up before the eyes of all. The unused one dollar had on the outside paper, with part of the American Banke Note Company in words which will doubtless make it more valuable, or salable.

When the 2-cent carmine of the 1890 issue with the block of the 2, first made its appearance, collectors generally thought that it would not amount to much. Today, however, all are being carefully laid away, and although they do not bring much on the market, they may in time, be worth quite a little. I think collectors would do well to hold on to all they can get, for before long we may find that they are cataloged under a separate heading and that too, at no mean price.

Stamp News 2023

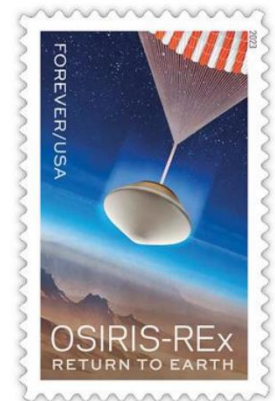


The 2023 stamp program features a broad range of subjects and designs. These miniature works of art highlight our unique American culture and offer a broad selection for those looking to collect stamps or send their mail around the nation or the world,” said USPS Stamp Services Director William Gicker.

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 panels, 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 highlights 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 is 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 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 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 the 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 the 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.



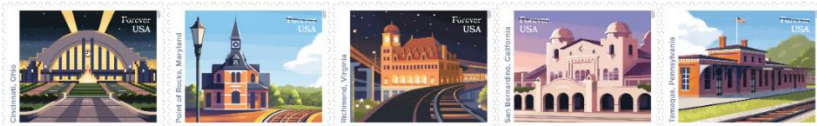
Chief Standing Bear May 12th

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 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 issue.

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. 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 the state in which it is located. Art director Greg Breeding designed the stamps and pane with existing photographs.



The

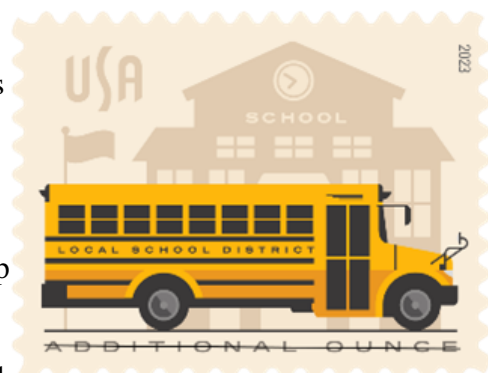
in

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 the 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 a 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 a 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 non-denominated, non-profit-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.



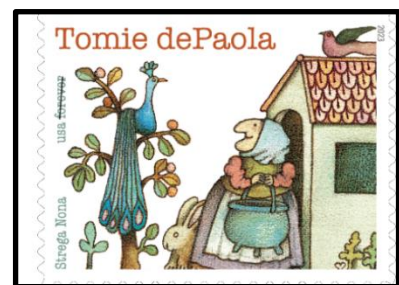
Life Magnified Aug. 10 Cleveland OH.

These stamps reveal life on Earth as 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 highlights a photograph of Lewis taken by Steve Schapiro in 1963 outside a workshop about the 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 form line 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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