



Poway Stamp Club

NEWSLETTER



San Diego County's Best Stamp Collecting Club

May 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 **May 10th** Program will be a philatelic presentation by:

Colin Fort

&

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.

Please remember to bring your badge.

The Wednesday **May 24th** program will be:

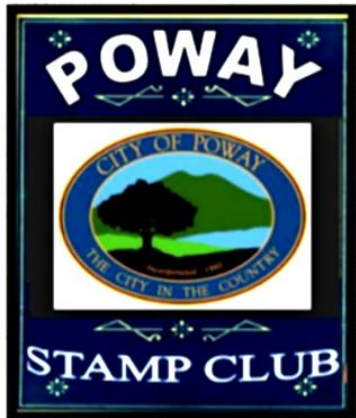
Club Super Sale

Covers – Books – Stamps – Ephemera

The Many Club Donations have begun to pile up again so this will be an opportunity for our members to thin the herd.

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



Poway Stamp Club

2023-24 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.

May	May	10, 2023	Colin Fort - Malta
	May	24, 2023	Club -Super Sale
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
April	Apr	10, 2024	TBD - Presentation
	Apr	24, 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:

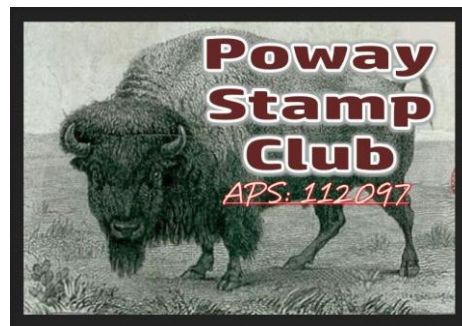
Registrar: Trice Klauber
Auctioneer: Duane Pryhoda
Asst. Auctioneer Jim Grundy
Club Librarian Scott Boyd
Newsletter Editor David Klauber
Letter Contributors Jon Schrag
 Bob McArthur
 Bill O'Connor
 Manny Marti
 Jim Grundy
Library Rep: Bob Eygenhuysen
Opp. Drawing Scott Boyd
WebMaster David Klauber
Public 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. # 532 Imperforate. The poor quality of ink at the time wore out the plates quickly. By switching to offset printing the plates lasted longer. The use of offset press would stay in place until the quality of available ink improved, which was expected to happen once world trade had gone back to normality after the disruption of WWI. CV: **\$45 - \$75**
 (Courtesy D. Klauber)





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. **Great American Stamp Show 2023 Cleveland** - Aug 10-13, APS ATA & FDCS. Huntington Convention Center.



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

2. **May Bid Board** – The second member only Bid Board of the year will run from Saturday May 20 – June 3 at noon. Items for sale must be submitted by May 15th. 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).



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

5. **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.
6. **Local Poway Show** (New shows this year!)

SANDIPEX 2023

- 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

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. **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.
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8. **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.
9. **Bargain Lists** – Lee Clark of Escondido is a Philatelist and publisher of Worldwide stamp mailing lists. The Club has provided Lee with an advertisement in our Newsletter. He has provided us, fresh off the press with his “Bargain List”. So, if you want to, go to www.powaystampclub.com/lc-corner and see what Lee has available for your collection.
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10. **Editor Published APS Digital** – On May 27th an article that was written for this Newsletter was fully published “unmodified” on APS digital. The article was about NFTs “Philatelic NFTs revolutionary idea or scam” See: <https://stamps.org/news/c/news/cat/local/post/philatelic-nfts-revolutionary-idea-or-scam>



Member Spotlight!

By Newsletter Editor

Member Benefits

- **Bi-Monthly Meetings:** The Stamp Club holds two meetings each month.
- **Make Friends and Meet New People:** Come spend some time with folks who share your same interests and hobbies. Our members are always happy to answer any questions you may have.
- **Opportunity Drawings:** At each meeting Club members are encouraged to purchase up to \$2 worth of drawing tickets. At the end of each meeting tickets are drawn and you may win one of the Club stamp lots displayed at the beginning of each meeting. (No purchase necessary, 1 free entry with your member Number for those in attendance)
- **Reference Materials:** Current Scott catalogs and other reference books can be signed out by members at every meeting.
- **Newsletter:** The Poway Stamp Club Newsletter is published each month and emailed to each paid member.
- **APS Circuit Books*:** Circuit books contain stamps for sale that are sent to the club to be enjoyed at our Circuit book meetings. *(Subject to Change)
- **Christmas/Holiday Party:** In December the Club schedules a holiday party, each paid member receives a free meal, member families are welcome to join, however the cost of guest meals is the responsibility of the inviting Club member.
- **Club Voice sales:** At our regular club meetings we typically have voice sales of philatelic items which have been donated to support our club.
- **Poway Stamp Club Member Voice Sales:** We have voice sales where Members can place stamps or other philatelic item up for sale.
- **Bid Boards** - Paid members are granted access to and allowed to bid or sell items on the Clubs online Bid Board.
- **Road Trips** - For those who care to attend an out-of-town show with other Club members, we will occasionally rent transportation (i.e. Bus or Van) to take us to and from a remote show venue. The Club makes the open seats available to members at very reasonable prices.
- **Evaluations** - Many of our members can also help you to evaluate the value of inherited stamp collections. If you want to know more about the value of your stamp collection, come to one of our stamp club meetings.

Becoming a Member If you are thinking about joining the Poway Stamp Club? That's fantastic! It's easy to join us. There is no member sponsorship, and you can join by simply attending one of our bi-weekly meetings and filling out one of our membership application forms (Also available online). Our club **dues are just \$10/year**, beginning in January of each year. We welcome guests to all our meetings, and we hope to see you at one soon.

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.



Editors Corner

By D. Klauber

Poway Stamp Club Receives the Library Collection of Dr. Larry Parks



I first learned about Dr. Larry Parks and his wife Sally this year. My wife Trice told me that we had been contacted via the Poway Stamp Clubs Website that there were “some” philatelic books available for our club if we were interested. That was probably the understatement of the century. Apparently, Laurie Hickman, the lovely daughter of Sally and Larry Parks, had left us a message saying that she had read an article in



Harmers about our club and as if it was an omen, we might just be the answer to the situation she had now found herself. Over the past couple of years Laurie had unfortunately lost her father Larry at 87 and soon thereafter also lost her Mother Sally, leaving Laurie with quite a dilemma, namely over 500 linear feet of double-stacked philatelic books and ephemera.

Both of her parents had been heavily involved in the world of Philately and were officers for years for the (UPSS) United Postal Stationery Society with Mr. Parks also a long-time

member of the Los Angeles Collectors Club and a 50-year member of the APS.

Larry was known to often give presentations for both organizations at his home in Thousand Oaks. Because of their dedication to these organizations, UPSS Awarded Honorary Life Memberships to both Dr. Larry Parks and Sally Parks.¹



Larry and Sally and Wayne Menuz center.



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

Trice had quickly responded to the message and after getting a few photos of the books we planned our first trip to visit the Parks' home in Thousand Oaks, northwest of Los Angeles.

Larry was an ardent collector: stamps, postal stationery, postal history, Japanese rifles, hand-held medical instruments, philatelic literature (especially the earliest journals and catalogs), early California published books on any subject, antique medical books, historic bibles, grandfather, and grandmother clocks, and, well, you get the picture. To accommodate Larry's library, an annex was constructed off one wing of the home. It had floor-to-ceiling, built-in shelves along a wall, the back, and the front. A row of tall bookcases ran down the middle. All were filled to overflowing, and many sometimes-stacked double wide on the extra deep shelves.



Sally primarily collected (and often lovingly restored) antique gas pumps and gasoline station signs, maps, toys, and all related Petroliana. After arriving at the Parks home, the remainder of these collections still lived at their residence. As for Larry's amazing Philatelic Collections, they had long since been successfully auctioned by Harmer.

For those of you that interested in Larry's collection legacy you can view the Auction Catalogs of his Postal Stationery collections at:

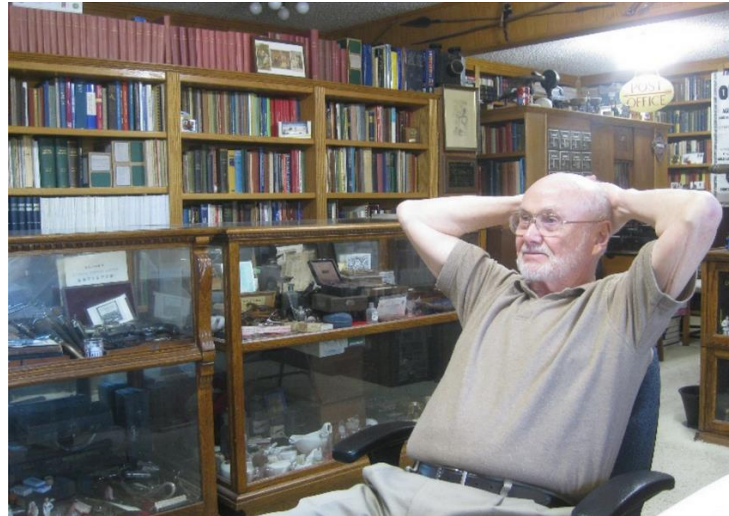
https://issuu.com/hrharmer/docs/3044_postal_stationery_parks/

and at:

https://issuu.com/hrharmer/docs/3053_catalogue



Poway Stamp Club



2015 Dr. Parks in his library, with row of cabinets with hand-held medical instruments, and behind them, a row of library shelves down the center of the room.

First, let me thank Laurie Hickman and the Parks Family Trust for the very generous donations to our club. Laurie asked that it would be necessary for the Club take the entirety of the remaining library. So, after consulting with other members of the Club, several members volunteered to rent vehicles and/or donate their time to return to Thousand Oaks and retrieve the library. Art rented a U-Haul Truck, Trice rented a U-Haul Van and obtained over 300 bankers' boxes and together Jeff Davis, Neil Schneider, Jim Grundy, Art Berg, David Klauber, Trice Klauber and Scott Boyd all went up on Wednesday the 19th of April and began loading boxes with Philatelic books.



Art Berg and Neil Schneider loading Boxes into the Truck!



#1137-112097

It is our primary goal over the next months to make available to Members many of the books from this collection to add to their personal collections . Additionally, we will donate hard copy periodicals as they are needed to the San Diego Philatelic Library collection.



Art Berg later put more Boxes into the Truck!
Eventually all the way to the top!

1. **UPSS Awards Honorary Life, Membership to Dr. Larry Parks and Sally Parks. And a Memorial to Dr. Parks; Wayne Menuz, Postal Stationery #436 January-February 2021.**



Poway Stamp Club

Member Article

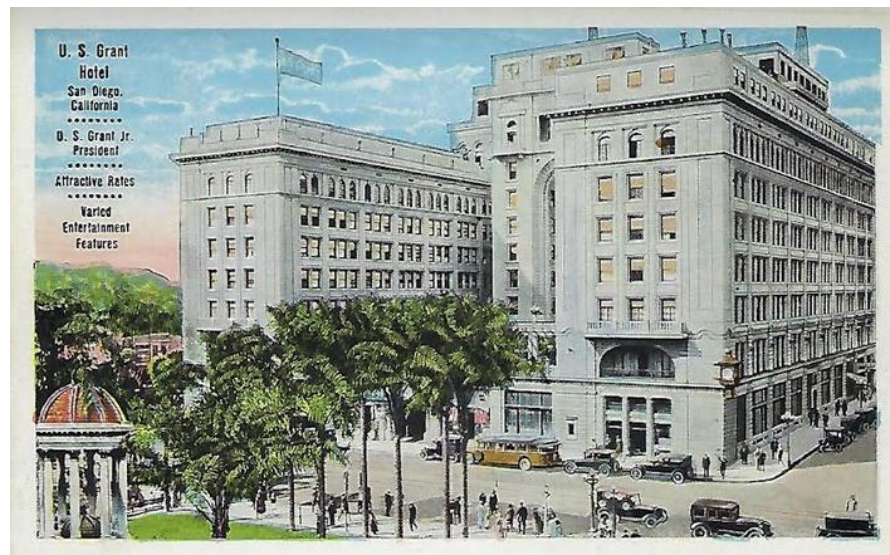
By Bill O'Connor

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



Part 2

More interesting post cards of the U.S. Grant Hotel. The last card shows the San Diego home of the former president's son.



This first card is an early view of the hotel and looks very much like a promotional card that would be found complimentary in most rooms on the writing desks for guests. This card was made by E.C. Kropp Co., Milwaukee.



#1137-112097



The next card is an old sepia colored, brownish, which one may find on old or reproductions from the past. This particular card was made by California Sales Co., San Francisco.



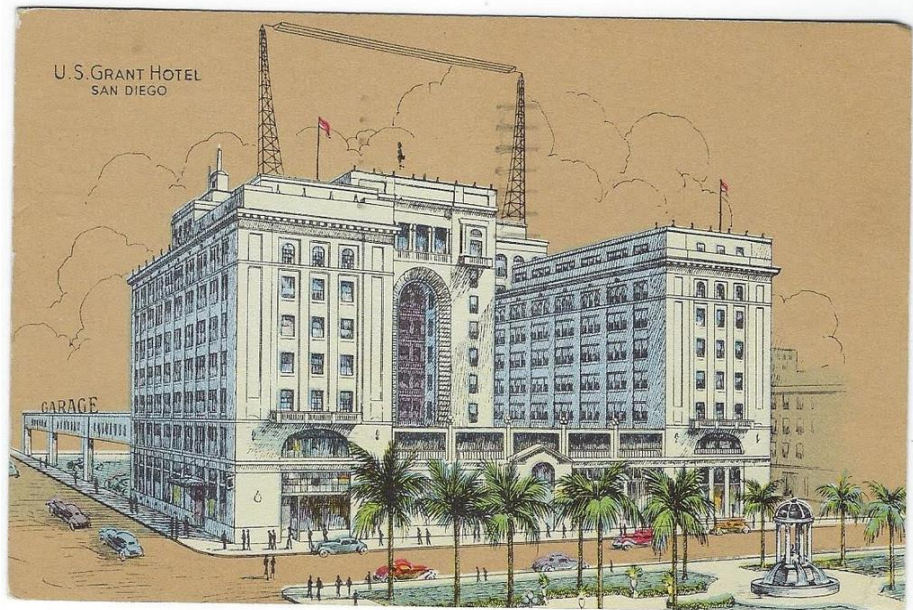
An example of a 1930s to 1940s card which has the date, February 18, 1941, plastered all over the back of the Card; produced by the Western Publishing & Novelty Co., Los Angeles.



Poway Stamp Club



This fourth card has an art deco look to it; see the renditioning of the automobiles. The post card was sent March 27, 1942, to Minnesota; A lithographed by Croker



This post card was sent October 2, 1946, to Chicago, another popular view of the hotel and the plaza. Published by the Hopkins News Agency, San Diego, and another natural color card by E.C. Kropp.



#1137-112097



This is the newest post card in my collection from the Grant hotel, actually posted, October 10, 1955. The new two cent rate was applied which once and for all ended the one cent post card domestic rate that had begun back in 1873. This card was produced by Plastichrome, Colour Picture, Boston



The final card as promised is a picture of the San Diego residence of U.S. Grant Jr., son of our 18th. President; as mentioned in the first part of this presentation, the hotel was named in honor of his father; card published by the Benham Co., Los Angeles, CA.

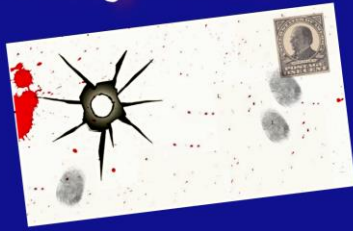
Note;

The second time a two-cent rate for domestic post cards went into effect was in 1951. This rate lasted until 1958. The first domestic rate increase for post cards went in to effect during WW 1 and ended in 1920. The current rate for domestic post cards is 48 cents, but by the time this article is published the rate will increase again.

I have in this article, added a little more information concerning the production of these post cards. Some pictures of postcards were published by different companies, and in some cases very little information is available on some of them. Additionally, a copyright did not always prevent companies from producing versions of the same picture over time.



Every Cover



Tells A Story

Member Article

By Jim Grundy

Every Cover Tells a Story



The two dirigible cachets on the cover immediately got my attention. The return address of Heinen Air Yacht closed the deal. I had to have this cover. Aside from being used in the First World War, dirigibles become very popular means of transportation during the 1920's and 30's. The U.S. Navy had several that flew all over the United States. Germany and their Zeppelins were flying across oceans, to South America, and around the world. During this time period, dirigibles offered longer range with more comfort than any airplane. The question is why would anyone want to fly a dirigible the forty miles between Atlantic City and Cape May, New Jersey? What is the story behind the Heinen Air Yacht?

Anton Friedrich Heinen was the driving force behind Heinen Air Yacht. Heinen was born in Germany in 1885. In 1910, he started to work for a German company named DELAG. DELAG was the world's first commercial airline to use dirigibles on their routes. Their dirigibles were made by Zeppelin. Because of this connection, Anton Heinen and Count Zeppelin became close friends. During World War I, Anton flew and trained military personnel on how to fly the German Zeppelins. In 1922, he came to the United States to be a flight instructor for the Navy Lighter Than Air Program.



The US Navy used him as an advisor on airship projects through the Second World War.

While Anton was making a living working with commercial and military applications of the dirigible, he also had plans for a dirigible that a family could own and use. During the late 1920's, he put these plans into action. By 1929, he had a flying prototype. The dirigible was approximately sixty feet long with a gondola underneath that contained the engine and the controls. The gondola could carry four people. Heinen said the prototype cost \$19,000 dollars to build but the cost could be reduced to \$10,000 when the dirigible was mass produced. There were plans to make the gondola detachable so it could be used like an automobile. He said that the operating costs would be less than that of an automobile. When "flying season" was over, you deflate the dirigible, fold up the fabric, and store it and the gondola in your garage. One thing that Anton forgot to mention was that you needed a mooring mast and a large piece of property to keep the inflated dirigible.

If you search Google for The Heinen Air Yacht, you can find a January 1, 1930, picture of the dirigible in flight. The dirigible made several round-trip flights from Cape May to Atlantic City. To prove the safety of his dirigible, Anton took his wife and daughter on a September flight. Preparing for a flight on October 21, 1930, Heinen and his crew had trouble starting the engine. An explosion occurred that damaged the gondola and through two crew members and a passenger forty feet to the ground. They were not seriously hurt. Right after this event, Anton Heinen deflated his dirigible and took it and the damaged gondola back to his Toms River, New Jersey home. I can find no mention of the Heinen Air Yacht after this date. Anton Friedrich Heinen died in 1959 and is buried in Whitter, California.

Many of these covers are available for sale on the internet all with the October 4, 1930 date. However, I can find no evidence that Heinen made a flight on October 4th. The best that I could do was locate a New York Times article dated October 3, 1930, about Anton Heinen flying over Cape May and landing in 46 seconds. Since there is no evidence that this cover was carried on any flight, it may have been issued the day after the flight mentioned in the New York Times and sent through the mail.



Poway Stamp Club

Member Article

By Robert McArthur

Interesting Cover with a Strange Story



I occasionally buy covers postmarked around the time of my birthday. I recently found the cover shown below. The cachet was designed by Ludwig Staehle and is signed by him. The cachet company is not shown but it is probably a Cachet Craft cover as Staehle was doing a lot of work for them at this time.



The cachet was issued to commemorate the capture of the German city of Cologne in March 1945. The design bears a picture of the city of Cologne, a portrait of Lieutenant General Courtney Hodges, commander of the U.S. First Army, an American flag, a wreathed sword with the inscription "Our Victory," and the date March 6, 1945. The cover is postmarked March 6, 1945 at Cologne, Minnesota. The date raises some questions. Four U.S. Army divisions of the First U.S. Army commenced an assault on Cologne on March 5, 1945. They managed to enter most of the city on the following day. It was not until March 7, 1945 that they occupied all of Cologne situated on the west bank of the Rhine River. The portions of the city on the east bank were not occupied until mid-April 1945. How did Cachet Craft/Staehle know that Cologne would be under attack? Why did they select March 6th for the date when the occupation was not finished until March 7th? Newspaper accounts usually lagged actual events by one day. How did they produce the covers so quickly and get them to Minnesota? Did they have covers with various dates waiting in the wings? It really seems amazing. Has anyone else seen any other closely dated World War II covers?

On a final note, the picture of Cologne is largely fanciful. The city had been completely reduced to rubble after a year of bombing by the Royal Air Force.



Poway Stamp Club

Member Article

By Jon Schrag

Artificial Intelligence



Comments About Stamps Article from ChatGTP

My son told me about ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE and ChatGPT so I requested an article about Vietnam stamps. Specifically, I asked if Vietnam stamps would become popular (maybe like China in the past 25 years)? The resulting article is shown below. It is like the multi-handed economist that President Truman spoke about. Several scenarios but no strong guidance is presented in the free (no cost) article done by Artificial Intelligence. It is worth exactly the amount I paid...ZERO! See ChatGPT Below:

"It is difficult to predict whether Vietnam stamps will become popular in the United States. The popularity of stamps as a collectible item can vary greatly depending on a number of factors such as the historical significance of the stamps, the artistic value of the designs, the rarity of the stamps, and the overall interest in stamp collecting among the general population.

It's also worth noting that stamp collecting is a niche hobby, and its popularity can be influenced by various factors such as economic conditions, cultural trends and technological advancements.

Vietnam being a relatively new country and having a relatively new history, and stamps being issued recently, it may not have a big market or appeal among stamp collectors in the US. However, it's also possible that interest in Vietnam and its history may increase in the future and lead to more interest in Vietnam stamps among collectors in the US."

Jon



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Member Article

By David B. Waller

Philatelic Grading: Centering



Last month 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 most important criteria used by philatelic experts, centering.

According to The Philatelic Foundation's (PF) (<https://wyzaerd-pf-prod.s3.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/PF-grading-booklet.pdf>), "Centering is by far the most important among all the factors determining the grade of a sound stamp." They state that "A perforated stamp will be judged upon the centering of its design within the perforations. Imperforate stamps will be judged upon its centering within its margins and the size of those margins". However, "centering of its design within the perforations" includes stamps in which all the margins are equivalent (Figure 1A) as well as those stamps in which the margins on the top and bottom are equal but different from the side margins, which are equal (Figure 1B).



A



B

Figure 1: A) Shows Scott # 618 with essentially equivalent margins around the engraving of the stamp and **B)** Shows Scott # 618 centered within the borders of the stamp paper (*i.e.*, the top and bottom margins are essentially equivalent and side margins are essentially equivalent but different from the top and bottom margins).

Consequently, without a clear distinction between these two "design centered within the perforations" examples, the valuation based on their grade becomes challenging.



Poway Stamp Club

Professional Stamp Experts (PSE, <https://gradingmatters.com/all-about-grading.html>) state that their “standardized philatelic grading scale enables a consensus [of] expert opinions about single stamps and pairs to be expressed accurately and consistently using well established philatelic terminology and an overall numeric grade...)

First, PSE experts consider a stamp’s centering and indicate their opinion as follows:

- GEM** Perfectly-balanced margins Post Office Fresh (POF)
- Superb** Perfectly-balanced normal sized margins, POF
- XF/S** Not quite perfectly-centered margins, POF
- XF** Extremely well-centered margins, POF
- VF/XF** Almost extremely well-centered, POF
- VF** Very well centered, POF
- F/VF** Margins reasonably clear on all sides
- F** Margins just clear on one or more sides
- VG/F** Perfs touch or cut stamp design slightly
- VG** Perfs cut into stamp design”

While some if not all these grades have been used for many years, questions arise as to how terms like “perfectly”, “not quite perfectly”, “extremely”, “almost extremely”, “very well”, “reasonably clear”, and “just clear” should be interpreted (*i.e.*, quantified). In fact, the use of subjective terms like these makes consistent grading more difficult from one stamp to the next. When applying this type of system, shouldn’t a stamp graded “Perfectly balanced normal sized margins, POF”, be considered GEM (*i.e.*, not superb) because it is a perfect example of the stamp produced as intended. If this is the case, then how should a similar stamp with unusually large “perfectly balanced, POF” margins be graded? Should such a stamp be graded higher than “GEM” or are these specimens’ anomalies (freaks)? Unfortunately, this system does not provide for this unique condition. More recently the term “Jumbo” has been used to describe these stamps and they are often listed for a higher price, but does this mean they are rarer than a stamp with “perfectly balanced” narrower margins? Maybe. While this is not a perfect system, it is still being used today by online auction houses like eBay and Hipstamp.



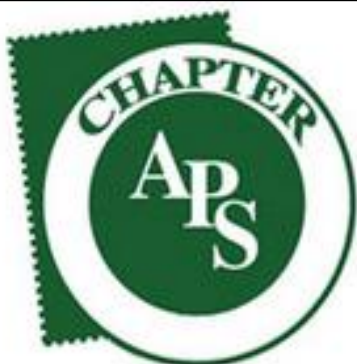
#1137-112097

Philatelic Stamp Authentication and Grading (PSAG, <https://www.stampauthentication.com/grading-stamps>) provides a very comprehensive definition of centering. They state that “the most important and easiest to understand element of grading is the relative centering of a stamp. PSAG measures the distance from the nearest edge of the perforation holes to the beginning of the design in 8 places (2 on each side of each corner) on a stamp. These measurements are then comparatively gauged against each other to develop the relative balance quotient. This numerical figure is then converted into a number ranging from 50 (severely off-center with one or more sides of perf holes cutting or touching the design), to a maximum 100 (perfectly balanced and equal margins on all four sides).

In addition to the measured centering grade, the margin size affects the centering grade in two ways. Stamps with margins that are less than 75% of the average margin size for a given catalog number may carry up to a 10-point deduction. Conversely, stamps with margins 25% larger than normal carry an add-on adjective of “J” for JUMBO”. This system clearly addresses many of the concerns that affect consistency in grading with respect to centering and has been adopted by others like Certified Collectibles Group, Authenticated Stamp Guarantee, LLC, (<https://www.asgstamps.com/stamp-grading/grading-scale/>).

PSAG appears to be the first company to replace the subjective letter grading system with a quantitative mathematical value for the equivalency of a stamp’s margins. While this system is far superior to the previous systems, the question arises as how these quantitative determinations are accomplished? In addition, what is an “average margin” for a particular issue and how is that determined?

While PSAG does not elaborate on how they perform these measurements, one possible method might be to create an enlarged image of the stamp so that physical measurements of the margins can be taken, compared, and the values normalized (*i.e.*, each value calculated is divided by the highest value to obtain a number between 0 and 1, which can then be converted to a ratio designation for each side of the stamp). An example of how this could be accomplished is shown in Figure 2.



Poway Stamp Club



Figure 2: Scott # 370 has been enlarged so that more accurate measurements can be taken of the margins in all four corners. The margins are measured by caliper and the value is calculated from the edge of the engraving to the closest edge of second or third perforation in from the corner of the stamp. These values are normalized by dividing by the highest calculated value and then presented as a ratio, left margin 0.77:0.70, right margin 0.94:1.00, upper margin 0.71:0.77 and bottom margin 0.95:0.94.

It is important for the grading certificate to provide these measurements, and if possible, on an image of the specimen, to avoid confusion and allow future experts to confirm previous calculations. The numerical value given to the stamp would be determined by adding all eight normalized values together, dividing that sum by eight and then multiplying that value by 100. In this case, the numerical value for the stamp presented in Figure 2 would be 85. Unfortunately, PSAG only provides the final grade.

So, what is an “average margin” for a particular issue and how is it determined? This should be the distance between the engraved impressions of the stamps on a sheet (A) divided by two (2) minus the radius (r) of the perforations, (Average Margin = $(A/2) - r$, see Figure 3).



#1137-112097



A

B

Figure 3: A) Imperforated issue Scott # 373 showing the distance (A) between the engravings and **B)** perforated issue Scott # 372 showing a relatively even perforation horizontally between the engravings.

The term “Jumbo” would then apply to a given margin when it exceeds the “average margin” distance. It is unclear whether all four margins must exceed the average margin distance for the stamp to be designated Jumbo or whether it is just the overall size of the stamp as compared to other non-Jumbo specimens of a given issue. Figure 4A shows Scott # 618 having margins that exceed the average margin distance determined from the stamps shown in Figure 4B. In this case, the stamp in Figure 4A would be designated “Jumbo”.



A

B

Figure 4: A) Scott # 618J with approximately equivalent margins that are about 50% greater than the “average-margin” distance and B) a block of Scott # 618 from which the “average-margin” distance can be determined.

Margin distances are easily determined for stamps with linear engraved borders. It is more difficult for stamps that do not have these borders such as the U.S. 1901 Pan-American Exposition Commemorative series. In this case, a straight line can be drawn along the engraving and measurements calculated from this guideline (*see* Figure 5).



Poway Stamp Club



Figure 5: Left margin of the 2-cent denomination of the 1901 Pan-American Exposition commemorative stamp issue (Scott # 295) showing one method in which a linear guideline is drawn as a reference to calculate margin distances.

The use of methods that obtain quantifiable values for determining a stamp's centering provides a more uniform system for philatelic grading and eliminates the subjective terminology that makes consistency difficult. Further, distinguishing between stamps with margins intended for a particular issue, what PSAG regards as the "average margin", and those that have margins which exceed these distances, often designated "Jumbo", is important in determining rarity and estimated values of these unique specimens. When a stamp is graded using these methods it would be beneficial to provide an image (*i.e.*, actual size or enlarged image with magnification value) of the specimen with the calculations noted in the corners of the image as well as the ratios like those provided in Figure 2. The average margin distance for the stamp issue being graded should be provided as a reference and a determination made based on those distances as to whether the specimen qualifies for "Jumbo" status. Finally, the overall numerical value should be provided; determined by the sum of the normalized margin distances divided by eight and multiplied by 100. Such a system would generate a more accurate, consistent, and reproducible determination of a stamp's centering for an appropriate valuation.



#1137-112097

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#1137-112097

Stamp News 2023:

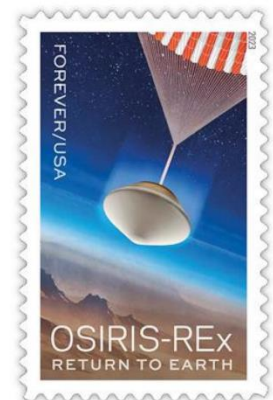


The 2023 stamp program features a broad range of subjects and designs. These miniature works of art highlight our unique American culture and offer a broad selection for those looking to collect stamps or send their mail around the nation or the world,” said USPS Stamp Services Director William Gicker.

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.





#1137-112097

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.

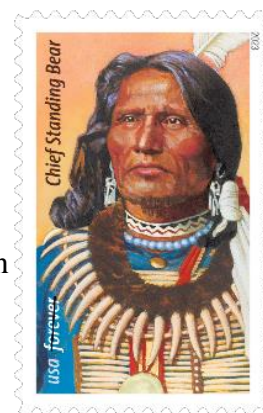
Winter Woodland Animals

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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