



Poway Stamp Club

NEWSLETTER



San Diego County's Best Stamp Collecting Club

Sept 13, 2023

In This Issue

- Next Club Meetings and Presentations Schedule
- Club Notes
- New Member Spotlight
- Article: John E. Peterson
- Article: Trice Klauber
- Article: Jon Schrag
- Editors Corner: David Klauber
- Article: Bill O'Connor
- Article: Jim Grundy
- Article: Neil Schneider
- Article: David Waller
- Member Classifieds
- Stamp News: Current

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, **Sept. 13th** program will be:

Eric Nilsen

“Norwegian Stave Churches on Stamps”

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. This is an opportunity for all our members to sell or trade with one another their duplicate stamps.

The Wednesday, **Sept 27th** Program will be:

Member Voice Sale

The meeting will begin with a “Club Voice Sale.” (*For details See Page 3, item 1 in Club Notes*) Following the sale will be 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.

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.

September	Sep	13, 2023	Eric Nilsen– Presentation
	Sep	27, 2023	Member Voice Sale
October	Oct	11, 2023	Ron Couchot - Beacon
	Oct	25, 2023	Ugly Stamp Contest
November	Nov	8, 2023	Steve Gill - 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
June	Jun	12, 2024	TBD – Presentation
	Jun	26, 2024	TBD – Presentation
July	Jul	10, 2024	TBD – Presentation
	Jul	24, 2024	TBD – Presentation
August	Aug	14, 2024	TBD – Presentation
	Aug	28, 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: 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

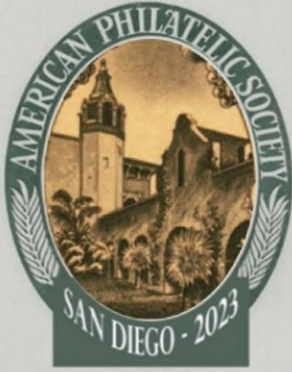
PSC Representatives:

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 1861 U.S. Scott #70b Steel Blue Stamp Courtesy D. Klauber. The common shades of the 24 Cent denomination are red lilac (Sc. #70) and brown lilac (Sc. #70a). The one in the page 1 image is a RARE shade of this stamp: The steel blue (Sc. #70b) shade,





APS

At least 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 year's 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. **Member Voice Sale** - At our regularly scheduled September 27th meeting, the Club will be having a Member Voice sale, where current Members can place stamps or other philatelic items up for sale at our scheduled meeting. Each member will be allowed to bring 5 lots. If you wish to participate, print and fill out the appropriate [Seller Sheet](#) and [Seller Labels](#). Participants must bring their items and paperwork to the Wednesday 27th meeting before 6:00 pm.

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

SANDIPEX 2023

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

3. **Advanced Collector** - One whose collection is numbered by the thousands and with whom our hobby is a science, not a mania. SCG
4. **Geography and Philately** – Are closely allied, consider revenue stamps, most the entire series of revenue stamps was used throughout the length and breadth of the republic, but a few performed their duty in specified districts and or cities. For instance, Imported Opium stamps, were used only at the Custom House of the San Francisco port of entry. The customs “Free Stamps” were only used in New York City, and certain denominations of beer stamps were only used in portions of Nevada and California. Also, it is documented that Chicago accounts for nearly the entire issue of Export Oleomargarine stamps while the state of Virginia accounts for nearly the entire out-put of three-ounce snuff stamps. DMK

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>

5. **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

6. **Colonials** – Stamps issued by a government for use in its colonies The stamps of Tobago, Turk's Island, etc., may be termed British Colonials.
7. **Locals** – A term applied to all stamps, for the prepayment of mail matter, which are not of government origin.
8. **Provincials vs. Provisionals** – Provincial Stamps are for use in a certain province or state only. Bolivar was an example of a provincial. Provisionals are stamps only used temporarily – in cases of an emergency or pending the arrival of a new issue. They may be stamps surcharged with the name of the city or province in which they are to be used, or fiscals authorized for use as postage stamps by surcharging.
9. **Artistic Value of Philately** - I would argue that a set of trial colors proofs in an arrangement of tints for a complete set of United states stamps is thing of rare beauty. It will move even the most skeptical of cynics to acknowledge that the arrangement has artistic merit. *DMK*
10. **Wove Paper** – Paper commonly used for books and newspapers and has a near perfectly even texture.



Member Spotlight!

By Newsletter Editor



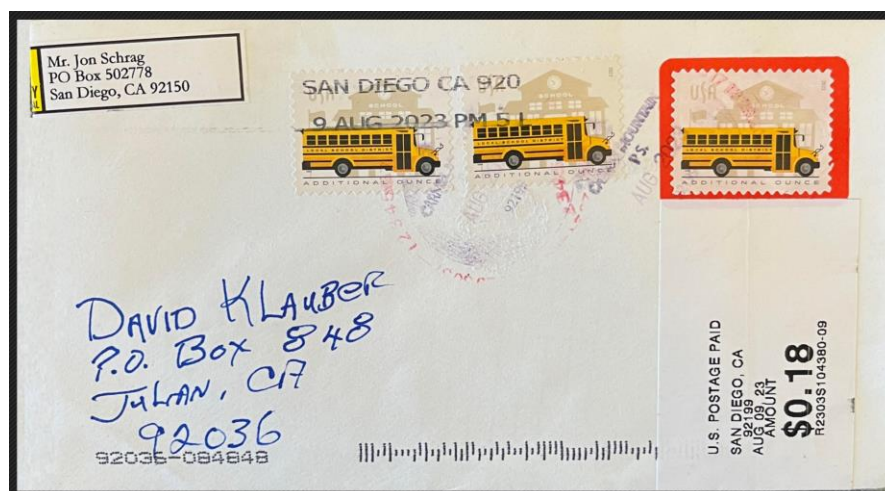
The Poway Stamp Club Newsletter highlights its new members in each issue. Today's spotlight is on our newest member.

Bonnie Dunnels

We have received a new request for membership which were received and granted to the following person(s):

#558 Bonnie Dunnels of Poway, CA. Was presented to the Club by Art Berg. Bonnie is a collector of Worldwide, U.S., and Great Britian stamps. We look forward to seeing Bonnie at meetings and her continued participation in our Club Meetings .Welcome Bonnie!

This brings our total membership to **121**. We look forward to getting together with all our new and existing members.



“Good Luck”

The Cover received from Jon Schrag after responding to his August Newsletter article.



**GASS
Aug 10-13**



USPS Acting Director of Stamp Services Lisa Bobb-Semple at their seminar on Friday.

Member Article

By John E. Peterson

Great American Stamp Show



GASS 2023 Was Great!

This year's Great American Stamp Show (GASS) was held in Cleveland OH from August 10-13. There was something for every philatelist who attended; Exhibits, seminars in a wide variety of topics, first day of issue stamp ceremonies, many dealers, society tables, and of course, the bucket of stamps table where those with plenty of time could sift through thousands of stamps to find that special something. I attended the GASS because I am the Secretary/Treasurer for the American Ceremony Program Society (ACPS). My attendance is mandatory because the ACPS holds its board and annual meetings at GASS, and I must be on hand for the auction that the ACPS hosts there. I write checks for the people who consign lots and collect money from the winning bidders. I also get to sit at the ACPS society table for a good part of the time. This year the ACPS table was directly across from the USPS booth, a very advantageous position. More on that later.



Zack Reed, Business Development Administrator from the Mayor's Office of Equal Opportunity is the gentleman pictured with Scott English. This proclamation of Stamp Collecting Day was presented on Thursday just prior to the Life Magnified stamp ceremony.





Christina Esbeck at GASS

Philatelic exhibitor Christina Esbeck spoke at the Thinking of You first day.

She is 14 years old and has already won an award. Christina's favorite topical: Cupcakes! One of the five Thinking of You stamps has a picture of a cupcake on it. Stamp Development Specialist Michael Henry from USPS HQ told me it was the first US stamp issued to show a cupcake in the design. Christina walked by the ACPS booth on Saturday. I asked her how many stamps that were out there had cupcakes pictured on them. She answered, "not many." Later, I advised her to include a ceremony program with the Thinking of You stamp with the cupcake on it when she exhibits next. Judges seem to like those small details.

There were a LOT of stamp ceremonies at this year's GASS, four on Thursday and four on Friday.



L-R: Ken Martin, APS Director of Expertizing Services, Scott English APS Executive Director, Luke Grossman, USPS VP of Finance and Strategy, Tagide deCarvalho, (responsible for two of the stamp images) from Keith Porter Imaging Facility, University of Maryland Baltimore County., Dr. Igor Siwanowicz, Research Scientist, Howard Hughes Medical Institute (responsible for five of the stamp images)

There were two US first day ceremonies for the **Life Magnified** (20 designs on a sheet of 20) and **Thinking of You** stamps (5 designs on a sheet of 20), a UN issue of 3 souvenir sheets Mind, Body, Soul, two issues for the Faroe Islands, one to mark their 1000th issued stamp and one to mark engraver Martin Mörck's 1000th stamp.



ATA President Dawn Hamman was the MC for Friday's Thinking of You stamp first day ceremony.



Thinking of You stamps unveiled, L-R: ATA President Dawn Hamman, USPS Art Director Greg Breeding, USPS VP, Controller Cara Greene, Philatelic Exhibitor Christine Esbeck, APS Executive Director Scott English, ATA Executive Director Jennifer Miller, USPS Supervisor, Distribution & Operations of Cleveland, and National Anthem singer Nicole Harrell.

There was a ceremony for the Marshall Islands to mark the 100th anniversary for the 1st, first day cachet (George Linn's Warren G. Harding's memorial stamp cover), one for the 3rd BOSTON 2026 label unveiling, and a Rattlesnake Island local post issue to mark

the 210th anniversary of the Battle of Lake Erie. One complaint on my part was that there were TOO many ceremonies. Show attendees seemed to gravitate toward those rather than attending the seminars they might have attended to socialize and learn new things. I, of course, attended the two US stamp ceremonies on Thursday and Friday, and attended the ceremony of the Marshall Islands.

President Harding passed away on August 2, 1923, and the stamp to honor him was issued on September 1, 2023, 30 days after his passing, a difficult feat I must say. George Linn found out about this and produced his mourning covers. I found out that on September 1 there will be a ceremony in Marion OH to mark the 100th anniversary of this event.

Remember how I said the ACPS table was in an advantageous position? My wife Kathi and son Zachary staffed the ACPS table on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. After I had them pick up ceremony programs for Thursday and Friday's USPS' ceremonies, they sat at the ACPS table to greet any passers-by. When the ceremonies were over, I had them get in line for the autograph table, directly across from the ACPS table. They were among the first in line to get autographs, and believe me, there were a lot of people in line.



More was to come on Saturday. Federico Frum aka MasPaz (“more peace” in Español) was commissioned by the Postal Service to draw on canvas the center part of the design of the jaguar that was one of the four designs of the Art of the Skateboard stamps released in March of this year, a ceremony I attended. We got a front row seat as MasPaz recreated his design right in front of the ACPS table.



The Great American Stamp Show
2023



The Great American Stamp Show
2023

The foot traffic for GASS was decent all four days. The ACPS signed four new members and the auction it held brought in some much-needed funds. The USPS sponsored two seminars, one from Stamp Services and one from Stamp Fulfillment Services (SFS). I learned much from both of their seminars. Apparently counterfeiting of stamps is a big problem. The USPS lost almost a million dollars a year from counterfeit stamps. All I can say is that if you see stamps that are being sold at half of face value, they are most likely to be fakes. Do NOT buy them as it only empowers the counterfeiters. The USPS Postal Inspectors are looking into this. A few people complained about certain stamps not being available for purchase at times, but this is a local USPS issue, not a national one. It does not help that the post offices around the country are told that they can hold only so much accountable paper in stock at any given time. Did you know that ALL the local special cancels must be approved by SFS? Now you do.

All in all, GASS 2023 was great. I learned many new things, purchased much new material for my collection and discounted postage for the ACPS. I made many new friends while staffing the ACPS table. Dottie and Leonard Bloom, who stock the ACPS gift shop in Bellefonte, stopped by, said hello, and told me that donated material is what they put out for sale at reasonable prices. Their efforts raise a lot of money for the APS. APS Executive Director Scott English, member of the PSC, came by the ACPS table as well. He saw my PSC pin and told me to say a special hello to the PSC.

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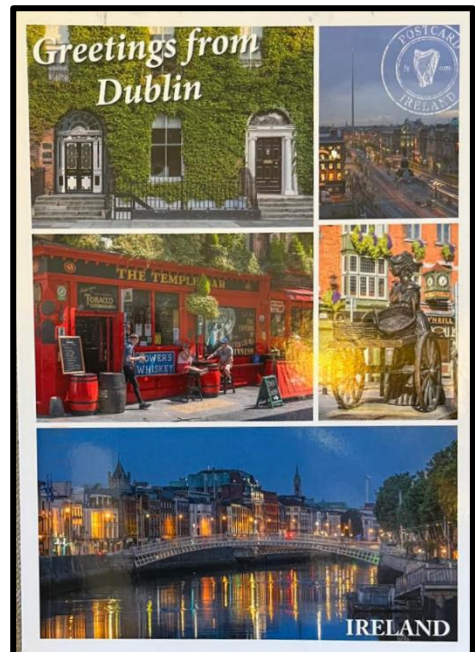
Member Article

By Trice Klauber

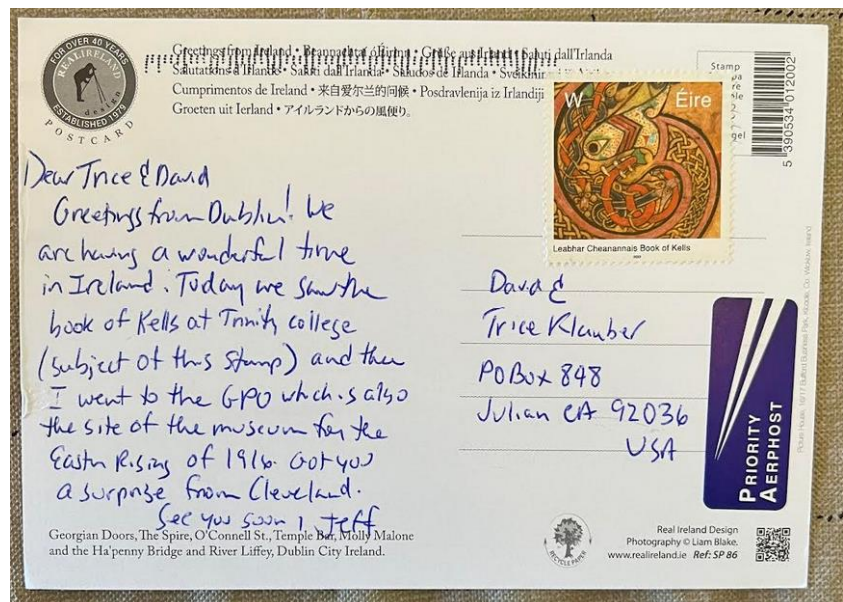
Member Visits Ireland, then the Great American Stamp Show



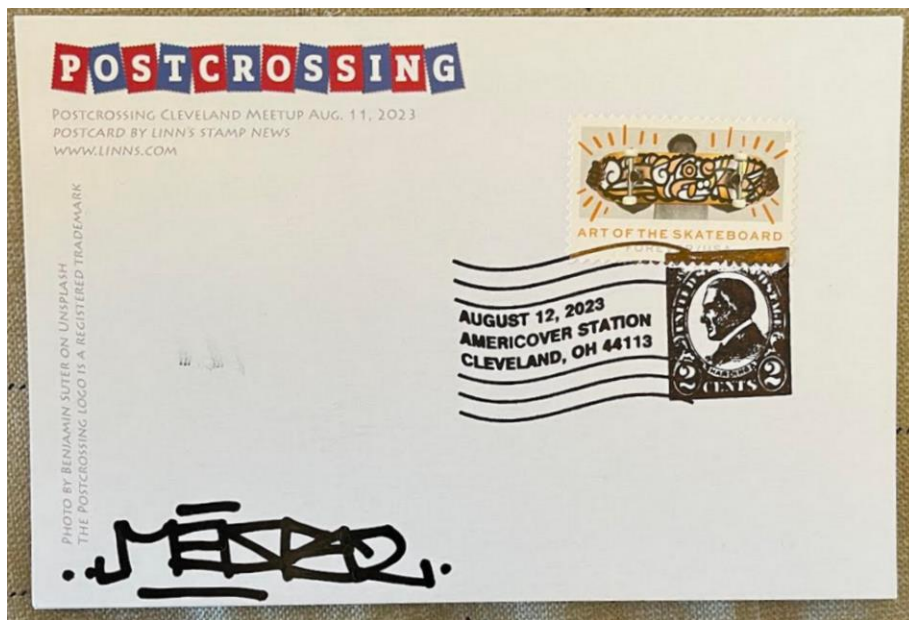
One of our members **Jeff Davis** recently returned from Ireland and visited the GASS show in Cleveland in August 2023. Jeff was so kind as to send us Postal cards from both of his visits.



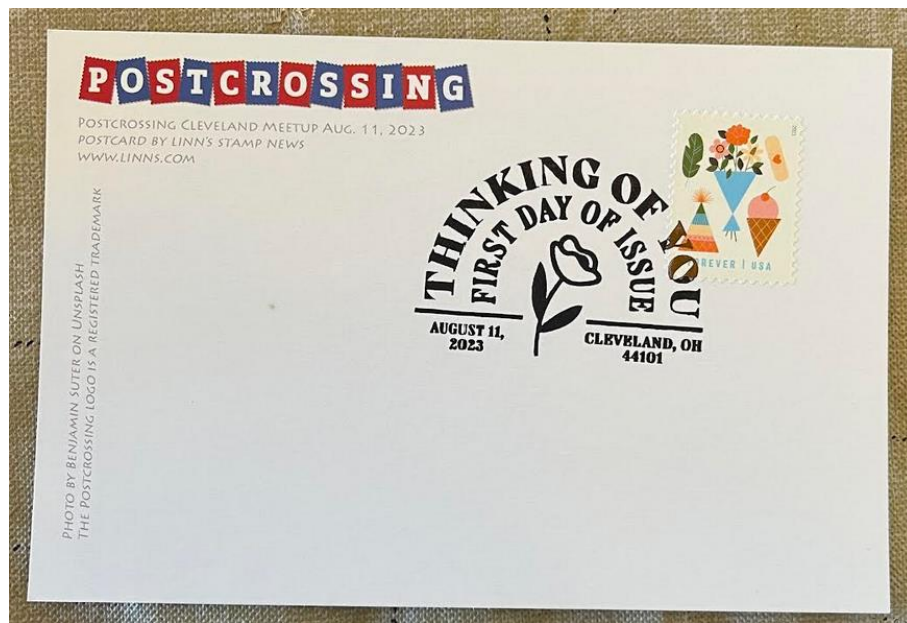
First is a nice card from Ireland.



Jeff also brought back several interesting items from the August 12 GASS show festivities in Cleveland, OH. Thanks, Jeff, for these wonderful Cards.



Signed MasPaz (“more peace” in Español)
Skateboard Stamp on Card from GASS.



Thinking of your (First Day of Issue) card from GASS.

Thanks again Jeff!

Member Article

By Jon Schrag

Next Project Postal History Porum, Oklahoma



My mother cried and cried. Two weeks after graduating from high school in Iowa, I was leaving home via Greyhound Bus to work as a RIGGER on the Eufaula Dam in Oklahoma. My mother was right. I never lived at home again because of school or work.

Why do a postal history of PORUM? What happened in Porum, Oklahoma? Population 300. “ I went to Purdue, but I got my REAL education about people and life at age 17 in Porum, Oklahoma!”

The three-year \$100 million Washington D.C. government project was an economic booster. It was a job-stimulus lifeline. Build the Eufaula Dam! Create jobs. Life was not bad. The economy was staggering but going to improve.

I rented a room in a local house owned by Bess Coughrin (no husband one teen age son). The other room was rented by a 31-year-old civil engineer “dewatering specialist”. He worked long hours at the dam and was seldom seen. He was primarily responsible for keeping the 2000-worker dam “dry” from the river-flooding and from ANY possible wet-weather scenario.

On a rainy night he asked me to join him to check out the dam. Soon there were sheets of rain! A 50-year rare event. The nearby mountain looked like a huge angry waterfall . We checked pumps. We opened the escape valves. We toiled all night. The dewatering engineer had prepared well. He saved a \$100 million project. That was his job. The next day construction continued. He was an unrecognized hero. But I knew he was a genius! A real hero! That was small town Porum. These and my other experiences were the basis of numerous essays in ENGLISH 101 (a notorious Purdue freshman flunk- out course). I walked away with an “A” from a fascinated female professor. Thanks to the real education I obtained in Porum!

So for my PORUM postal history project I am searching for Porum and Eufaula dam 1960 era correspondence, postcards, and covers. IT WILL BE INTERESTING! Stay tuned.

**Editor’s Note: Let see as a Club if we can support Jon’s Project!*



Editors Corner

By D. Klauber

Watermark Varieties of United States Postage Stamps



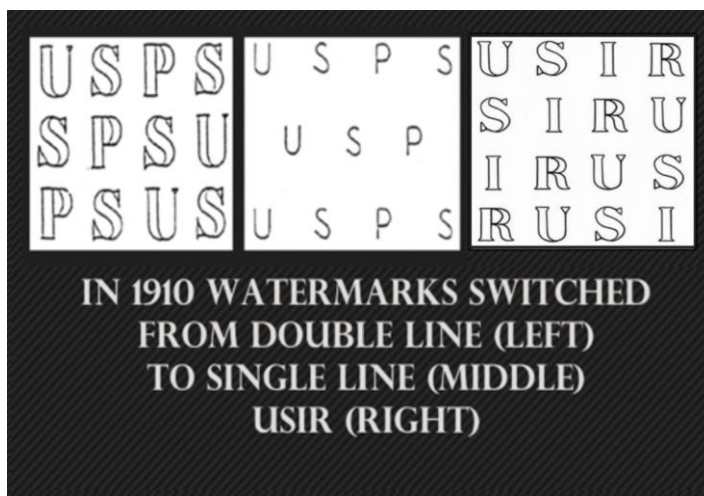
Watermarks - Historically, collectors have been told that stamp paper watermarking was an anti-counterfeiting security feature. A watermark can be a letter, number, symbol, or any combination of shapes that is wrought into the paper during the process of manufacture which appears lighter or darker than the neighboring paper. These watermark patterns were originally dubbed “wiremarks” or “papermarks” because the process that was used to thin or thicken the paper was not necessarily dependent upon water. Without destroying the paper, the watermark designs once applied are permanent. Opposite of what collectors have been led to believe, the watermarking on U.S. stamps was not initiated primarily to deter the counterfeiters. Instead, watermarks were introduced to manage paper stocks and more importantly, to meet the requirement for securities to be printed on “special” paper. The misconception was born of a timing coincidence where counterfeiting events paralleled the introduction of the watermarked stamps. In actuality, the introduction of watermarked stamps was scheduled to coincide with the exhaustion of the American Bank Note Company’s residual paper stocks.¹

Identification - Watermarks can be identified using several methods including stamp immersion. To identify a watermark using the immersion methodology, a stamp is placed face down in a watermarking tray, which is typically made of black glass and then watermarking solution is dripped over it. As the liquid penetrates the paper, the watermark is exposed. Other collectors prefer to use back lighting, and/or use a *Safe Sinoscope* device to reveal the watermarks. It is your editors’ opinion, these devices are much better suited to identifying grills and/or thins than they are for watermarks.



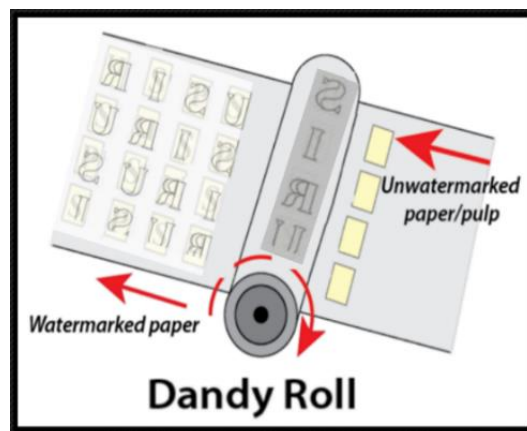
Watermark USIR “I”

Many of the U.S. definitive Stamp designs exist on both unwatermarked and watermarked paper. The watermarks can be either the USPS double or USPS single line design. As early as 1878, the Bureau began printing revenue stamps for the Treasury Department, that used Roman double-lined Capital "USIR" (United States Internal Revenue) watermarks.



EFO Watermarks - Are rare, but what is much rarer, is when an EFO watermark is noticed by a collector. It is not unusual for a Dandy Roll (*the device which is used to impress a watermark*) to get damaged creating errors in pressing watermarks.

If the Dandy Roll is subsequently repaired, then there is the chance that the change to the roll will result in a minor variety. The watermarks that first appeared on U.S. stamps were the "double line" United States Internal



Revenue (USIR), watermarks impressed on paper stock targeted for U.S. revenue and documentary stamps. These watermarks were supposed to be placed so that each stamp would have at least part of one or more letters visible and that each square inch of the paper would contain at least one letter. Making the horizontal spacing from the center of a letter to the next is about one inch, and the vertical spacing from the bottom of a letter is about one inch to the bottom of the next.²

As the result of our involvement in WWI, and with money in short supply, The BEP discontinued the watermarking of U.S. stamps. The production savings were significant enough to outweigh any risk of counterfeiting.

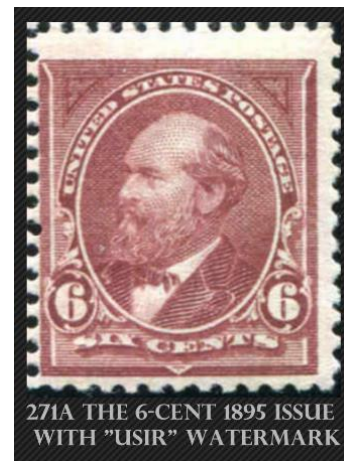
BEP issues accidentally or purposely printed on USIR watermark Paper - At least three issues of United States postage stamps have been identified, were inadvertently printed on the USIR watermarked stock: The first two were the 6¢ and 8¢ stamps of the First Bureau Issues of 1895, Number **271a** and **272a** respectively, followed much later with the \$1 Prexie stamp of 1938, Number **832b**. Since the BEP printed regular issue postage stamps, as well as revenue stamps, it is easy to see how such a mistake may have happened. There are others who believe that the switch may have been deliberate, because not enough properly marked paper was available for printing.

Watermarked 6¢ and 8¢ stamps of the First Bureau Issues of 1895, Number 271a and 272a – The following sections describes the 6-cent and 8-cent flat-plate stamps of the First Bureau series (Scott 271a and 272a) that were accidentally printed on the wrong stamp paper watermarked with double-line Roman capitals “USIR” rather than the USPS double-line Roman capitals. For Stamps 271 and 272, It is thought that the "U" and "S" watermarks of the "USPS" postage stamps are indistinguishable from their "USIR" counterparts. This means that a clear "I" or "R" is needed to truly authenticate the "USIR" varieties.

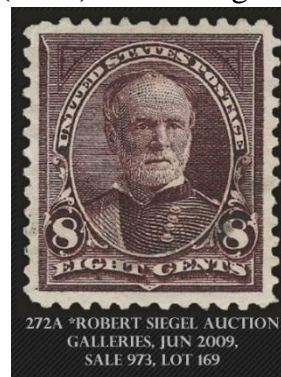
The 6c Dull Brown, USIR Watermark (271a) – The "USIR" (United States Internal Revenue) watermark error occurred when a supply of paper reserved for revenue stamp production was used for printing the 6c and 8c postage stamps.

The 6c "USIR" Watermark error is considerably rarer than the 8c, especially in original-gum

condition. It is believed that there are less than ten original-gum copies. Of the recorded singles, one has perfs touching the design at top, and one is close on one side. There may be less than 30 certified as genuine copies recorded by the Philatelic Foundation.



The 8c Violet Brown, USIR Watermark (272a) – Showing a clear “I” or “R” of watermark, is an example of the 1895 8-CENT Watermarked Bureau issue with “USIR” error Watermark. A previous census of Scott 272a recorded approximately 66 copies, most of which are used. The variety was also created when the stock of paper intended for use on revenue stamps was inadvertently used.



After watermarking was discontinued in March of 1917 only **Two watermark varieties (errors) appeared.**

The first occurred when a quantity of previously (Double-line USPS) watermarked imperforate 2-cent Washington sheet stamps from old stock (Scott 344) were gauge 11-perforated (Scott 519). In 1917, the New York postmaster found he had about 1,500 sheets of imperforate 2¢ stamps of the 1908 issue (U.S. #344). When he returned them for credit, the BEP had the stamps perforated and released. Most were used and destroyed before collectors learned of their existence. They are far more difficult to find than those on unwatermarked paper, U.S. #519 was produced on double-watermark paper. Because the #519 has such a high catalog value of \$425.00 mint and \$1800.00 used, today's forgers can create a much rarer #519 stamp by adding fake perforations to the more common U.S. #344.



The second was the (USIR) Watermark 1-dollar Wilson of the Bureau series (Scott 832).

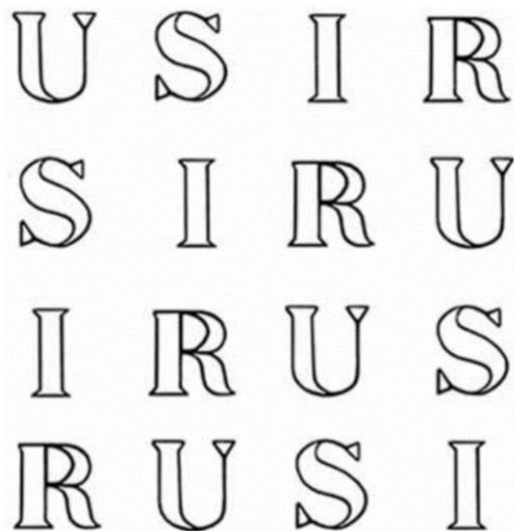
832b \$1 Wilson – the Fifth Bureau series (Scott 832). The “error” stamps were erroneously flat plate printed on USIR watermarked paper rather than on unwatermarked paper (Scott 832b).



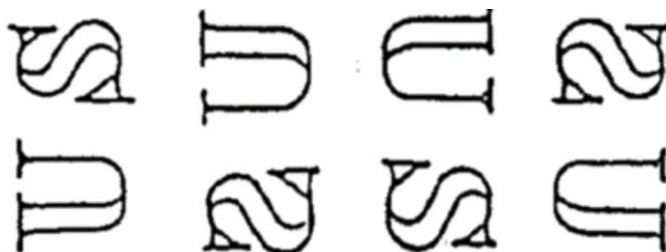
MNH and Used copies of USIR 832b Courtesy D. Klauber

The 832b error occurs 43 years later when USIR paper makes another appearance, this time on the normally unwatermarked \$1 Woodrow Wilson stamp of the Presidential Issue of 1938. For identification purposes Scott 832b, has the advantage of truly being the variety, in that any part of the watermark the letters “U,” “S,” “I,” or “R” confirms it.

The American Philatelic Service’s expertizing department (APEX) has issued certificates for less than 40 of these issues, including a used block of twenty.



This 832b watermark is **always sideways** and can be seen below in four different attitudes, sideways, sideways reversed, sideways inverted and sideways inverted reversed.¹



The Four SC#832b USIR Attitudes

It is usually quite faint, and only a portion of a letter appears on each stamp. Since the watermark would be masked by the perforations, multiples and stamps with the margin attached are quite desirable.

1. Yesterday in U.S. Stamp News, A USPS Watermark Primer, Louis E. Repeta; U.S. Stamp News, March 2000.
2. The Double-line USIR Watermarks on United States Postage Stamps, Bob Allen, StampSmarter, www.stampsmarter.org/learning/Manuf_DoubleLineUSIRWatermarks.html.

POSTAL HISTORY



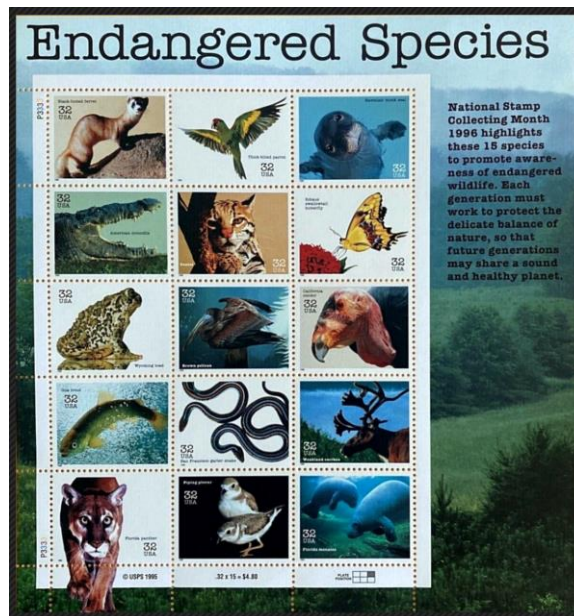
Member Article

By Bill O'Connor

The Endangered Species Stamps and Post Cards of the United States, 1996

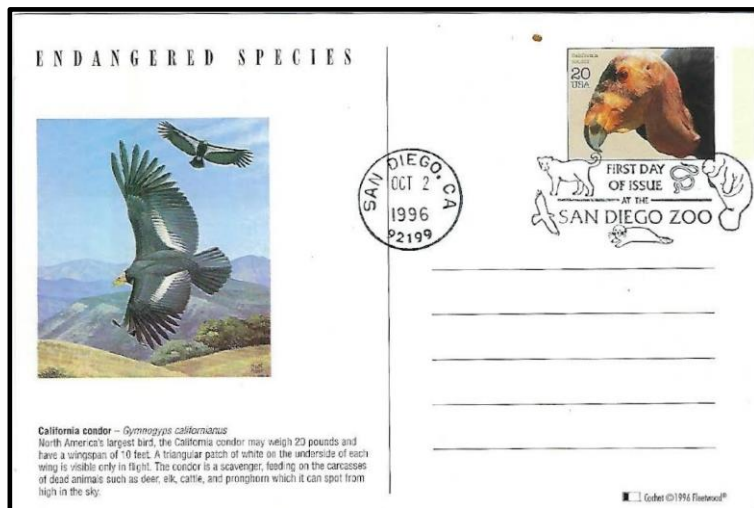


I originally intended to show just a few of the postcards issued October 2, 1996. The auspicious location of the first day ceremonies, the world renowned, San Diego Zoo, was a wonderful and very meaningful location to host the United States sheet of fifteen stamps and the special "Let's Preserve the Species" stamps of Mexico. The last few words on the ceremony program concerning endangered species and their preservation says, "a fight that will only be won with the active help of private citizens who care."

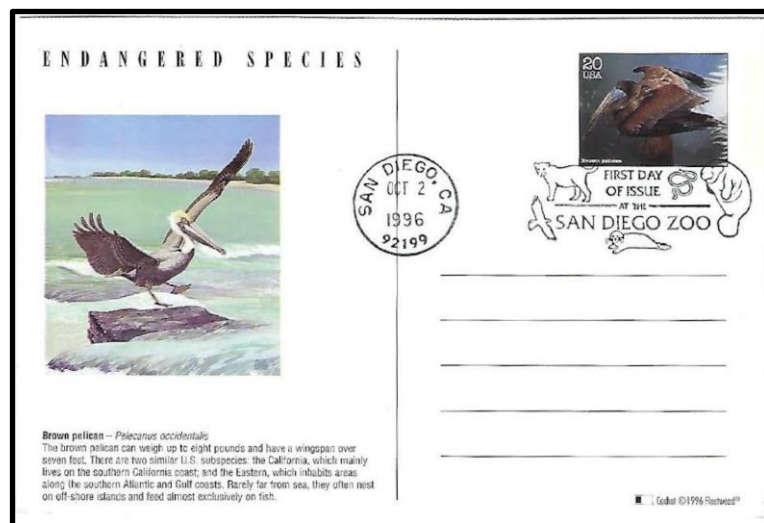


Endangered species stamps Courtesy D. Klauber

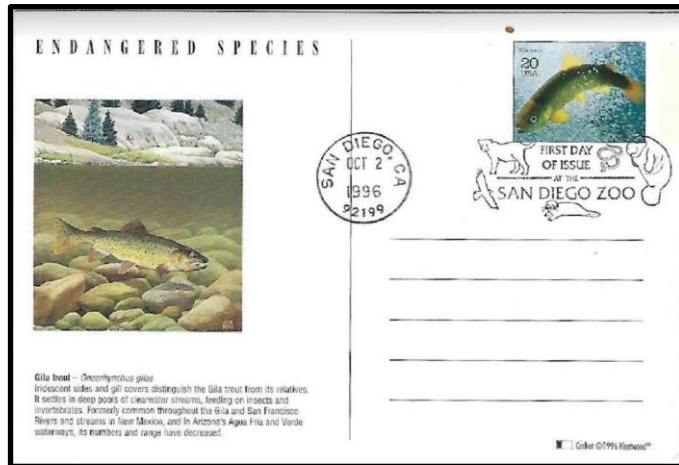
A sheet of fifteen stamps of the endangered species is shown with the kindness of David Klauber. These stamps which include the black-footed ferret, thick billed parrot, Hawaiian monk seal, American crocodile, ocelot, Schaus swallowtail butterfly, Wyoming toad, brown pelican, California condor, Gila trout, San Francisco garter snake, woodland caribou, Florida panther, piping plover and Florida manatee.



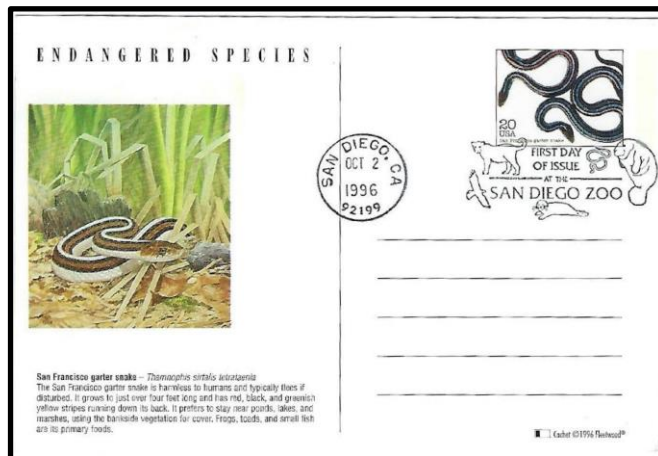
I have selected five cards of the fifteen to show in this presentation. The first is the California condor which is a very emblematic symbol of the San Diego Zoo and the Wild Animal Park. Our family was able to visit the Wild Animal Park when the children were young and see at close range the breeding program that has kept this magnificent creature from extinction. Each card has the same image as the stamp and the postal cancellation showing the first day cancellation is a credit to the United States Postal Service. Additionally, each card has a wonderful picture to the left of the card showing the animal in its natural habitat.



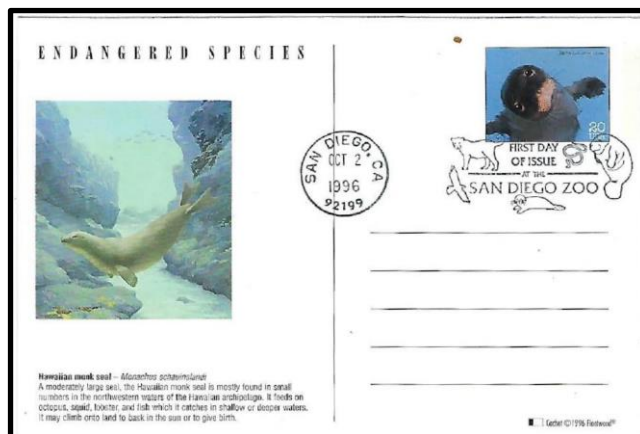
The next card shows the Brown pelican at rest with the first day cancellation applied. When we visit the coast here in California, it is often the case that a host of these artful creatures will be information hugging the coast line. It is an incredible sight to see these animals skim the surface of the water in the hopes of capturing a meal.



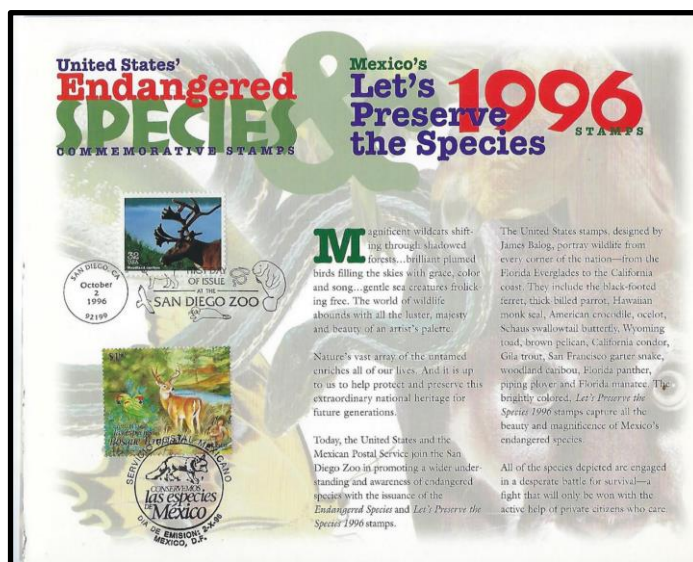
The third card shows the Gila trout. This specie is found mostly to our east in New Mexico and Arizona. This fish likes clear fresh water and deep pools to hunt insects and water bound invertebrates.



One of the many useful and harmless snakes, the San Francisco garter snake is a great friend of the human specie. This is one of my favorite stamps in this series. A more tolerant attitude is necessary for all of us to appreciate such incredible creatures.



The last post card to be shown is the Hawaiian monk seal. Perhaps due to a very close encounter with this enigmatic animal, I feel a very unusual attachment to this seldom seen endangered animal. Taking an early morning hike around a section of the walking trail of Kauai many years back, I came upon this wonderful animal resting on the beach. Knowing full well not to approach this animal, I gave it a wide berth and hopefully did not disturb this most endangered of our seals.



I mentioned at the beginning of this presentation that we had a joint meeting with Mexico relating to our mutual concerns for the preservation of endangered species. Mexico issued a sheet of 24 stamps plus a label. As seen in the final images presented, a stamp from each of the sheets was attached and cancelled. The American stamp is of the Florida manatee and the Mexican stamp portrays a special kind of deer and others in a forested area.

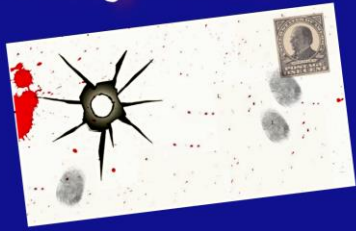
Notes:

A number of special guests were present at the Joint issue of the endangered species stamps. Joan Embrey, the Good Will Ambassador from the San Diego Zoo and Karl Malden, a member of the Citizens' Advisory Committee to name two.

If anyone has an extra copy of the 1996 Mexican, Let's Preserve the Species sheet, I will gladly trade a sheet of the United States Elvis Presly stamps.

The Scott Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps and Covers, 2018, indicate that 5,000 First Day cancellations were applied to the endangered species post cards. If this includes the total of the 15 cards as single items, then fewer than 334 sets were cancelled. I have a feeling that the number is in reference to 5,000 sets of cards were cancelled. If anyone can shed light on this, that would be most helpful.

Every Cover



Tells A Story

Member Article

By Jim Grundy

Every Cover Tells a Story



This US First Flight Cover is not typical. Most First Flight Covers are classy announcements of the flight. They have beautiful cachets with majestic airplanes flying over awesome scenery. The starting point is a major city in the United States and the terminus is an equally important city in the US or abroad. This cover lacks all of these frills. The cachet show two tall poles with flags on top and a rope strung from top to top. A small plane approaches with a cable trailing behind it. The cover is not canceled in Chicago or New York City but in Ironton, Ohio. I'll tell you all about this First Flight Cover for Pick-up Route A. M. 49B.

In 1928, a dentist named Lytle S. Adams invented a means of picking up mail from rural locations. His invention consisted of two fourteen-foot-tall poles spaced twenty feet apart. A rope was strung between the top of the poles. In the center of the rope was a mechanism that would hold the mail bag and could be easily snagged by a hook. This hook would be on the end of a fifty-foot cable attached to a small airplane. The airplane would fly over poles and rope, the airplanes would snag the rope with the hook, the release mechanism would let the hook retrieve the mailbag. Finally, the cable with the mail bag would be cranked inside the pick-up plane.

Adams formed a company called the All-American Aviation (AAA) with himself as the only employee. With the hope of getting financial backers, he arranged for the Goodyear blimp to pick up mail from a ship off the California coast in 1931. In 1934, The AAA picked up the mail at the 1934 Century of Progress in Chicago (NOTE: covers exist for both these events). It wasn't until 1938 when two Du Pont brothers approached Adams for a partnership that the company had the funds to start operations. The Du Ponts used their influence with Congress to have them authorize the AAA system as an experimental service and Franklin D. Roosevelt signed it into law on April 30, 1938. AAA's first official flight took place on May 12, 1939. Also in 1939, the Du Pont brothers forced Lytle Adams out of the company. Under the Du Pont control, AAA bought more airplanes and expanded their routes. With Adam's invention, a town wouldn't need an airport because a golf course, cemetery, or a pasture could be used as a pick-up point. In their first year of operation, they flew 438,000 miles, made over 23,000 pick-ups, handled 75,000 pounds of mail, and 6,500 pounds of freight.

AAA was issued a certificate by the Post Office to continue their service. This service was called Air Mail 49 or AM 49. This designation appears on the cover. AAA flew five pick-up routes in six states with the main hub being in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. These five routes were labeled B, C, D, E, and F. This explains why A. M. 49B appears on the cover (The author has twelve AM 49B First Flight Covers from twelve small towns in four states all dated November 12, 1940).

During the World War II era, the mail pick-up business was booming for AAA but the Post Office Department would not increase the fee that they paid to AAA. AAA was losing money. After the war ended, mail volume decreased plus competition from bus, train, and airplane companies carrying the mail increased. These factors made AAA's loss even greater. In 1949, AAA ceased carrying the mail but expanded into passenger service and All American Aviation changed their name to All American Airways. All American Airways became Allegheny Airways in 1953 and US Airways in 1999. In 2013, US Airways merged with American Airlines.



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Member Article

By Neil Schneider

Zemstvos



The Russian post in the nineteenth century was a monopoly of the state through the Imperial Post. Most state post offices, however, were in towns, leaving many rural areas a long distance from the nearest post office. The Zemstvo post (or Rural post) was introduced in 1864 to fill this gap and at first it operated without official approval. In 1870 a law was passed formalizing the arrangements and which stated that "The Rural post is authorized to carry ordinary correspondence, also journals, circulars, remittances, registered letters, and other mail from the post town to all more or less distant portions of the district as may be deprived of postal communications."*

The law also stated that "The Rural post is authorized to employ special postage stamps on the express understanding that their design differs entirely from those used by the Imperial Post". The postmen were also not allowed to use the post-horn emblem of the Imperial Post on their bags. The first Zemstvo post was established at Vetluga in 1864 but no stamps were used.

Ukraine was part of the Russian Empire until 1918, when it first declared independence. Below are a few of the Zemstvos from my collection with the names of the cities from where they were issued. Several have since been renamed, the name under the Russian Empire at the top.



Lochvita
renamed
Lokhvitsia



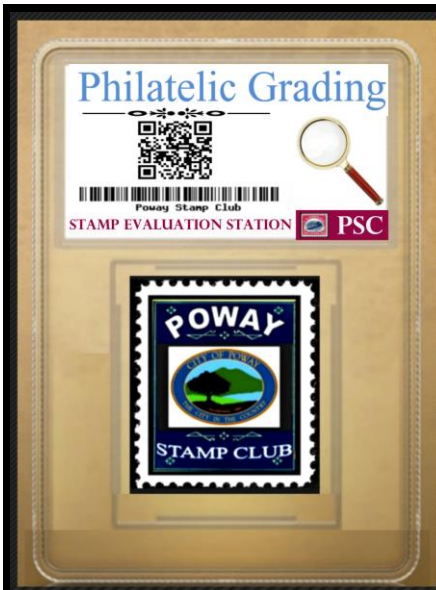
Kremenchug



Konstantinograd
renamed
Krasnohrad



Dnieprovsk
renamed
Dnipro



Member Article

By David B. Waller

Philatelic Grading: Engraving (Late 19th and Early 20th Century Stamps)



In April, the Poway Stamp Club published an article on Philatelic Grading that elaborated on six criteria used when grading stamps. This article discusses engraving integrity.

A. Engraving

The United States Bureau of Engraving and Printing utilized the Intaglio printing process for large-scale stamp production in the late 1800's. In this process, the lines to be printed are cut into a soft metal plate with a burin (*i.e.*, a handheld cutting tool) to produce a "die". The die is then pressed multiple times into a soft metal roller, called a "transfer roll" (*i.e.*, creating several positive images on the roll). These images are reproduced multiple times by mechanically rocking the transfer roll back and forth on a printing plate. The completed printing plate is then secured to a gravure cylinder for printing. During the printing process, ink is applied to the printing plate's surface filling the incised lines of the engravings. The plate is then scraped with a doctor blade to remove the excess ink. Paper is then fed between the gravure cylinder and the impression roll, pressing the plate's ink-filled incisions onto the paper (Figure 1A-B).

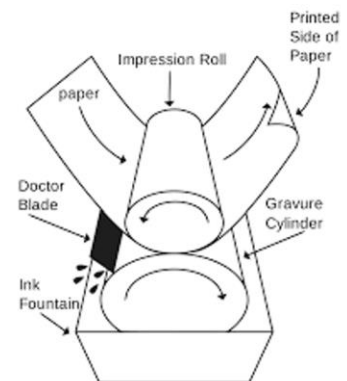
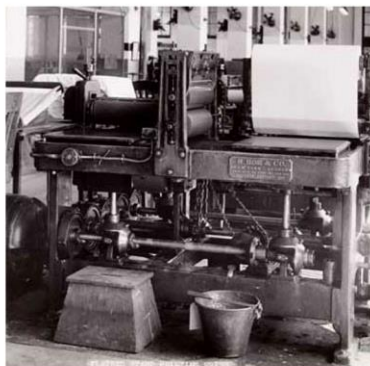


Figure 1: A) Intaglio printing machine at the United States Bureau of Engraving and Printing and **B)** a diagrammatic representation of the Intaglio printing process showing the "Doctor Blade" that removes excess ink from the cylinder ("Gravure Cylinder", which contains the stamp printing plate) prior to pressing the ink filled printing plate onto the paper.

So, what types of anomalies occur that affect a stamp's engraved image? Some anomalies result during the impression process including paper creases, corners folding over and objects falling between the printing plate and the paper during printing (Figure 2 A-C). Other anomalies result from damage to the plate during use. These include breaking or cracking of the printing plate, impacts causing indentations in the printing plate that pick up additional ink, particulates that become stuck in the incisions of the plate eliminating ink from entering those areas prior to printing (Figures 3A-E) and general wearing of the printing plate often resulting from the doctor blade scraping process (Figure 4A-C).

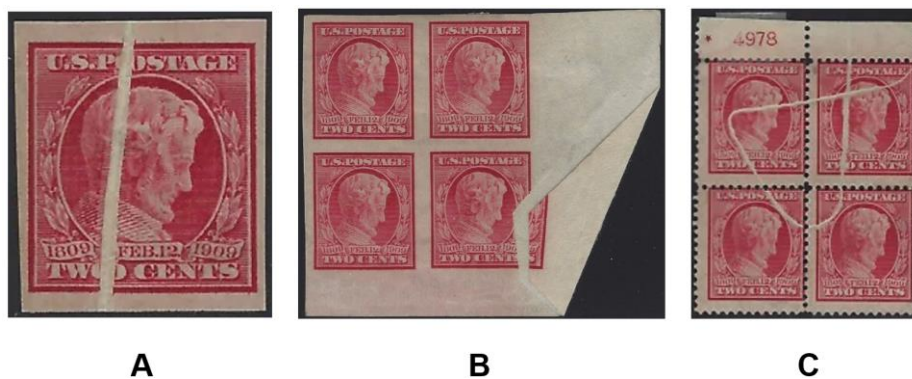


Figure 2: Printing anomalies that occurred in Scott no. 368; **A)** shows a crease in the paper (EBAY no. 266259174074, swfl-stamps), **B)** shows where a corner of the paper folded over, and **C)** shows what appears to be a string that may have fallen into the printing press between the paper and the engraving plate during printing.



A



B



C



D



E

Figure 3: A) Scott no. 231 shows “broken frame” variety, D. Waller Collection, B) Scott no. 231c shows the “broken hat” variety, which may be due to something getting stuck in the engraved incision of Columbus’ hat, D. Waller Collection, C) Scott no. 616 shows a broken circle around the number “5” on the right side of the stamp, D. Waller Collection, D) Scott no. 230 shows an ink streak that may be due to a crack or indentation in the printing plate (EBAY no. 133713612572, elpapy73998), and E) shows doctor blade cleaning flaw in Great Britain, 1911-1920 Edward VII SG 316 2/6 (<https://www.stampboards.com/viewtopic.php?t=99653>).



A



B



C

Figure 4: Wearing of the printing plate for Scott no. 230; **A)** shows the edges of the letters and numbers are crisp and clear; the image color saturation is less than B or C, **B)** shows the edges of the letters and numbers beginning to become less clear; the color saturation is darker than the engraving in A, and **C)** shows the edges of the letters and numbers are distorted; the color saturation is much darker than A or B. Note, that because of the increased amount of ink being retained by the worn printing plate, the cleric, seen over the right shoulder of Columbus in the central image, looks to be sporting sunglasses. Deterioration of the engraved image produces stamps that were not intended, and therefore, should affect the grade of the stamp.

Some anomalies are classified as a “variety.” **Varieties** are stamps that differ in certain details from ordinary issues, have been identified as different, and sold with this designation. A specific variety known as “constant varieties” are stable and occur regularly at the same position on a sheet throughout one or more printings. In most cases, it is possible to determine the exact position of the variety on the sheet as well as the quantity printed. Constant varieties often result from plate flaws (*i.e.*, differences in impression originating from a defective, damaged, or worn printing plate), and because of this, are given their own catalog number.

These designations usually consist of the number given the stamp from which the variety was generated followed by a lowercase letter (*e.g.*, the 2-cent Columbian Issue Scott no. 231 and its “broken hat” variety Scott no. 231c).

Another variety known as “coincidental varieties” are non-uniform and ephemeral appearing in countless shapes and forms. They occur at all stages of production and each case appears to be unique. Because of this, it is not possible to assess how many were produced or make a complete detailed listing. These varieties can occur from air bubbles on the printing plate that cause un-inked areas on stamps, double impressions, over or under inking, and smearing

(<https://worldstampsproject.org/catalog/#:~:text=Varieties%20are%20stamps%20that%20differ,to%20customers%20over%20m>).

Because coincidental varieties are inconsistent and occur infrequently, they do not rise to the level of constant varieties and are not assigned a specific catalog number.

So how should “varieties” be graded? It is the author’s opinion that constant varieties be treated as intended and should not lower a stamp’s grade and coincidental varieties be treated as flaws that should lower a stamp’s grade. This decision is based on the fact that constant varieties are stable and occur regularly (*i.e.*, quantifiable) and coincidental varieties are non-uniform occurring in countless shapes and forms (*i.e.*, more difficult to quantify). For example, Scott no. 231c in Figure 3B is a constant variety, while Scott no. 230 in Figure 3D is a coincidental variety.

So how can the quality of a stamp’s engraving be graded? One proposed method is to perform two image subtractions. The first removes the die proof engraving image from an image of the stamp being graded. The remaining image from this subtraction is often the result of damage to the printing plate, leaving indentations that collect ink adding to the engraved image during printing. The second removes the image of the stamp being graded from the die proof engraved image. The remaining image from this subtraction is the result of portions of the engraving that have been filled or clogged causing the ink to be removed from this area by the doctor blade prior to the pressing process (Figure 5 A-D)

Image subtraction can be performed quickly and efficiently with the assistance of a computer. However, this will require specific programming as well as creating a database of die-proof images of the stamps being graded. Consequently, this is still a work-in-progress.

The process, in general, would involve scanning an image of the stamp to be graded (*i.e.*, specimen stamp) into the computer. The computer adjusts the images so that the specimen stamp and die-proof of the stamp are the same size and orientation, and then performs the two subtraction functions by laying one image over the other. In the first subtraction, the computer removes the overlapping images common to the die proof on the specimen stamp. In the second subtraction, the computer removes the overlapping images common to the specimen stamp on the die proof. Each subtraction image is converted to a black field image where the background is black, and the areas left after subtraction are another color. A determination is then made as to the percentage of the remaining color in the black field for each subtraction, these two values are added together, multiplied by a random multiplier and subtracted from 100 to give the final grade (Figure 5). Because engraved anomalies are relatively small compared to the remainder of the engraving, a random multiplier is utilized to adjust the combined percentage value to be commensurate with the grades obtained from the other categories. In this case, the random multiplier could be as high as 10 or more. For constant varieties, this same process is used but the anomalies that qualify the stamp as a variety are ignored.

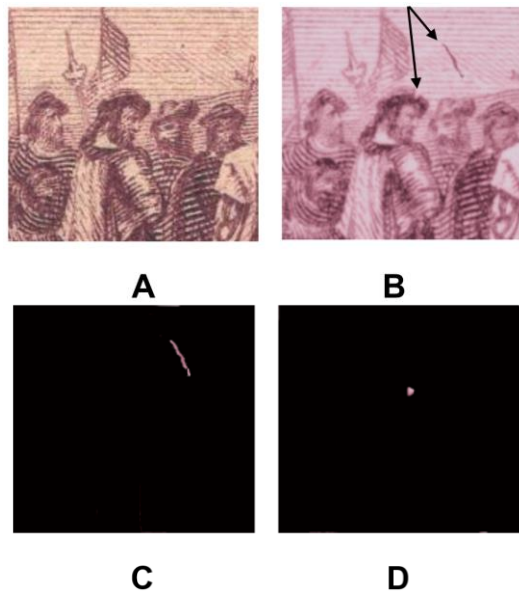


Figure 5: **A)** shows a fictitious die proof, **B)** shows a fictitious stamp to be graded, **C)** shows the black field subtraction of die proof from stamp engraving leaving the scratch damage to the printing plate visible, and **D)** shows the black field subtraction of stamp engraving from die proof leaving the clogged engraved portion of Columbus' hat visible.

If this or a similar method is accepted, then the grading certificate should show the combined black field image and percentages used to obtain the final grade for the engraved image. This will avoid confusion and allow future experts to confirm previous calculations.

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See member M. Marti PSC # 410.

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STAMP NEWS



U.S. Postal
Service Reveals
More Stamps

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.

Florida Everglades (Priority Mail)

Spanning some two 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 twenty, 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.



Piñatas! – Celebrate the fun and tradition of piñatas with a colorful new booklet of twenty 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.



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 twenty 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.

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 twenty 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.



Life Magnified Aug. 10 Cleveland OH.

These stamps reveal life on Earth as many have never seen it. Twenty stamps feature twenty 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.

Postal Products

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