

TELEGRAPH CENTENARY ISSUE OF 1944

PURPOSE AND SCOPE:

This is a traditional first day cover exhibit of the 3¢ Telegraph Centenary stamp of 1944 (Scott 924). A 3-cent red violet stamp issued on May 24, 1944, marked the 100th anniversary of the first transmission of a telegraph message. Samuel F. B. Morse sent the first telegraph message: "What hath God wrought?" from the Old Supreme Court chamber in the U.S. Capitol, Washington, D.C., to the B & O Railroad Depot in Baltimore, Maryland, on May 24, 1844.

TREATMENT:

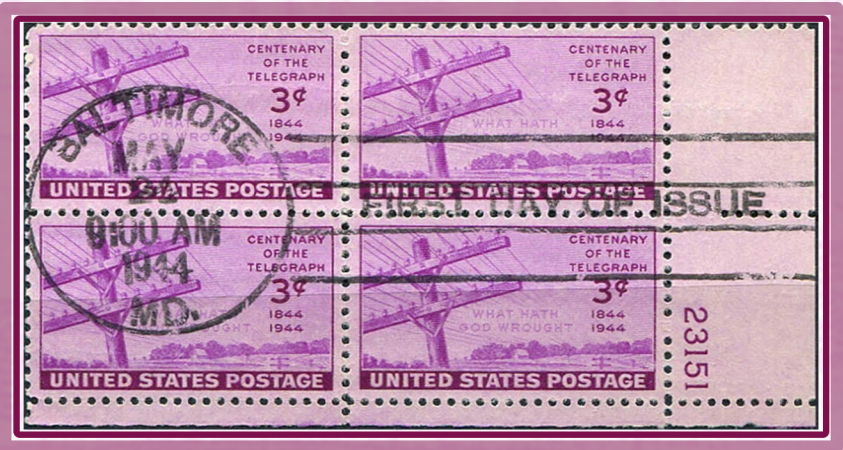
The exhibit examines the stamp design and printing; first day ceremonies in Washington DC and Baltimore MD; first day covers and cancellations; domestic and international postal uses and commemorations. The exhibit will follow the established traditional approach for First Day Cover displays, beginning with an analysis of the stamp itself; moving on to the First Day ceremonies, covers, and cancellations; and concluding with a look at various postal uses. Descriptions of individual items will be presented in standard text, and important facts will be emphasized with bold text. Included are covers that feature services such as air mail, registered mail, special delivery, and other distinctive markings, as well as those sent to foreign destinations.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:

Samuel Finley Morse's 1835 invention of the electric telegraph and his groundbreaking Morse Code reshaped the globe. From 1844, its commercial use marked a seismic shift in communication technology, rivaled only by Gutenberg's printing press 400 years earlier.

EXHIBIT STRUCTURE:

The exhibit is arranged by the sections listed in the Exhibit Plan, and in the section headers on the upper left of each page. The sub-header on each page at upper right identifies the category and type of items displayed. Especially rare or important items, based on reported census data or the exhibitor's personal research and experience, are highlighted with a **border of violet** and *italicized descriptions*, as shown in the example at the right.



*Block of 4
Baltimore, MD First Day Cancel
136,480 Cancellations from Baltimore Recorded
May 24, 1944*

EXHIBIT PLAN:

1. The Stamp
 1. Design
 2. Production
 3. Post-Production
2. First Days
 1. Announcements
 2. Ceremonies
 3. Cancellations
 4. First Cachets
 5. Designs
 6. Specialized
 7. Formats
3. Postal Usage
 1. Domestic
 2. International
 3. Specialized
4. Post Script

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Specialized Cachet Catalogue of First Day Covers of the 1940's, Michael Mellone (1984)
U.S. First Day Cover Cachet Display Catalog, Douglas H. Henkle (2006)
The United States Commemorative Stamps of the 20th Century, Max G. Johl (1947)
Franklin D. Roosevelt and Stamps of the United States 1933-45, Brian C. Baur (1993)
Mellone's FDC Photo Encyclopedia of First Cachets, Monty, Richard, et al (2006)