

CRESTHAVEN STAMP CLUB NEWSLETTER

West Palm Beach, Florida

The Palm Beaches Oldest & Friendliest Stamp Club

November 2023

At the eleventh hour, of the eleventh day, of the eleventh month in 1918, World War I officially ended. Declared as Armistice Day in 1919, we now celebrate November 11th as Veterans Day in honor of all who have served in the military. Be sure to thank a veteran for their service! Other November dates to remember are the 5th, when Daylight Savings Time ends (Fall Back); National Pickle Day is on the 14th (The average American eats nine pounds of pickles a year!); and, Thanksgiving on the 23rd.

The Fall 2023, West Palm Beach Stamp and Postcard Show was declared a success by club President Richard Kaye. There were more than 70 people in attendance. Many club members were on hand all day to help set up the hall, porter dealer stocks to their tables, staff the registration booth, and accomplish the list of all the little things that make a show successful. Everyone (guests, dealers, and show staff) expressed it a great day for philately in South Florida. Thanks again to everyone.

Regards,

Michael Swope

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Membership Affiliate #81338

Meetings: Barkley Clubhouse
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Iceland No Longer Issuing New Postage Stamps

Pat Hensley

On a recent visit to Iceland, we visited a local post office to see what stamps we could buy for my husband's collection. We were disappointed that there weren't any 2023 stamps for us to buy. The postal clerk told us they don't have any current issues because, in 2019, Iceland announced they would stop issuing new postage stamps.

In 1873, Iceland issued their first postage stamps as a Dependency of Denmark. On June 17, 1944, Iceland became an independent republic.

After 90 years of operation, Iceland Post's Stamp and Philatelic Department, "Postphil" was closed. They announced huge deficits as the reason for closing. In 2019, Iceland Post cut back on everything that was not profitable for the company, including Postphil. The CEO said that the number of philatelic customers had decreased annually, leading to a deficit for Postphil. He said they had a stock of stamps that would last many years and probably would have enough until the last letter was sent. But if more stamps are needed, it is possible to re-print them. The exclusive right to distribute letters ended for Iceland Post in 2019.

But wait! Iceland Post announced on August 23, 2023, that they are issuing a se-tenant souvenir sheet of four stamps (at right) to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Iceland's first postage stamps. Will there be more?

References:

Linns.com

Punkphilatelist.com

Icelandreview.com



Massaging the Bid

Michael Rogers



When I was 16, I saved my summer earnings cutting grass – almost \$1,000. A New York City auction company offered an almost complete set of Japanese official commemorative picture postcards for the Russo-Japanese War of 1905-06 (#2 in the series, shown above). Beautiful beyond belief, a perfect complement to my collection. Exceeding the estimate of \$600, I bid the \$1,000 that I had saved. I congratulated myself for bidding so much when I found out the lot was awarded to me for \$950.

A couple of years later when I went to college, I had to sell my Japanese collection. I had met a fine specialist dealer who coincidentally had been in attendance at the same auction where my set of Russo-Japanese cards came up for sale. A moment after his eyes alighted on the prize, he told me that the auction house had taken advantage of my mail bid, for no one in their right mind would pay what I had for this beautiful set of postcards. No way could there have been an underbid to support what I'd paid. It was painful at the time, but I'd owned them awhile and was happy to have done so. In order to sell them, I lost half my cost. Experienced as I am in this field now, I know the dealer was telling me the truth.

What happened to me so many years ago is called "massaging the bid." The way to encourage bidders to trust the company with big mail bids is not taking advantage of a bidder's trust. I will bet you there's not one of the auction companies you know that would do it today. It takes a lifetime to build a reputation, just one malfeasance to wreck it.

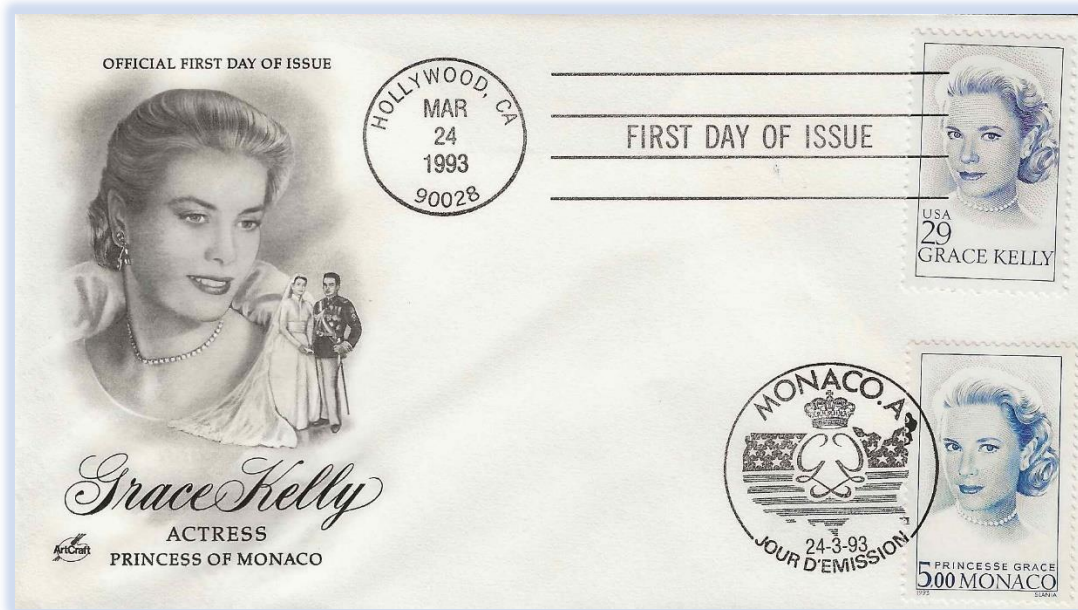
Ref:

Reprinted in part from "Reminiscences", *The American Stamp Dealer and Collector*, April, 2013

Grace Kelly - Joint Issue

Legends of Hollywood

Dan Maddalino



The United States and International Joint Postage Stamp Issue program has been honoring our kinship to foreign nations for nearly 65 years. Beginning in 1959, with the US/Canada - St. Lawrence Seaway issue (US #1131/Canada #387) these joint-issues, from 27 countries, have provided stamp collectors with an exciting program. Whilst mostly single stamps, many recurring themes are offered. One of these recurring themes is the “Legends of Hollywood.” Within this theme are joint issues for Grace Kelly (US #2749/Monaco #1851), Greta Garbo (US #3943/Sweden #2517), and Ingrid Bergman (US #5012/Sweden #2756-2758). Arguably, the most attractive of these issues are the Grace Kelly stamps shown above on the first day cover of March 24, 1993 ¹.

Grace Patricia Kelly was born November 12, 1929, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Early in life she was drawn to the performing arts where she pursued a dance and drama education. This led to many performances on Broadway and a stellar career as an actress. With Alfred Hitchcock as her mentor, she won many awards including an Academy Award in 1954 for Best Actress in the movie “*Country Girl*”. On April 18, 1956, Grace Kelly married Prince Rainer III of Monaco, after which she served as princess until her tragic death in 1982. She was just 52 years old².

These joint-issued stamps both show soft shading of a portrait of Grace Kelly that was used as a publicity shot for her Oscar winning performance. The U.S. stamp identifies her as Grace Kelly. The Monaco stamp identifies her as Princess Grace. The stamps are identical in all aspects except country name and the denomination.³

Building a collection of United States International Joint Postage Stamp issues will open a world of exciting people, places, and American history. Start today!

ENDNOTES

1. Donna Houseman (ed.) *Scott 2017 Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps and Covers* (Sidney, Ohio: Amos Media, 2016) pp. 211-212
2. Internet: <https://www.biography.com/actors/grace-kelly> Accessed July 30, 2023
3. Internet: <https://www.newspapers.com>. *The Oxnard Free Press* (Ventura, California). March 28, 1993; Sunday, p. 21 - Accessed August 6, 2023

Philatelic Facts

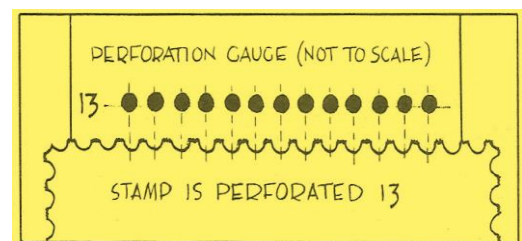


Perforations

Perforations are a series of holes punched in paper between stamps to facilitate their separation. When the world's first official, government issued postage stamps – Britain's Penny Black and Two Penny Blue were released, no provision was made to separate one stamp from another. These early stamps are called imperforates. Postal clerks and stamp users cut them apart with scissors or tore them using metal rulers and stamps were frequently damaged.

Henry Archer (1799-1863) is credited with the first device to render easy separation of stamps with the "Archer Rouletting" machine. Subsequent versions of his machine punched out a row of small holes between stamps which allowed them to be easily separated. By 1854, all of Great Britain postage stamps were perforated.

Philatelist, Dr. Jacques Amabel Legrand (1820-1912), developed a system of measuring perforations in a space of two centimeters. Previously, perforations were described by counting the number of holes along the sides of a stamp, but because of the variety of stamp sizes, the method was untenable. Legrand constructed a scale ranging from perf 7 to perf 16, which he named an "odontometer". All modern perforation gauges are descendants of Legrand's efforts.



Sample Perforation Gauge

The *SS Ancon* and the Opening of the Panama Canal

Juan L. Riera



United States construction of the Panama Canal began with an official ceremony on May 4th, 1904, and the canal officially opened on August 15th, 1914. Opening ceremonies were dramatically scaled back due to the outbreak of World War I on July 28th, 1914. The Panama Canal was completed at a cost of more than \$350 million, the most expensive construction project in United States history to that point. Of the approximately 56,000 workers employed between 1904 and 1913, about 5,600 died during construction. Recognized by the American Society of Engineers as one of the seven wonders of the modern world in 1994, the canal hosted its 1 millionth passing ship in September, 2010.

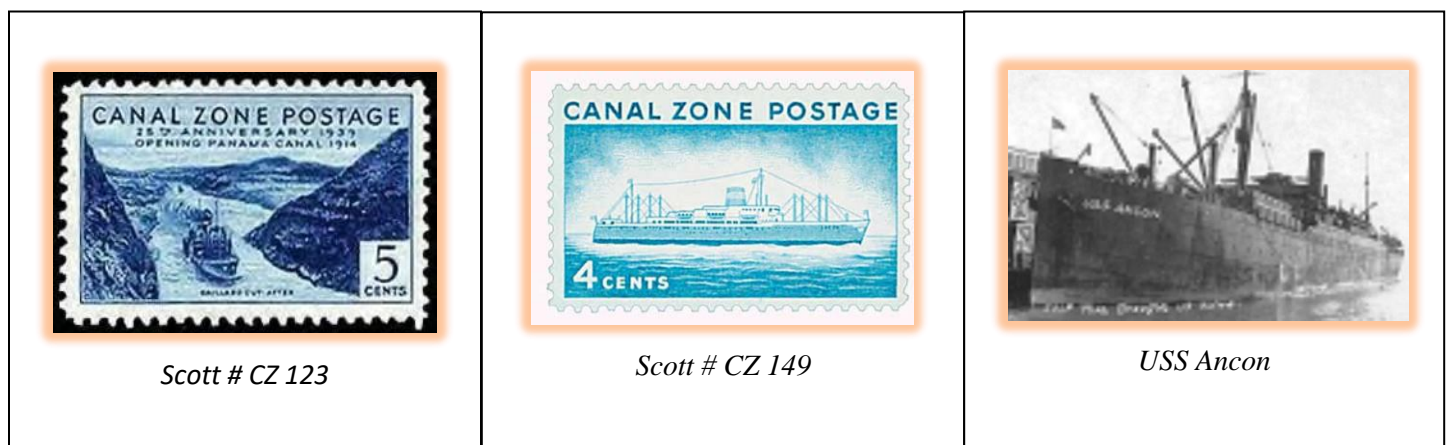
The first ship to officially cross the Panama Canal was the *SS Ancon* on August 15th, 1914. This official crossing was the centerpiece of the scaled back opening ceremonies and it carried 200 foreign dignitaries. Her sister ship, the *SS Cristobal*, had unofficially transited on August 3rd, as had the *Alexandre La Valley* (an old French crane boat) in stages during construction.

The *SS Ancon* was launched in December 1901 and completed in 1902 by Maryland Steel for the Boston Steamship Line. Originally known as the *SS Shawmut*, it sailed from the Pacific Northwest to the Philippines, Japan, and China. In 1909 the ship came under the ownership of the Panama Railroad Steamship Line—in turn, owned by the Panama Railroad Company that was part of the Panama Canal since its purchase by the United States government in about 1903.

The ship was renamed *Ancon* in 1909 for the Pacific terminal of the canal at Ancon Corregimiento. The ship was used mainly to transport cement from the United States to Panama during construction.



The *Ancon* is featured on postage stamps. Shown above is a 1998 first day cacheted cover celebrating the opening of the Panama Canal. It is affixed with the, U.S. 32¢, Scott # 3183f, the *Ancon* stamp, as part of the “Celebrate the Century” series.



The *SS Ancon* became the *USS Ancon* when it was acquired by the United States War Department in November 1918, for service in World War I. It was decommissioned in July, 1919. On August 15th, 1939, a set of sixteen stamps was released by the Panama Canal Zone postal authority, celebrating the 25th anniversary of the opening of the Panama Canal (Scott #'s CZ 120-135). The 5¢ stamp (Scott #CZ-123) pictures the Gaillard Cut and the ship depicted, going through the cut, is the *Ancon*. Although the *Ancon* was scrapped in 1950, a 4¢ Canal Zone stamp featuring the *SS Ancon* was issued in 1958 (Scott # CZ-149).

Ref:
Reprinted in part from “Canal Zone”, United States Possessions Philatelic Society, “Possessions”, Fourth Quarter, 2020

Texas Centennial

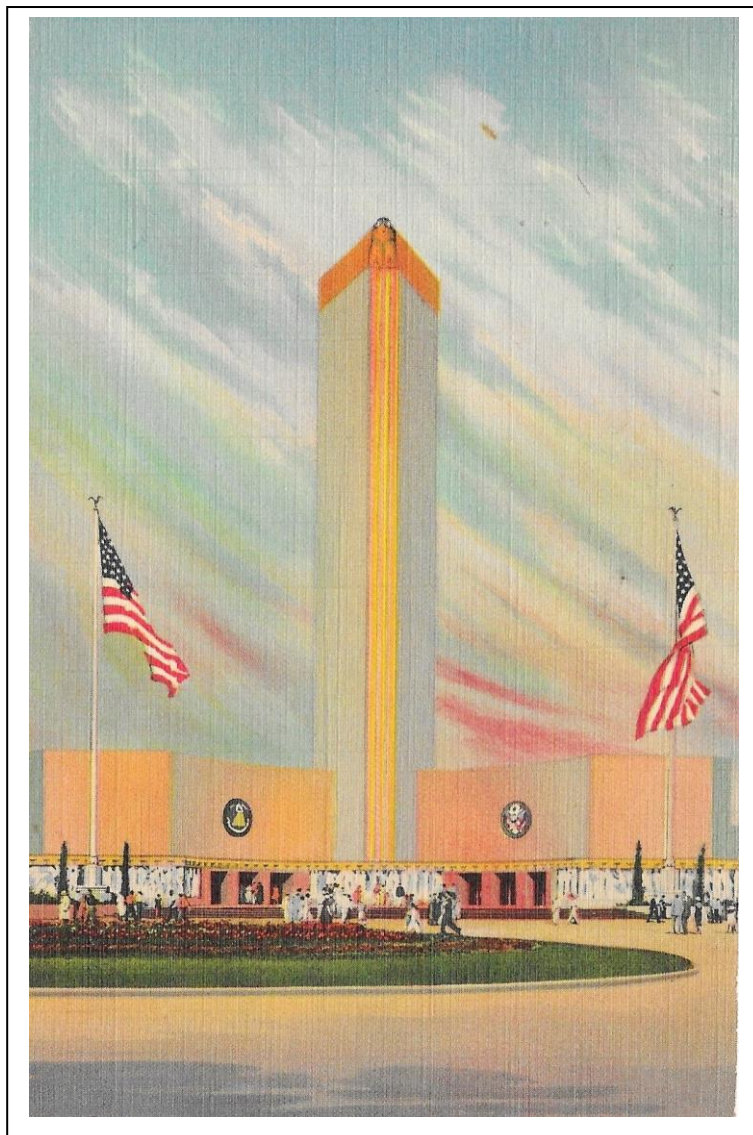
Michael Swope

The Texas Centennial Exposition was a world's fair that ran from June 6th to November 29th, 1936, in Dallas, Texas. It was the 100th anniversary of Texas Independence from Mexico and a celebration of Western American culture. Over 50 buildings were constructed for the exposition in Fair Park and many remain today as examples of Art Deco architecture. More than six million people attended the fair, including President Franklin Roosevelt. Of important note to the economy of Dallas and State of Texas was the exposition's ameliorating effect against the Great Depression.

Shown at right is a C. T. Art (Chicago), Color-tone linen post card of the United States Government Building at the Texas Centennial Exposition in Fair Park, Dallas, Texas.

Scott #632, a 1¢, green, Franklin postage stamp is affixed and was cancelled at Dallas, Texas, on November 3rd, 1936.

The United States Postal Service also created a Centennial Issue to honor Texan Independence. Designed by Alvin Meissner and released on March 2, 1936, the purple, 3¢, Scott #776, features Sam Houston, Stephen Austin, and the Alamo.



Ref:

Post card from author's collection
Texas Archive.org