

Palm Beach Stamp Club Newsletter



August 2025

We will celebrate the 105th anniversary of women's right to vote in August. The Nineteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution prohibits the United States and its states from denying the right to vote to citizens of the United States on the basis of sex, in effect recognizing the right of women to vote. The first suffrage amendment was introduced into the United States Congress in 1878. However, it did not pass the House of Representatives until May 21, 1919, and quickly followed by the Senate, on June 4, 1919. It was then submitted to the states for ratification, achieving the requisite 36 endorsements to secure adoption, and thereby went into effect, on August 18, 1920.

Attendance at our summer club meetings has been light – if you don't attend, you miss the informative presentations and incredible auctions!

Regards, Michael Swope

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Volume 12 Number 8

Stamp of the Month



US Scott #3184e

**Meetings: 1:00 p.m.
2nd & 4th Tuesdays**

**Mid-County Senior Center
3680 Lake Worth Road
Lake Worth, Florida 33461**

www.palmbeachstamp.club

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**Chapter Affiliate #923
Membership Affiliate #81338**

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August 2025

Virtual Philately
@ THE HUB



The Hub @ Stamp SCHOOL is a dynamic new space where collectors meet, ideas spark, and philatelic passion thrives! No ads, no distractions — just pure engagement with trusted experts, thriving conversations, live events, and 30 FREE American Philatelic Society courses at your fingertips. Sign up at stampschool.org and secure a front-row seat to the next era of collecting!



The 2025 Great American Stamp Show will be held in Schaumburg, Illinois, August 14-17.

This show offers a wealth of opportunities for philatelists and anyone interested in stamps. It features a vast dealer bourse, numerous exhibits, prestigious philatelic organizations, and youth interest area. Don't pass on an opportunity to attend.

President Richard Kaye has made two well-received power-point presentations on "The Joy of Stamp Collecting" at Palm Beach County Library branches this year. His next presentation is scheduled October 4th at Mandel Public Library, 411 Clematis Street, West Palm Beach, 33401, from Noon to 1:00 p.m.

At our July 22nd meeting, Dan Maddalino discussed obliterating pen cancellations at postal services in the United States and United Kingdom. He also presented additional First Flight Cover information. Club members are urged to share their philatelic interests at meetings.

Our newest club member is Clifford Tuchinsky of Royal Palm Beach. Please introduce yourself to Cliff at the next meeting.

The Embassy Suites Hotel at 1601 Belvedere Road in West Palm Beach, 33406, has been selected as the venue for our club's Fall stamp show on Saturday, November 1, 2025. See the show flyer on the club website.



August 10th, Second Sunday Stamp & Coin Show at the Azan Shrine Center, Sunday 9:30-3:00. Melbourne, 32935.

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Postal Logo 2025

Keith Lichtman



To commemorate the 250th anniversary of the United States Postal Service, a new logo has been created, the 'Eagle in Flight'. The logo pictures a blue and white eagle with red highlights, wings spread. Below the eagle, framed between a top blue bar and a bottom red bar, are the letters 'USPS' with the number 250 in blue below the letters.

The new logo will be used through out the 2025 year. As of this writing the earliest known use of the logo is March 27th on the Betty White first day covers. It is not known if the Postal Service will go back to the prior logo, the 'Sonic Eagle', or a variation of the 'Eagle in Flight'

The bald eagle has been featured on the United States Postal Service seal since 1970, when the Postal Reorganization Act was signed into law. The eagle represents everything this country stands for and embraces the symbol our nation's founders chose to represent America's strength and freedom.

Prior Postal Logos



1929 - 1937



1939 - 1970



1970 -1993



1993 –

The U.S. Postal Service has used several logos throughout its history, evolving from the Roman god Mercury to a horse and rider, then to a bald eagle, and finally to the "sonic" eagle.

Reference:
USPSBlog.com

Arturo Prat, Hero of the War of the Pacific

Juan L. Riera

Agustin Arturo Prat Chacon (1848-1879) was a Chilean Naval officer and a lawyer that in death, became a national hero with an extensive legacy that includes philately.

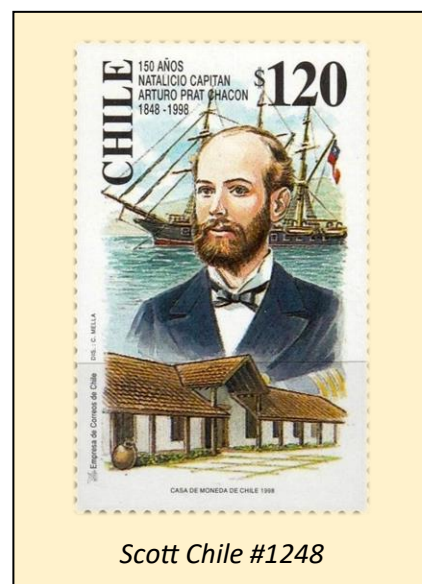
He entered the Naval Academy in August, 1858, at the age of ten with the influence of a maternal uncle. In July, 1861, Prat left the Naval Academy as the most distinguished in his course and commenced a nautical apprenticeship with the grade of "midshipman without examination". In July, 1864, he passed the theoretical and practical tests required for promotion to "examined midshipman". From 1864 to 1866, Pratt distinguished himself during conflict, when Spain seized the Chincha Islands of Peru. In 1870, Prat began his legal studies that eventually led to the reform and modernization of the Chilean Naval legal system.



At the outbreak of war with Peru, known as the 1879 War of the Pacific, Prat commanded the Chilean wooden corvette *Esmeralda*. On May 21, 1879, he faced the Peruvian ironclad *Huascar* off the port of Iquique, Peru. Due to better training of the Chilean navy and missteps by the Peruvian navy, the battle lasted for four hours and led to the Peruvian ironclad ramming the Chilean vessel three times. Prat died while making a futile attempt to board the Peruvian ironclad, but his heroism was a rallying cry for the Chilean nation that went on to win the war.

In the Battle of Iquique, Arturo Prat commanded two corvettes against Peruvian Admiral Miguel Grau, who commanded two ironclads. The casualties and losses for Peru were eight killed or wounded. For Chile it was 143 killed or wounded and 57 captured.

The legacy of Arturo Prat is extensive. First, philatelically - there have been three Chilean postage stamps issued in his honor. Scott #251, 40¢, deep blue, issued on December 24, 1948, for the centenary of his birth; Scott Chile #284, 2 Peso, violet blue, issued on November 6, 1954, the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Iquique; and, Scott #1248, 120 Peso, multicolored, issued on April 3, 1998, to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Prat's birth (This postage stamp was demonetized on December 31, 1998).





USS Nashville / Capitán Prat

Another legacy of interest is that Chile acquired the *USS Nashville, CL43*, a Brooklyn-Class light cruiser from the United States in January, 1951, and renamed it *Capitán Prat*. It was in service under his name until 1982.

Arturo Prat's legacy lives on in Chile, where his name is commemorated on numerous plazas, streets, buildings, and other structures across the country. His unwavering dedication to duty and his heroic sacrifice has made him a symbol of national pride. In addition to these honors, Prat has been depicted on Chilean currency, including the Chile 10 Centesimos de Escudo on 100 Pesos Banknote.



Chile 10 Centesimos de Escudo on 100 Pesos



Finally, a legacy that led me to look into Arturo Prat is a bust of him located in Miami, Florida, near the Torch of Friendship at Bayside Marketplace, a touristy shopping area with tour boats of Biscayne Bay.

Ref: NavalWarfare.com; BankNoteWorld.com; eBay.com

Summer Harvest: Watermelons

Pat Hensley



The Scott #5004, 2015 First-Class Forever Stamp – Summer Harvest: Watermelons, celebrates one of America’s sweetest summer fruits. It is one of a block of 4 Forever stamps (2015 Summer Harvest - Block of 4 Forever Stamps - Scott #5004-7). Issued on July 11, 2015, at the California State Fair in Sacramento, it’s part of a four-stamp booklet featuring corn, cantaloupes, tomatoes, and watermelons. Each stamp, including the watermelon, is a Forever stamp, which means it always pays the 1-ounce first-class postage, regardless of changes in postal rates.

This watermelon stamp draws its design from vintage crate labels used in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Back then, farmers packed produce in wooden crates and used bright, eye-catching labels to stand out on the railroad and market shelves. The design mirrors old seed packets and catalog art. The bold lettering and ripe watermelon illustration were drawn by artist Michael Doret, following early art director sketches by Richard Sheaff and design by Antonio Alcalá. These details make it a great item for stamp collectors and a fun way for kids to learn about history, art, and how mail works—all in one little square!



National Watermelon Day is celebrated every year on August 3, and it’s a special time to enjoy one of summer’s most refreshing fruits. This juicy day honors watermelon’s long history, dating back thousands of years to Ancient Egypt, when watermelon seeds were even found in King Tut’s tomb. Watermelon is made of about 92% water, so it helps keep us cool and hydrated, especially on hot summer days. On this day, families and friends enjoy watermelon in many fun ways: cutting slices, making fruit salads, having seed-spitting contests, and even carving giant slices into creative shapes. It’s a tasty, healthy, and playful celebration that makes summer even sweeter!

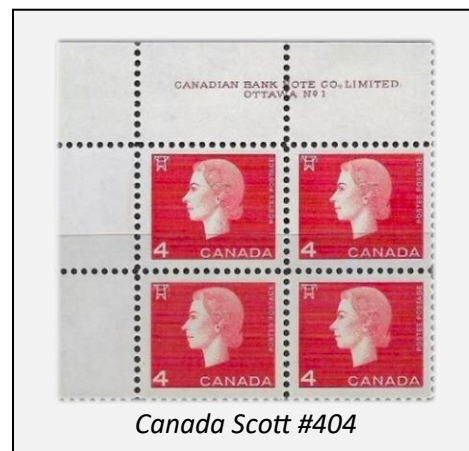
References: <https://stamps.org/collect/new-issues/year/2015-01-01/end/2016-01-01>;
https://foreverstampsshop.com/products/us_summer-harvest_2015; <https://www.mysticstamp.com/5004-2015-first-class-forever-stamp-summer-harvest-watermelons>; <https://www.nationaldaycalendar.com/national-day/national-watermelon-day-august-3>; <https://www.hortonfarmersmarket.ca/hortonblog/national-watermelon-day>
<https://nationaltoday.com/national-watermelon-day/>

Canadian Counterfeits & Forgeries, Part I

Walter Koster

Counterfeits and forgeries have been around since the earliest days of postage. The *Scott Cassic Specialized Catalogue of Stamps and Covers* identifies a “counterfeit” as a reproduction created to defraud the government of revenue and a “forgery” as a reproduction created to defraud collectors.

Improvements in printing and copying equipment accelerated the appearance of counterfeits during the 1960s. In December 1960, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) seized an undisclosed number of 1954, 4¢ Portrait of Queen Elizabeth issues (Scott #340) printed in blue ink, rather than violet ink. In February 1965, nearly seven million counterfeit issues of the 1963, 4¢ carmine, Queen Elizabeth II cameo stamp (Scott #404) were seized in Montreal, Quebec. A genuine inscription block of four is shown at right.



In October 1967, 7,500 sheets of counterfeit 1967, 4¢ Queen Elizabeth II, carmine rose definitive stamps (Scott #457) were seized in Laval, Quebec. In April, 1969, 700,000 counterfeit issues of the 1968, 6¢ orange Queen Elizabeth II, definitive stamp (Scott #459) were seized in Montreal, Quebec. A genuine block of four is shown at left. Despite specialized printing techniques, advanced technology, and unique identification codes invisible to the naked eye but detectable by machines, convincing counterfeits continue to appear on both sides of the Canada – U.S. border.

In the United States, “Flag” and “Love” issues remain the most frequently encountered counterfeit stamps over the past few decades. The 2020 “Drug Free USA” commemorative forever stamp (Scott #5542) is believed to be the first commemorative counterfeit. The stamp’s simple design and colors made it a likely candidate. A counterfeit issue is shown at right.

The *Scott Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps and Covers* includes a section on counterfeit stamps. Linn’s Stamp News describes that catalogue as “the essential reference work for collectors of United States counterfeit stamp issues.”



Counterfeit United States and Canadian stamps are often sold online in bulk quantities at a significant discount – anywhere from 20 to 50 percent of their face value. That's a tell-tale sign they're counterfeits.

References:

Thousands of Counterfeit Stamps Seized by Border Officials in Chicago: <https://www.wptv.com/us-news/crime/thousands-of-counterfeit-stamps-seized-by-border-officials-in-chicago>

CBP Birmingham Intercepts 200,000 Counterfeit U.S. Forever Stamps: <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/cbp-birmingham-intercepts-200000-counterfeit-us-forever-stamps>

More Counterfeits of Modern Canadian Stamps Emerge: <https://canadianstampnews.com/more-counterfeits-of-modern-canadian-stamps-emerge/>

Counterfeiters Hit The U.S. Commemorative Stamp Program: <https://www.linns.com/news/us-stamps-postal-history/counterfeiters-hit-the-u.s.-commemorative-stamp-program>

Introducing The 2023 Scott Specialized Catalogue of United States Counterfeits: <https://www.linns.com/news/us-stamps-postal-history/introducing-the-2023-scott-specialized-catalogue-of-united-states-counterfeits>

More Counterfeits



Recent news reports awakened my interest in counterfeit postal stamps and forgeries. The first – United States Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers in Chicago seized more than 160,000 counterfeit 2022, U.S. Flags, Forever coil stamps (Scott #5659) in eight separate shipments from China. Another seizure by CBP agents in Birmingham, Alabama, intercepted 200,000 counterfeit 2024 U.S. Forever Flag coil stamps (Scott #5871-5874) from Hong Kong. And news that in addition to 2021 counterfeits already identified, new 2020, “Far and Wide” coil series (“P” and \$1.30 / Canada Scott #3212-16 & 3217) counterfeits were discovered and believed to be produced in China. Genuine; 2021 counterfeit; and 2024 counterfeit “P” coil stamps are shown above.

Florida Settlement

Michael Swope



On August 28, 1565, Captain General Don Pedro Menendez de Aviles sailed into the mouth of the Saint John's River, leading a fleet of ten Spanish vessels and carrying 500 soldiers, seamen, farmers, slaves, livestock and tools. Ten days later, the (now) oldest, continuous permanent settlement in the continental United States was established at Saint Augustine, Florida.

Shown above is a Cover Craft Cachets Company (Paterson, New Jersey) cover, commemorating the Florida Settlement's 1965 quadricentennial celebration and first day of issue of the red, black, and yellow, 5¢ "Florida Settlement" postage stamp, Scott #1271; cancelled at Saint Augustine on August 28, 1965.



In addition, the Spanish Postal Service - Correos de España - produced a joint issue, 3p postage stamp, Scott #1312, to commemorate the Florida Settlement's 400th anniversary.

Saint Augustine celebrates "Founders Day" on September 8th each year and for its 460th anniversary this year, the city will have parades, historical reenactors dressed in full traditional Spanish garb, a reenactment of the first thanksgiving meal, and canon and musket salutes.

References: Cover from Author's Collection; Florida Historical Coast.com