

ABOUT US

HISTORY OF ARROW STAMP CO.

Professional Philately, the business of buying, selling, trading, appraising and consigning stamps for collectors, although not a mainstream business, has been around since the first postage stamp was issued by Great Britain in 1840. Here in the U.S.A., the Scott Co., which still prints the sole worldwide reference catalog for American collectors, traces its beginnings back to 1868.

Stamp collecting in the USA was given a huge boost by President Franklyn Delano Roosevelt. As the only philatelist in the history of the Presidency and with his enormous popularity as President, FDR gave a huge boost to the hobby of stamp collecting and to the business prospects of those who decided to pursue professional philately as a full time vocation, like we did. FDR further uplifted the hobby by having the US Post Office print up special stamp issues for collectors and dealers.

Arrow Stamp Co. was founded by my father, John S. Norrington in 1955. He had contracted multiple sclerosis less than a year earlier, and his doctor told him that with an incurable, chronic, debilitating illness like m.s., he was basically unemployable, and since there were no welfare support programs for handicapped people back in those days, the doctor advised him to start his own business, one that was not physically taxing or strenuous.

The stamp business seemed to fit the bill, so to speak. I was the family philatelist (stamp collector), having been an active junior philatelist for more than 5 years before we started the business. However my dad, John Norrington, had an extensive knowledge in depth of business. He had earned an MBA from Stanford University Graduate School of Business in 1939 and had worked in numerous job and entrepreneurial situations before he founded the business. My mom had a degree from Stanford where her father was a professor there. The three of us worked in the business from the day we opened our retail shop, July 4th, 1956. You can see copies of our original City of San Francisco Business License and our early sales tax license in the accompanying illustrations..

When our business started up, it seemed like an auspicious time to launch a professional philatelic venture. In San Francisco alone there were from 8 to 10 retail stamp shops. I had patronized many of them as a young junior philatelist before we started our own stamp business. The H.E.Harris Co., at that time the world's largest philatelic firm, had stamp collecting sales sections and displays in all of the F.W. Woolworth "Five and Dime" stores. At that time, Woolworth's was a retail chain with thousands of outlets across the U.S.A. and even in foreign countries.

Also at the time we opened our business in 1956, there was also a chain of stamp and coin departments in numerous department stores throughout the United States. The stamp catalog and album producer that owned all these outlets was Jacques Minkus, a refugee from Europe who had who had established a successful philatelic enterprise centered in New York City

We met Mr. Minkus during a business trip my parents and I took to New York back 1958. He was extremely friendly and hospitable, taking us around his enormous stamp and coin department which occupied almost half of the ground floor of Gimbel's which, at that time was the largest retail

department store in New York City. In his affable way, he told us, "Mr. Norrington, in this business, you'll may have a million stamps, but you'll never have a million dollars." Actually he was only half right. We never did have a million dollars but in our 65mn years of existence as a family owned firm, we have bought, sold, traded, appraised and consigned more than 5 million stamps

Meanwhile, our business was 'lifting off' very successfully. In 1957 we put out our first U.S. Stamp price list. It was 50 pages in length, cost 25 cents(deductible with your first \$5 stamp purchase), and listed stamps of the U.S.A. and possessions, the United Nations and Canada. It was small enough to fit in your hip pocket. The prices of stamps in those days, as shown by the illustrations of the pages from our list following the cover page, were rather incredible. A set of famous Graf Zeppelin airmails(Scott # C13-C15) sold for \$107.50 mint (current price \$1600-\$1900). A sound copy of the first U.S. stamp(USA Scott #1) could be had for \$16.75 used(today costing any where from \$200-\$400). A current version of this list as of 2020 is the size of a large heavy magazine , is spiral bound, is 334 pages long and can only be carried comfortably in a small briefcase. Cost of the current edition is \$41.35.

Our success was further reflected in the photos of our store taken in the early 1960s. The handsome dude in the middle is yours truly, flanked on both sides by my mom and dad. We were putting out weekly illustrated lists of new stamps from all over the world. It was possible to do this back then because there were only 55-60 members of the U.N.. However, beginning in 1960, there was a huge surge in U.N. Membership as dozens of new independent nations from Africa and other parts of the globe joined the U.N. Today the U.N. Has in excess of 200 members, all of whom continue to issue stamps!

Also after the founding of our business, my parents continued their activities in philatelic organizations, of which I also was a member, to the extent that the business and their health allowed them to.. Meanwhile I, Denis Norrington, was a student in the public school system of San Francisco (at that time, one of the world's best). After graduating from high school in 1959, I matriculated at San Francisco State University from 1959 to 1964 and 1965 to 1969, earning a B.A. And an M.A. In International Relations. I continued my studies at the Ph.D. Level at U.C. Berkeley from 1968-1974 while serving as a lecturer and instructor at San Francisco State from 1967 to m1973, all the while continuing to work in the family philatelic business, Arrow Stamp Co.. My parents and I both thought that an International Relations major would make an excellent background for our business, as we dealt (and have continued to deal) in stamps of the entire world, every nation, every country. We were absolutely correct, as my studies have helped immensely with regard to my knowledge of stamps and setting up and expanding methods of organizing our inventory of stamps from all over the world.

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While all this was happening, we moved around the corner from our original location, 1102 Taraval St. in S.F, to a new second floor location at 2395 21st Ave. The enclosed picture shows our



1) Remnant of original sales tax license taken out
by my father John Norriagton, in October of 1955
(on back - "No. 425790")



2) Original CCSF Business License taken out by
my father, probably in 1955-1956

DO NOT REMOVE

PRICE LIST

OFFICE COPY

STAMPS

OF THE UNITED STATES

1
9
5
7

UNITED NATIONS
CONFEDERATE STATES
U. S. POSSESSIONS
CANADA
NEWFOUNDLAND

1
9
5
7

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PRICE 25c—REFUNDABLE—SEE ORDER BLANK

ARROW STAMP CO.

1102 TARAVAL STREET

SAN FRANCISCO 16, CALIFORNIA

Deane's Washington

Cover of 100+ page Stamp price list put out by us
in 1957

Sample pages from the price list. The USA #1 and #2 now sell for \$2000.00 and \$3000.00 + unused \$500.00 used \$1000.00 used

DEFINITION OF CONDITION OF STAMPS

We price stamps in this list in two grades as follows: Average stamps are in the condition the stamps of various issues generally are found. They are sound stamps, of fair condition according to the issue they represent, and the cancellations on the used stamps may run from light to a little heavy according to the factors involved.

Fine stamps are defined by us as being well-centered for the issue involved, it being obvious that while the late issues will be very well centered, the early issues, and some particularly difficult issues, cannot be furnished in exactly centered condition at the prices we quote on Fine stamps. You can depend upon us to furnish the best stamps we possibly can at our prices. On extremely fine to superb stamps we will quote on request.

The prices for average unused stamps before 1890 are for stamps without gum.

Please send cash with order. We fill all orders promptly and guarantee satisfaction.

Remember that no dealer can have every stamp in stock all the time. MARKET PRICES ON STAMPS SOMETIMES CHANGE RAPIDLY, PARTICULARLY ON UNITED NATIONS STAMPS, SO WE MUST RESERVE THE RIGHT TO ADJUST PRICES AT ANY TIME.

UNITED NATIONS

Year	Block Name	Block Name	Single Unused	Block Unused
1951	1-11 First Issue Postage (Completions)	15.00	13.00	3.25
1-11, OI-4 First Issue, Complete with AIR	19.00	16.50	4.15	3.50
1952	12 War Memorial Building	1.65	1.40	.35
13-14 4th Anniversary Human Rights	7.90	6.00	1.50	1.70
1953	15-16 Refugees	8.25	7.25	1.80
17-18 U.P.U.	8.25	7.25	1.80	2.00
19-20 U.N. Technical Assistance	3.25	2.50	.60	.70
21-22 Human Rights	8.25	2.50	.60	.70
1954	23-24 FAO (Agriculture)	5.75	5.00	1.25
25-26 ILO (Labor Organization)	3.00	2.60	.65	.75
27-28 UN Day	3.75	3.00	.75	.85
29-30 Human Rights Day	9.50	8.00	2.00	2.20
1955	31-32 I.C.A.O.	3.25	2.40	.68
33-34 UNESCO	5.00	4.00	1.00	1.20
35-36 UN Day	5.00	4.00	1.00	1.20
37-38 UN Silver Jubilee	2.35	2.00	.60	.64
39-40 Human Rights	2.35	2.00	.60	.64
1958	41-42 I.C.T.S.	2.00	2.00	.05
43-44 O.M.B. (World Health)	2.25	2.00	.50	.50
45-46 UN Day	1.00	.80	.40	.40
47-48 Human Rights Day	1.00	.80	.40	.40
1951 Air Mails	4.00	3.00	.80	1.10
61-4 Special Jubilee Air Mails, Complete	4.00	3.00	.80	1.10

SCOTT CATALOG NUMBERS ARE USED WITH THE PERMISSION OF SCOTT PUBLICATIONS, INC.

Agreement Completed in 1951 by The Philatelic Foundation, Inc. 104 East 42nd Street, New York 17, N.Y.

PLEASE READ INFORMATION REGARDING CONDITION AND PRICES THAT IS PRINTED ON THE INSIDE FRONT COVER

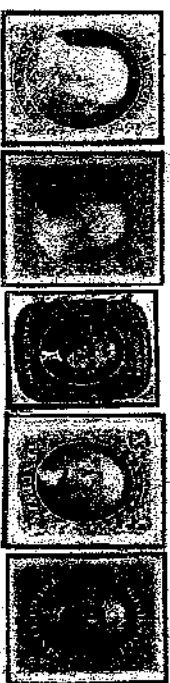
1947 General Issue



For stamps issued before 1890 the unused average prices are for stamps without gum.

Scott's No.	Color	Unused Price	Average Price	Used Price	Average Price
1	5c Brown	44.00	26.50	16.75	16.75
2	10c Black	130.00	78.50	43.00	43.00
3	5c Brown (Reproduction of 1875)	35.00	21.00	11.00	11.00
4	10c Black (Reproduction of 1875)	47.50	29.50	15.00	15.00

1851-1856 Issue, Imperforate, "U.S. Postage" at the Top



No.	Color	Value	Price
6	1c Blue, Type Ia	300.00	98.00
7	1c Blue, Type II	11.80	7.00
8	1c Blue, Type III	125.00	92.50
8A	1c Blue, Type IIIa	75.00	49.50
9	1c Blue, Type IV	9.50	6.25
9c	Orange Brown	17.50	3.80
10	2c Red	3.25	.80
11	3c Red	3.50	.85
11a	3c Red Brown	110.00	70.00
12	5c Red Brown	225.00	55.00
13	10c Green, Type I	38.50	15.00
14	10c Green, Type II	81.00	14.75
15	10c Green, Type III	100.00	72.50
16	10c Green, Type IV	33.50	19.50
17	12c Black	19.50	9.00

1857-60 Same Designs as Above but Perforated 15

No.	Color	Value	Price
18	1c Blue, Type I	35.00	40.00
19	1c Blue, Type Ia	200.00	95.00
20	1c Blue, Type II	18.50	14.50
21	1c Blue, Type III	75.00	45.00
22	1c Blue, Type IIIa	16.75	14.50
23	1c Blue, Type IV	75.00	25.00
24	1c Blue, Type V	2.50	2.00
25	3c Rose, Type I	13.00	3.00
26	3c Rose, Type II	1.25	.38
27	5c Brick Red, Type I	125.00	60.00
28	5c Red Brown, Type I	70.00	24.00
29	5c Brown, Type I	30.00	13.00
30	5c Orange Brown, Type I	15.00	30.00
30a	5c Brown, Type II	16.00	12.00

*The 1930 Graf Zeppelin set now sells for \$1,900 unused and \$1,100 used
Unused Block \$5,000*

For Plate Blocks, Used Blocks, and Mint Sheets, see pages 49-57

AIR POST STAMPS

1918 First Issue



Scott's No.	Unused Block Price	Used Price	Mint Sheet Price	Used Price	Ave. Price
C1	16.65	4.15	2.90	2.55	1.90
C2	36.50	27.00	6.25	5.40	4.90
C3	23.75	17.50	5.95	4.10	3.00

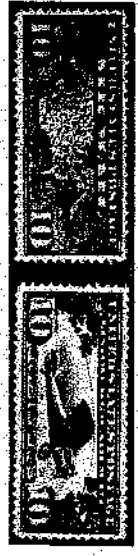
1923 Second Issue



Scott's No.	Unused Block Price	Used Price	Mint Sheet Price	Used Price	Ave. Price
C4	5.30	4.40	1.45	1.10	1.30
C5	24.75	19.00	6.30	4.75	5.10
C6	34.00	26.00	8.15	6.25	2.50

1926 Long Map

1927 Lindbergh

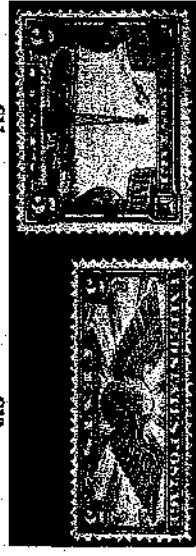


Scott's No.	Unused Block Price	Used Price	Mint Sheet Price	Used Price	Ave. Price
C7	.92	.72	.23	.18	.11
C8	1.50	1.20	.38	.30	.23
C9	2.10	1.80	.56	.45	.20

1927 Lindbergh

1928 Bacon

1930 Winged Globe

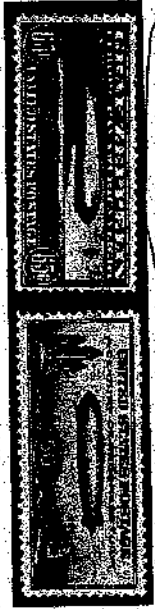


Scott's No.	Unused Block Price	Used Price	Mint Sheet Price	Used Price	Ave. Price
C10	2.85	2.10	.60	.45	.55
C10a			6.50	5.50	.40
C11	1.60	1.00	.35	.22	.12
C12	3.00	2.10	.65	.44	.10

For Information concerning Extra Fine and Superb see Inside Cover

1930 Graf Zeppelin

1933 C. of P. Zeppelin



Scott's No.	Unused Block Price	Used Price	Mint Sheet Price	Used Price	Ave. Price
C13	19.75	12.50	18.75	17.00	15.50
C14	148.50	135.00	34.75	31.50	23.50
C15	253.00	230.00	59.50	54.00	46.00

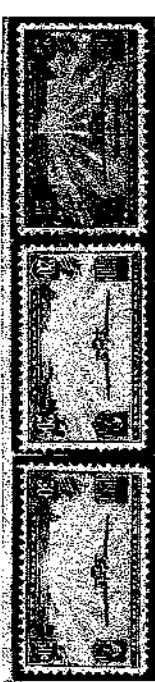
Complete Set

1931-1934 Winged Globe (Rotary Press)

Scott's No.	Unused Block Price	Used Price	Mint Sheet Price	Used Price	Ave. Price
C16	1.70	1.25	.42	.32	.09
C17	1.00	.72	.25	.18	.08
C19	1.15	.95	.29	.24	.05

1933 Century of Progress Zeppelin

1935-1937 Trans-Pacific Clipper



Scott's No.	Unused Block Price	Used Price	Mint Sheet Price	Used Price	Ave. Price
C20	2.10	1.80	.52	.45	.37
C21	2.40	2.00	.60	.50	.21
C22	4.00	3.40	1.00	.85	.47

1938-1946 Designs



Scott's No.	Unused Block Price	Used Price	Mint Sheet Price	Used Price	Ave. Price
C23	.75	.64	.20	.16	.04
C24	5.50	4.60	1.40	1.15	.45
C25	.44	.36	.11	.09	.03

1941-1946 Issue (Large Plane)

Scott's No.	Unused Block Price	Used Price	Mint Sheet Price	Used Price	Ave. Price
C26	.60	.48	.15	.12	.04
C27	.80	.60	.23	.20	.06
C28	1.80	1.45	.45	.36	.11
C29	1.80	1.45	.45	.36	.11
C30	2.50	2.00	.62	.50	.10
C31	4.60	3.60	1.15	.90	.30
C32	.40	.32	.10	.08	.04

Pictures of our store with me and my family taken around 1960. The handsome dude in the middle in the left hand photo is yours truly. I had all my hair back then. The photo on the right shows yours truly inside our store. The two older people in the left hand photo are my parents John and Betty Norrington.



department store in New York City. In his affable way, he told us, "Mr. Norrington, in this business, you'll may have a million stamps, but you'll never have a million dollars." Actually he was only half right. We never did have a million dollars but in our 65mn years of existence as a family owned firm, we have bought, sold, traded, appraised and consigned more than 5 million stamps

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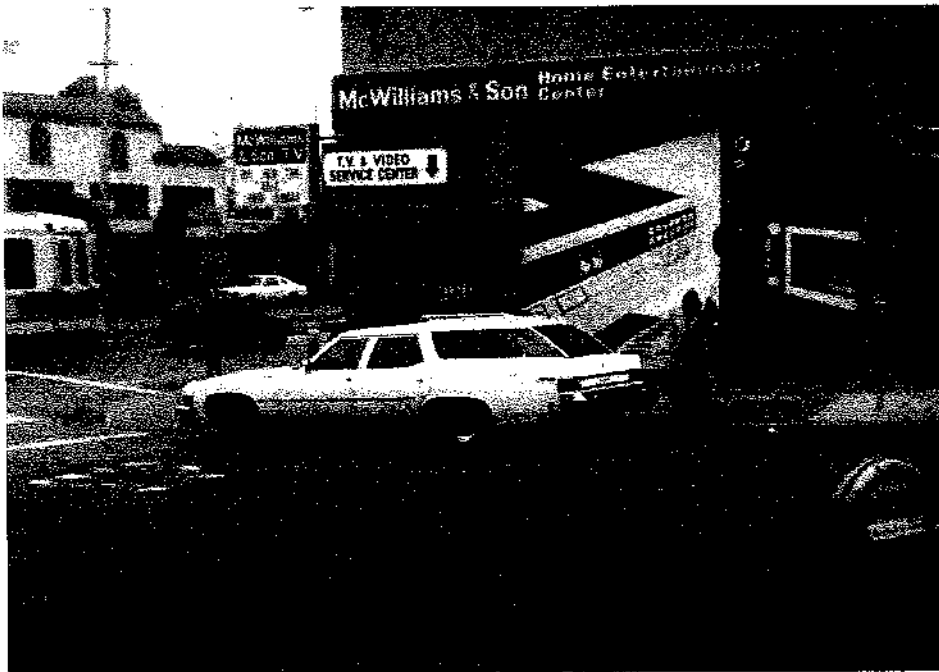
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While all this was happening, we moved around the corner from our original location, 1102 Taraval St. in S.F, to a new second floor location at 2395 21st Ave. The enclosed picture shows our



The sign at the top of the bldg is the original sign placed over our entrance at 1102 Taraval in June of 1956. Legacy funds will be used to restore this sign if possible



second story location there with my mom standing in front of the ground floor entrance. Now we have once again shifted our business. You can contact us either at the current listed address on the website title page, 236 West Portal #298, San Francisco, Ca. 94127 or more quickly, directly through this website by email, phone or text.

Now, as the oldest philatelic establishment in both San Francisco and on the West Coast, we still try and maintain the tradition of direct one-on-one relationships with our customers. ARROW STAMP CO. , after 65 years, still stands ready to serve the needs of stamp collectors and the general public by buying, selling , trading, consigning and appraising stamps from ALL of the 250+ nations, states, territories, colonies and other postage stamp issuing entities, regardless of whether they currently in or out of existence.

See how ARROW STAMP CO. can help YOU. Check out our constantly growing "virtual" STAMP EMPORIUM. Peruse our constantly growing list of stamp collections for sale. Send us your want lists. Contact us about selling, consigning and /or trading stamps you no longer need or would like to get rid of! Contact us by email, phone, text or regular mail. WE are AT YOUR SERVICE. We want to be YOUR STAMP DEALER and PROFESSIONAL PHILATELIST!

ARROW STAMP CO.

<http://arrowstamp.com>

emails: denis@arrowstamp

415-425-6683 (phone AND text)

236 West Portal #298
San Francisco, Ca. 94127

Member, Board of Supervisors
District 4



City and County of San Francisco

KATY TANG

October 13, 2016

Regina Dick-Endrizzi
Legacy Business Program
Office of Small Business
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 110
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Director Dick-Endrizzi,

I would like to nominate Arrow Stamp and Coin Co. for inclusion on San Francisco's Legacy Business Registry. Founded in 1955 by John S. Norrington, Arrow Stamp and Coin Co. buys, sells, appraises and consigns stamps and coins for collectors.

John, his wife, and his son Denis all worked together at their family business. Denis attended Abraham Lincoln High School and San Francisco State University and later took over his father's business operating it until the present day. Arrow Stamp and Coin Co. works with stamps from all over the world. Over the years, the stamp business has changed considerably. Different country's stamps lose and gain popularity, and the cost of stamps has increased from three cents in 1955 to 47 cents today. Arrow Stamp and Coin Co. has evolved with the business and its customers transitioning from retail sales to private sales of rarer stamps for specialized collectors. Over the years, Arrow Stamp and Coin Co. has worked with generations of people teaching history, geography, and world affairs given that the nations of the world use postage stamps as a way to demonstrate their unique attributes and histories.

With over six decades of history in the Sunset District, our office would like to nominate Arrow Stamp and Coin Co. for inclusion in the Legacy Business Registry Program. If you have any further questions, please contact me at (415) 554-7460 or katy.tang@sfgov.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katy Tang".

Katy Tang
Supervisor, District 4
City and County of San Francisco