

PHILATELIC BULLETIN



Sarasota Philatelic Club

2024

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Stamp Quiz



Here is this month's Stamp Quiz. Part of a stamp is shown here. Can you guess the country, stamp, and denomination? Rules: The stamp quiz stamps will always be definitives and not particularly uncommon! Here's a hint: This stamp was issued in 1952. There are several stamps with a similar

design; however, enough of the stamp is shown such that you can identify it. Send your guesses to: centonzevincent@gmail.com

Toy Stamps can be an Interesting Sideline to Philately

By Vincent Centonze

There are several hobbies that can make for good sidelines or additions to philately. One such interesting adjunct to stamp collecting is "toy" stamp collecting. At least as early as the 1910s, and likely even earlier, toy companies produced tiny replica postal items for children to play "post office." These often came with tiny postage stamps, postal stationery, and even various post office forms. Figure 1 shows a small toy postal card, which measures $2\frac{3}{4}$ x 2", produced by the Hullco Toy Company of New York City. The typographed indicium, in red, shows a cupid with bow, "postmarked" with a printed cancellation which reads "KIDDIE CORNERS/U.S.A." However, some toy post office's came with a toy postmarking device as well.



Figure 1. Address side of American toy postal card produced by Hullco Toys. The inset shows a cropped enlargement of the indicium and printed postmark.

Figure 2 shows the picture side, which is a child's "Happy Birthday" greeting. Hullco also produced a tin toy mailbox, less than six inches tall, into which children could deposit their toy cards. Figure 3 is a photo of the front and side of the toy mailbox, with an image of a little boy on one side and girl on the other.



(Right) Figure 2. Picture side of the toy postal card.

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The Prez Sez ...

Dear Club members -

Earlier this month, a dozen of us had an enjoyable meal and group discussion at Bob Evans off of Fruitville road. It was a much quieter venue than Geckos and we will be meeting there again on Tuesday August 6th. Bring items for a show-tell-ask session. In September we will resume gathering at the Universalist Church - our first meeting will feature a talk by Jack Harwood on mourning covers.

I hope to see many of you at one or both meetings,

Pat

August Meeting

Bob Evans - near the intersection of Fruitville and Cattleman. The address is: 5903 Brookhill Blvd

Plan to arrive between 5 and 5:30 PM

Show-Tell and Ask

Toy Stamps can be an Interesting Sideline to Philately (Continued)

Each child is depicted mailing a letter. From the way the children are dressed, the toy was likely fabricated in the first decade or two of the 20th century. Figure 4 shows two toy stamps from the Prexy era. The 1¢ green stamp, replaces Washington's profile with that of a young girl, and the 3¢ violet replaces Jefferson's profile with a young boy. In place of "UNITED STATES POSTAGE," are the words "CHILDREN'S PLAYTIME POSTAGE." These stamps were part of a Children's Post Office set. I have not been able to identify the toy company that produced it; however, Figure 5 is cropped from an eBay lot that showed the 3¢ stamp affixed to a cover and cancelled. The lot also included toy postal cards similar to the 1¢ postal cards that were in use at the time. The educational set also included such things as toy money orders and presumably other post office-related material to help children learn the workings of the post office.



Figure 3. Front and side of the toy mailbox produced by Hullco Toys of New York. The little girl's fashion places the mailbox within the first two decades of the twentieth century.



Figure 4. Children's postages stamps circa 1940s-1950s replicating definitives of the Prexy series. The 1¢ green stamp, replaces Washington's profile with that of a young girl, and the 3¢ violet replaces Jefferson's profile with a young boy. In place of "UNITED STATES POSTAGE," are the words "CHILDREN'S PLAYTIME POSTAGE."

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Toy Stamps can be an Interesting Sideline to Philately (Continued)



(Left) Figure 5. Photo cropped from an eBay lot that showed the 3¢ stamp affixed to a cover and cancelled. The lot also included toy postal cards similar to the then current 1¢ U.S. postal cards. Educational sets such as these included toy post office forms.

Toy stamps and postal stationery exist from numerous countries including Great Britain, Italy, Austria, Belgium, France, Iceland and others. These miniature facsimiles range from the early 20th century through at least the 1960s. Germany was especially prolific in this regard and replicated numerous issues in toy form so that children could learn about the sending of mail. Figure 6 shows a facsimile of a 10-pfennig definitive stamp from the Germania issue. The words “REICHPOST” are replaced with “KINDERPOST” (*Children's Post*). In the 1930s, a German toy manufacturer also produced tiny versions of the Hindenburg definitives; however, the design on these



Figure 6. Toy stamp from Germany replicating the 10-pfennig definitive from the Germania series.

stamps is not altered in any way from the actual postage stamps, complete with the country name “Deutsches Reich.” However, these stamps measure $\frac{1}{2}$ ” x $\frac{5}{8}$ ”; therefore, there was no chance that these toys could be mistaken, or substituted, for the actual stamps. They were reproduced in several values. Figure 7 shows a 12-pfennig stamp on a toy post card. The translated message to *Dear Mother*, loosely reads, *it is from my school. Many regards and kisses from your Rose.*



(Above) Figure 7. Toy stamp on postcard from a school child in Germany. The stamp replicated the 12-pfennig Hindenburg definitive.

(Right) Figure 8. Picture side of the toy postcard showing the now destroyed Königsberg Castle in present day Kaliningrad.



Figure 8 shows the picture side, depicting the now destroyed Königsberg Castle in present day Kaliningrad. Figure 9 shows a toy stamp from Great Britain. The stamp is a toy facsimile of the 1/2 penny vermilion Queen Victoria definitive issued in 1887 and printed for several years thereafter. Therefore, the toy stamp was likely produced around the same time. The stamp is inscribed, THE LILIPUT MAIL.



(Above) Figure 9. Toy stamp from Great Britain replicating the 1/2 penny Queen Victoria definitive of 1887.

Toy stamps certainly have a place in philately as ancillary items to specialty collection of the actual stamps they replicate, or perhaps to spice up an exhibit. They are also a collecting field in their own right — not just to philatelists, but to toy collectors as well. If any readers have toy postage stamps in their collections, we would love to hear from you at centonzevincent@gmail.com. Happy collecting!

Sarasota Philatelic Club

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APS Chapter 353

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