

# POWAY STAMP CLUB

## NEWSLETTER

*San Diego County's Best Stamp Collecting Club*

APS #112097

June 14<sup>th</sup> 2025

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### Club's Mission Statement

To promote a closer social relationship among stamp collectors of Poway, San Diego, and vicinity, and to assist in spreading the knowledge of stamps and the pleasures derived from stamp collecting to those interested in philately.

### Contact Us

Poway Stamp Club  
12675 Danielson Court #413  
Poway, CA 92064

### Club E-mail

[PSCphilately@gmail.com](mailto:PSCphilately@gmail.com)

### PSC Website

[Powaystampclub.com](http://Powaystampclub.com)

## CLUB MEETINGS

### June General Meetings

**June 11<sup>th</sup>  
Presentation**

#### **“Cinderella Primer”**

**by B. Schappelle**

Mr. Schappelle will discuss Cinderella stamps, catalogs that focus on these stamps and labels that look like stamps but were issued for non-postal purposes. The presentation will also include annually issued seals for events or organizations, such as Christmas, Easter, Boys Town, National Wildlife Federation, and various religious charities.

**June 25<sup>th</sup>  
Large Voice Sale**

The meeting will begin with our regular Club business followed by a Club verbal auction, opportunity drawing, show and tell and socialization. Members are encouraged to bring interesting covers and stamps for show and tell as well as other items for sale or trade with Club members.

**Please remember to bring your badge or bring \$1**



### 2025 Club Board Members

<b>President</b>	<b>Art Berg</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>David Klauber</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Bill Kolb</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Trice Klauber</b>
<b>Board (at Large)</b>	<b>David Waller</b>
<b>Board (at Large)</b>	<b>Jim Grundy</b>
<b>Prev. President</b>	<b>Thor Strom</b>
<b>Program Dir.</b>	<b>Bill Gallagher</b>

### 2025 Club Volunteers

<b>Club Registrar</b>	<b>Trice Klauber</b>
<b>Auctioneer</b>	<b>Jim Grundy</b>
<b>Club Librarian</b>	<b>Scott Boyd</b>
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	<b>David Waller</b>
<b>Guild Contributors</b>	<b>Jon Schrag</b>
	<b>Bill O'Connor</b>
	<b>Bob McArthur</b>
	<b>Manny Marti</b>
	<b>Jim Grundy</b>
	<b>David Klauber</b>
	<b>David Waller</b>
<b>Library Rep.</b>	<b>Neil Schneider</b>
<b>Opp. Drawing</b>	<b>Scott Boyd</b>
<b>WebMaster</b>	<b>David Klauber</b>
<b>Public Relations</b>	<b>Valerie Merritt</b>

### 2025 Club Representatives

<b>Federated Rep.</b>	<b>Bill O'Connor</b>
<b>S.D. Phil. Council</b>	<b>Nick Soroka</b>
<b>Rep. (Alternate)</b>	<b>Art Berg</b>
<b>APS Ambassador</b>	<b>Trice Klauber</b>
<b>ATA Rep.</b>	<b>Bob McArthur</b>

## CLUB EVENTS

The following is this year's meeting schedule, all events are proposed and subject to change as necessary to accommodate other events such as auctions.

June	11	B. Schappelle, <b>A Cinderella Primer</b>
	25	Large Voice Sale
July	9	S. Gill, <b>Treasure Hunting Part II</b>
	23	Large Voice Sale
August	13	A. Simoni, <b>The Pony Express</b>
	27	Member's Voice Sale
September	10	TBD – Presentation
	24	Large Voice Sale
October	8	TBD – Presentation
	22	<b>Ugly Stamp Contest</b>
November	12	Large Voice Sale
	26	<b>No Meeting</b>
December	9	<b>Holiday Party</b>
	23	<b>No Meeting</b>



The Fair starts June 11<sup>th</sup> and goes to July 6<sup>th</sup>, and the Poway Stamp Club will be in the Exhibit Hall just west of Bing Crosby Hall. The theme for the 2025 San Diego County Fair is "Pets", and we will be displaying member's collections showing how much we love are pets on stamps.

**Please join us at the Fair!**

**American Philatelic Society**



**San Diego Chapter 2025**

### Meetings

Club meetings are held every second and fourth Wednesday of each month except November & December at:

Philatelic Library  
12675 Danielson Court #413  
Poway, CA 92064

### APS

Many of our Club members as well as our Club are members of the American Philatelic Society (APS). If 33% of our members are also members of the APS, then the Club receives a free year's membership to the APS.

**Please join the APS!**

### Participation

All Club members are strongly encouraged to provide input for the monthly Club newsletter. Your knowledge and expertise is important and should be shared. Submit your article to:

[dwaller@dbwipmg.com](mailto:dwaller@dbwipmg.com)

**Please contribute!**

### Club Website

[PowayStampClub.com](http://PowayStampClub.com)

Visit our Club's website where you will find a schedule of activities, resource links, and contact information as well as our newsletter.

**Take a look!**

# CLUB NOTES

## Club Meetings

The Poway Stamp Club meets twice a month, on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at the Philatelic Library, 12675 Danielson Ct. #413 in Poway at 6:30pm.

## Membership

It is time to inspire others to collect stamps. Enroll a new member today. Give a gift that could last a lifetime. Annual memberships to the Poway Stamp Club are \$10. For those individuals who are already philatelic collectors (and have been a member of the Club in good standing for two years), a lifetime membership in our club could be the perfect gift. Lifetime memberships are \$100.

## Next Bid Board

Our next Bid Board will begin July 5<sup>th</sup> and end on July 19<sup>th</sup>. Final submission date for lot images is June 30, 2025. 10 lots are allowable per member. For more information and Bid Board rules visit the Club's website at [PowayStampClub.com](http://PowayStampClub.com).

## Club Newsletter

**We Need You!**



All Club members are **strongly** encouraged to provide input for the monthly newsletter. Join our Internationally recognized Writers Guild. Please submit items to the Club Editor.

E-mail:

[dwaller@dbwipmg.com](mailto:dwaller@dbwipmg.com).



## Member Spotlight!

By David Klauber



The Poway Stamp Club Newsletter highlights its newest members in each issue. Since our last newsletter there are no new members.

New members are drawn to the Poway Stamp Club because of a collection they have inherited or from a compelling interest in collecting stamps. Many of our members have similar stories to tell about how they found our Club and we would like to hear more on your experiences with stamp collecting. So, please join us at our next general meeting to talk about stamps.

## Juneteenth June 19, 2025

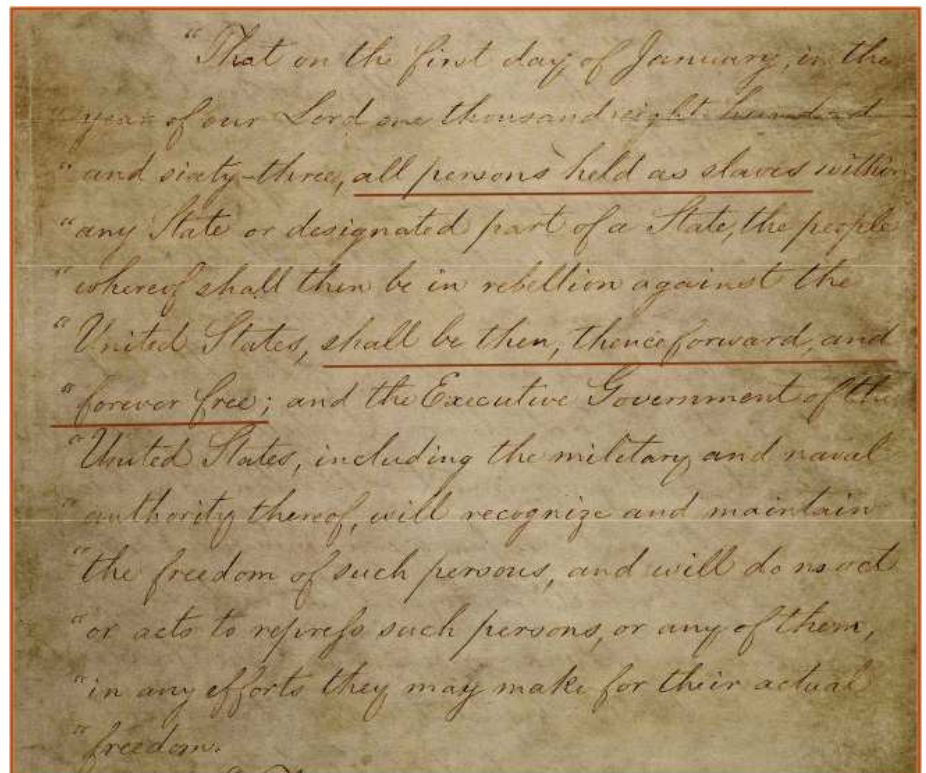
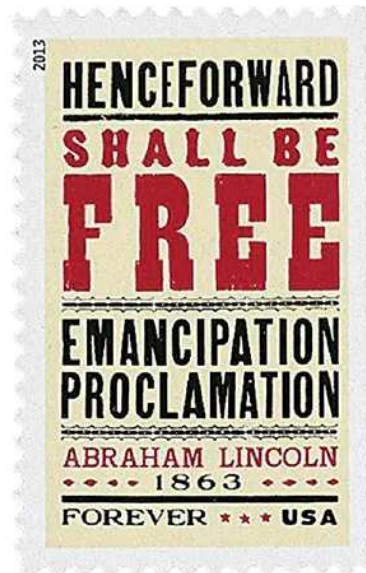


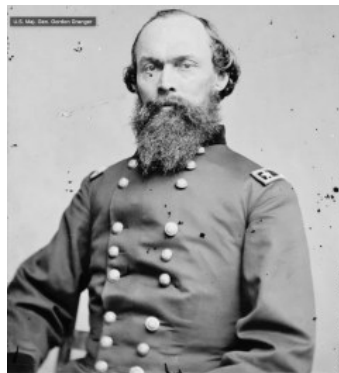
Image of the first page of the Emancipation Proclamation with the key phrases underlined that are restated in the 2013 postage stamp shown below Scott #4721.





Scott #4721, Emancipation Proclamation

Originally, Juneteenth began in Galveston, Texas, to mark the arrival on *June 19* of U.S. Army Major General Gordon Granger, along with 20,000 Union Army troops, who arrived two months after the end of the American Civil War to read *General Order Number 3*, which announced that “all slaves are free.” It read (in part):



Major General Gordon Granger

“The people of Texas are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of personal rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and hired labor. The freedmen are advised to remain quietly at their present homes and work for wages.”

President Abraham Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation was made effective more than two years earlier on January 1, 1863. But because Texas was under Confederate government control until the end of the Civil War and was the most remote of the slave states in revolt, Juneteenth was a day to remember. In addition, some slaves who had moved away from their former masters returned for the annual celebration.

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## Closed Album Al Kish

By David Klauber

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Al Kish, one of our PSC members. He left us too soon, before he could empty his "Man Cave." Al was a long-standing member of the Poway Stamp Club and supporter of the San Diego County Philatelic Library, having served as President of both organizations over the years.

The news about Al was deeply surprising. He was known for many things, one of which was his love of fishing. Many of us appreciated his frequent donations of fish left for us in the library freezer, as well as the many stamps he would bring for sale at club meetings. He had a strong commitment and passion for the hobby. Al's interests in collecting included British Columbia, the U.S., the U.N., and Hungary.

Unfortunately, health challenges over the past year prevented him from attending many of our monthly gatherings. His presence has been, and will continue to be, missed.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to his wife. On behalf of his friends at the Poway Stamp Club, we express our deep respect and gratitude. His absence will be profoundly felt by all those whose lives he influenced.

May He Rest in Peace



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## In the News

### APS Elections

by David Waller



## American Philatelic Society

Remember to support our local Poway Stamp Club members, David Klauber and Mark Banchik for positions on the American Philatelic Society Board of Directors. The Poway Stamp Club would like to ask those of you who are APS members to vote for David Klauber as Director-at-Large and Mark Banchik as President for 2025. Your votes must be submitted before June 14<sup>th</sup> when the election closes.

### Postal Rates to Increase

by Bill O'Connor

According to our local newspaper, the U.S. Postal Service has proposed an increase in mail rates to begin July 13, 2025. Letters, domestic, one ounce from 73 cents to 78 cents. Letters, metered, one ounce from 69 cents to 74 cents. Letters, international, one ounce from \$1.65 to \$1.70. Postcards, domestic, from 56 cents to 62 cents. Postcards, international, from \$1.65 to \$1.70.

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## At The SD Philatelic Library

### The Transports

by Neil Schneider



**Figure 1:** Cover of “The Transports” and image of the 1941 series of airmail stamps CXX to CYY.

Featuring “The Transports” by G.H. David, Bureau Issues Association Inc. Copyright 1999, ISBN 0-930412-25-7, Figure 1.

During 1941, the post office release a series (6¢, 10¢, 15¢, 20¢, 30¢, 50¢) of air mail stamps (Figure 1). A 6¢ booklet variety arrives in 1943. In 1944, the Post Office added an 8¢ value. All these stamps featured a transport plane in flight. Therefore, they became known to philatelists as the “Transports”.

War dominated the thinking in America when the Post Office issued the Transports. Hostile activities throughout the world were causing Americans to think about National Defense.

When the Transports arrived, philately was thriving. Dealers competed aggressively and advertised heavily. It is interesting that advance publicity by the Post Office Department allowed dealers to advertise the Transports three months before they were released. Various philatelic conventions hosted the release of individual Transport stamps.

The Postal Bulletin of May 27, 1941, announced the introduction of the new air mail series beginning with the 6¢ value. A press release from the Information Service of the Post Office Department dated June 11, 1941, included additional information about the other values of the original Transport series.

Postage stamp design often generates considerable public interest. During the five years preceding the design of the Transports, at least two groups made presentations concerning new designs for air mail stamps (Figure 2). The American Air Mail Society spearheaded on design initiative during the winter of 1935-1936. Paul Berdanier and a committee of 12 artists led the second effort in 1941.



**Figure 2:** Photo of the Martin M-130 “China Clipper” used to inaugurate the first commercial transpacific airmail service from San Francisco to Manila in November 1935. Three of these planes were used for airmail service but had all crashed by 1945. The tail end of this plane was used to prepare the image for the stamps but the engraved plane on the stamps was created by the drafter and is not the China Clipper.  
[https://applications.icao.int/postalhistory/libya\\_1984\\_40th\\_anniversary\\_of\\_icao.htm](https://applications.icao.int/postalhistory/libya_1984_40th_anniversary_of_icao.htm).



The domestic air mail rate was 6¢ per ounce when the Transports series appeared. This rate remained in effect until March 26, 1944, when the rate increased to 8¢. During this approximately three-year period the public made extensive use of air mail. This resulted in an abundant supply of 6¢ Transports covers for philatelists.

Following the introduction of the 6¢ soldier's rate on December 25, 1941, the general public made extensive use of the air mail service to communicate with military personnel who responded in kind. The increase in volume led to air mail restrictions.

One way the military tried to cope with mail volumes was the concept of V-Mail (Figure 3), a special letter sheet for use only to and from the armed forces abroad.

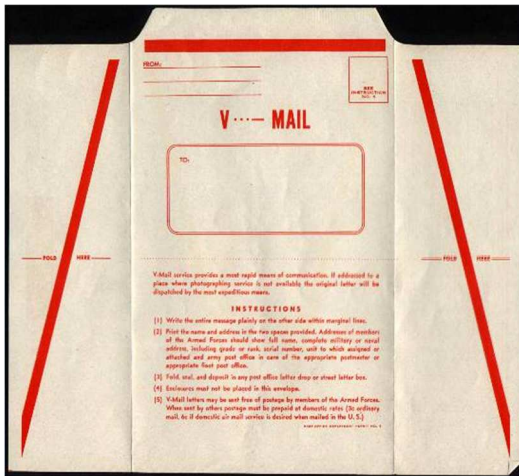


Figure 3: Image of a V-Mail Letter.

Because of the distinctive shape and weight of the V-Mail letter sheet it reduced the weight of the mail and was so arranged to allow space for the sender, receiver and censors clearance. This allowed the military to give this mail priority and increase the volume of mail they could carry. These letter sheets decreased the weight of each individual correspondence. The military used photography to further reduce the weight, then reproduce them on the delivery end.

Armed forces could send V-mail free or by Air Mail at the soldier's rate of 6¢. In the states rates were 6¢ for Air Mail and 3¢ for surface mail.

## Editor's Corner

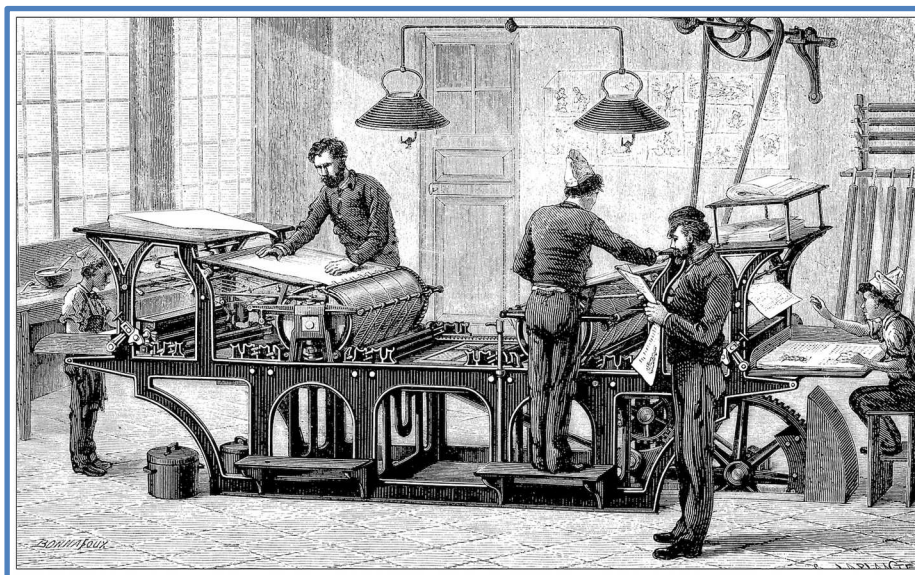


Image obtained from <https://www.gettyimages.com/search/2/image?phrase=antique+printing+press>.

To Our Readers,

I have not heard back from any of our readers on how we are doing, suggestions on how we can improve or topics of interest for future articles. In many organizations this is often taken to mean that the group is doing well or performing as expected. I prefer hearing directly from our readers.

Now some of you have congratulated the Newsletter on topics covered by certain articles and I appreciate that vote of confidence. However, I would like to publish some of your comments, and to do that, I would like to hear how we are doing in e-mails so that I can properly quote your comments, suggestions or kudos. So please let me know your thoughts, [dwaller@dbwipmg.com](mailto:dwaller@dbwipmg.com).

David Waller,  
Editor-in-Chief

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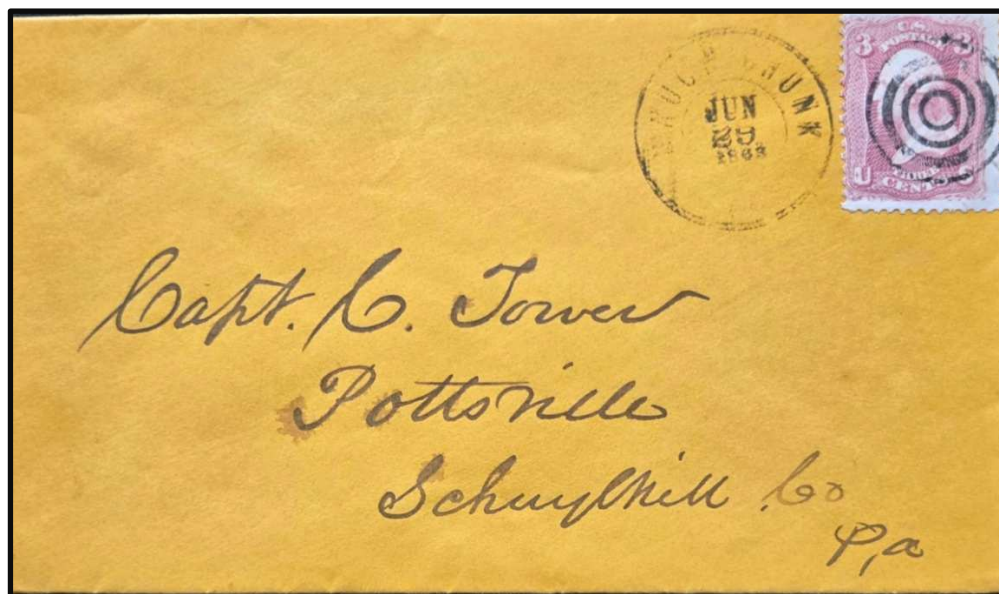
## Member's Articles

### Every Cover Tells a Story

By Jim Grundy



If I had ten cents for every cover I've seen with a Scott #65, I would have enough money to buy a superior-centered, mint, never-hinged, set of the United States Graf Zeppelin stamps. These stamps are not in my collection, but I do have this cover (Figure 1).



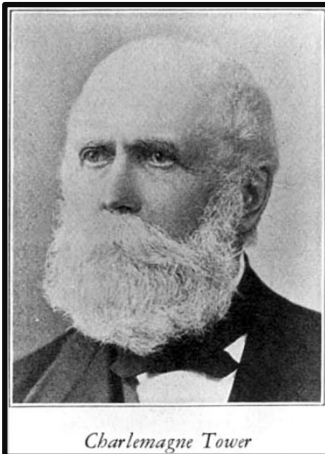
**Figure 1:** Cover to Capt. C. Towers in Pottsville PA dated June 29, 1863, with Scott #65 in the upper right corner.

This cover was picked out of the masses because: it was canceled with an 1863 date stamp (Figure 2); the 1863 date puts the cover in the Civil War era; and the cover was canceled in Mauch Chunk, Pennsylvania. I wondered how Captain C. Tower was involved in the Civil War and how the town of Mauch Chunk was significant. Let's start with Captain C. Towers.

Captain C. Towers was born Charlemagne Tower on April 18, 1809, in Paris, New York. He was the eldest of eight children. At the age of 14, he taught school and graduated from Harvard Law School at the age of 21. Charlemagne worked as a Legal Assistant in Albany and New York City until he became a lawyer in 1836. After moving to Pottsville, Pennsylvania, he opened his own law office. Anthracite coal deposits were abundant on land in this area. Tower and a partner purchased many properties using both legal and questionable maneuvers. Eventually, they acquired nearly 70,000 acres of coal-rich property. They would later sell their properties to the Reading Railroad for three million dollars. Tower received half of the proceeds.



**Figure 2:** Close-up of cancellation of cover in Figure 1



*Charlemagne Tower*

**Figure 3:** Captain C. Towers.

Charlemagne Tower was a very patriotic man (Figure 3). Soon after the attack on Fort Sumner, he organized a group of over 250 men to join and fight for the Army for a three-month enlistment. In April of 1861, Tower was appointment leader of this group of men and was given the rank of captain. His company joined the 6<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania Volunteers. They fought in a few minor skirmishes before their enlistment ended on July 26, 1861. But Tower's military service wasn't over, in April of 1863 (the date on the cover is June 1863), he was appointed the Provost Marshall of Schuylkill County. A "provost marshal" is an officer in charge of military police, responsible for maintaining order and discipline within a military unit or installation. As Provost Marshall, his duties were to provide soldiers for the Army from the men who lived in Schuylkill County.

This was not an easy task to accomplish. The local men were farmers and coal miners and had no interest in being drafted let alone volunteering to fight. The resistance was so strong that Tower had two soldier companies at his disposal to round up the draftees. Resistance to the draft became so great that a mob of 3,000 men marched on Tower's home. This time, he used the soldiers under his command to disperse the mob and detain those who had been drafted. Tower remained Provost Marshall until April 1864. However, the unrest in Schuylkill County lasted until the end of the Civil War.

After his military service, Charlemagne returned to his law practice in Pottsville until he moved his family to Philadelphia. There, in addition to his law practice, he remained active in coal mining, railroads, and developing the assets of the land he owned in South Dakota, Minnesota, and Washington. Charlemagne Tower died from complications caused by a stroke on July 25, 1889.

So far, I have shown who Captain C. Tower was, how he came to live in Pottsville, and how he obtained the rank of captain. Now, let us look at the significance of the town of Mauch Chuck, Pennsylvania. Mauch Chunk was founded in 1818 and is located thirty miles northeast of Pottsville. The name is derived from the native Lenape tribe words "Mausch Unk", which means Bear Place. Mauch Chunk was a major source of anthracite coal. Anthracite coal is a high carbon content coal



that provides higher energy production and is a cleaner burning coal. The town grew and railroads were built to move the coal to distribution points. In 1954, Mauch Chunk changed its name to Jim Thorpe (Figure 4). Here is the reason why.



**Figure 4:** Black and white photo of J. Thorpe, left and color images of the monument erected in the town of Jim Thorpe (formerly Mauch Chunk) following his death in 1953, right.

Jim Thorpe never set foot in or laid eyes on Mauch Chunk. The closest he came was to the Carlisle Indian Industrial School, which was over one hundred miles away. He was a star athlete at this school. When Jim Thorpe died in 1953, his wife wanted him to have a memorial erected in his honor in his home state of Oklahoma. However, the funds needed to complete this project didn't come quickly enough to suit her. When she heard that Mauch Chunk was looking for a tourist attraction to increase business, she contacted Mauch Chunk to see if they were interested in building a memorial to Jim Thorpe. A deal was reached, and Jim Thorpe's remains were interred in a monument situated on dirt from Oklahoma, his birthplace, and Stockholm Olympic Stadium where he won Olympic medals (Figure 4). After many court battles over where the proper burial place for Jim Thorpe's remains, the final verdict was that his remains were to stay in Jim Thorpe, Pennsylvania. The Jim Thorpe Memorial was never the tourist attraction it was supposed to be. Movements were made in 1964 and 1992 to change the town of Jim Thorpe back to Mauch Chunk and the Jim Thorpe family still wanted his remains returned to Oklahoma. But, to this day, it remains as is.

**Southern Oregon  
Philatelic Society**



## **SOPEX 2025: Southern Oregon Philatelic Exhibition**

June 6 - 7, 2025 hosted by the Southern Oregon Philatelic Society to be held at Medford First United Methodist Church at 607 W. Main Street in Medford. For more information contact Casey Palowitch or e-mail at [medfordstamps@protonmail.com](mailto:medfordstamps@protonmail.com)



# I Bought a “Polland Express” Forgery on Purpose

by David Klauber



**Figure 1:** M. Juan Luco Wells Fargo & Co. Cover, from Virginia City to San Francisco  
Courtesy (D. Klauber).

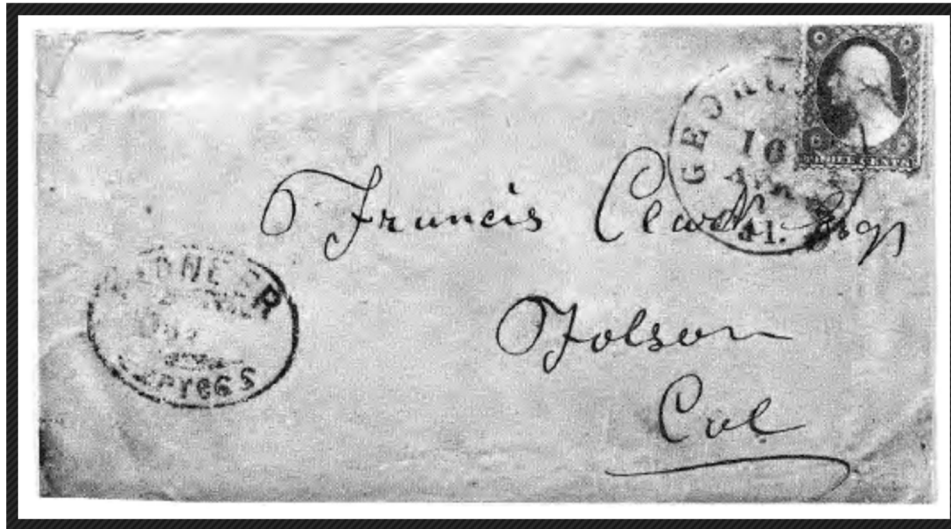
Many years have passed since I first became interested in collecting express covers. I have acquired Wells Fargo & Co. covers from various locations throughout California and Nevada. One of the express types I purchase is covers addressed to and from Mr. M. Juan Luco, Esq., (Figure 1). Luco was a lawyer of Chilean ancestry who was infamously known as a land swindler in San Francisco. My interest in Luco started when I discovered he was also involved in a swindle in San Diego County, where, in 1870, he attempted to claim jump the Julian gold mines by redefining the boundaries of the Cuyamaca Rancho Land Grant, which Augustine Olvera previously owned, followed by Santiago Arguello. Coincidentally, based on his interpretations of Ortega's original 1846 descriptions, his attempt ended in dismal failure.

I recently bought another Juan Luco cover on Ebay, knowing it had probably been altered (see Figure 1). After joining the Western Cover Society, I came across several articles in *Western Express* and vaguely remembered that the “Polland” covers were forgeries. Regardless of its condition, I would still have bought it.

Enter the late writer and philatelist W. Scott Polland, M.D. After purchasing my cover, I returned and searched through my copies of the *Western Express* publication. I found an interesting article from October 1968 that resolved the mystery of this forgery cover and several others.

Dr. Polland, M.D., began documenting cover forgeries around 1948 and later, while working with

Stanley Ashbrook, identified forged “extremely deceptive” Dorsey and Swift covers with fictional “Pioneer Express” handstamps. However, note the difference between the crude hand stamp on the cover in Figure 2, made from a metal engraving by an amateur craftsman, and the machine-like perfection of the modern rubber hand stamp in Figure 1.



**Figure 2:** Genuine Pioneer Express Cover from Wiltsee’s book.<sup>4</sup>

The forger apparently knew a little about early express covers in the Georgetown area and created the printed frank of Spears Express because there had been a “Tracy and Spear’s” Express running for a short time. Still, Polland had never seen a Tracy and Spears handstamp or printed frank. Wiltsee’s book “The Pioneer Miner and The Pack Mule Express” lists a genuine “Pioneer Express” hand stamp to Folsom, California; the express ran into various mining camps on the middle fork of the American River<sup>4</sup>, see Figure 2. The forger saw the possibility of connecting these two express routes to create a rare combination that had never existed. The Dorsey and Swift covers must have been pure fabrications of the forger's mind, as Polland found no evidence for such an express in Aurora, Nevada. However, there were several instances of “Swift” express in California, see Figure 3. After studying these fakes closely, Polland determined they were all forgeries.



**Figure 3:** Pioneer and Dorsey & Spear’s Express Covers, with forged Handstamps.<sup>2</sup>

Dr. Polland then decided that it would be interesting to replicate the path the forger had taken in his venture. First, he discovered that creating similar handstamps was relatively easy. Next, he purchased a few battered, secondary-quality covers with genuine 1850 handstamps, such as those from the Juan M. Luco correspondence, see Figure 4. He then obtained a poor 3¢ 1861 unused stamp, placed it in the open space at the lower left corner of the envelope, and annotated the cover with the date “10-6-1950”, see Figure 5. Much later, someone suspiciously removed the handwritten portions of the notes from the envelope.

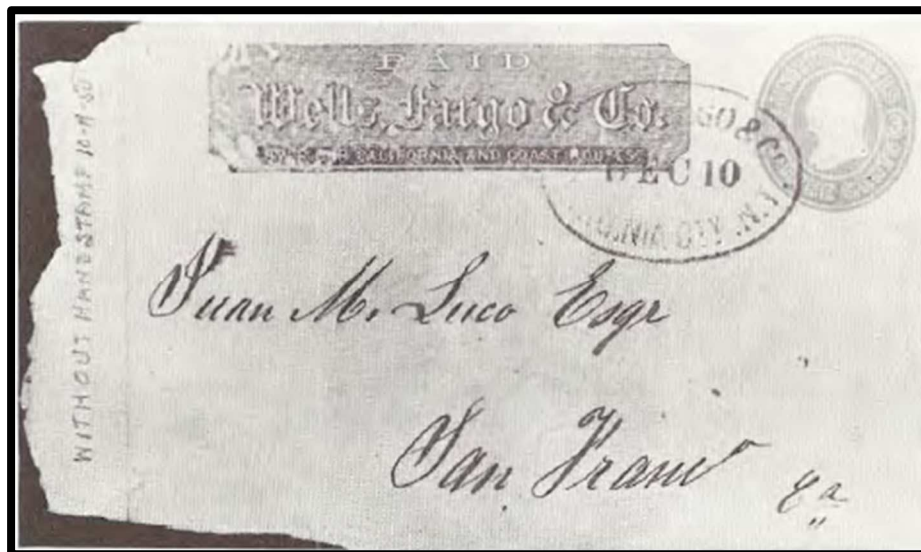


Figure 4: Original 1850 Luco Wells Fargo & Co. Cover.

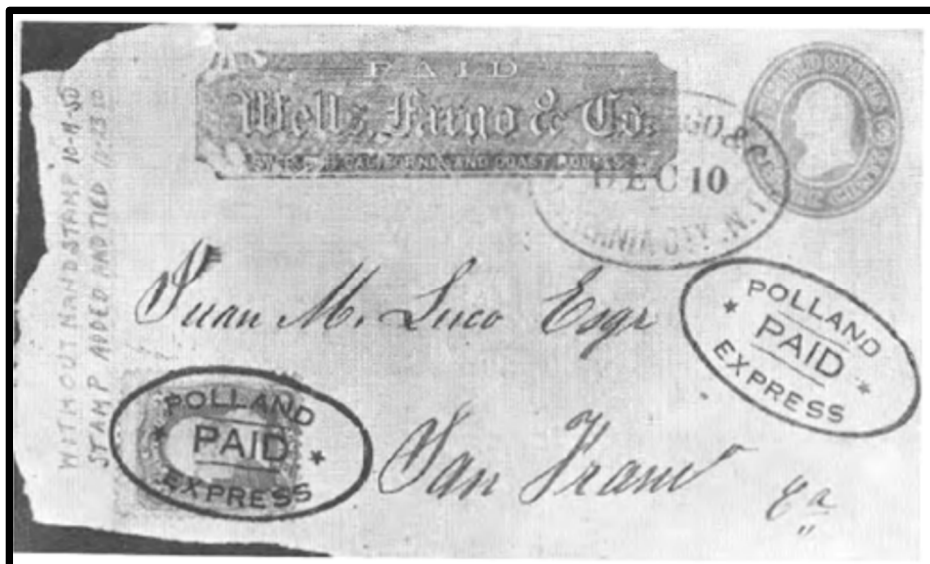


Figure 5: Original 1850 Luco Wells Fargo & Co. with forged handstamp and notations.

Later, he visited a firm that manufactured rubber hand stamps, showed them the forged hand-stamped covers, and asked if they could reproduce them, using “Polland Express” instead of “Pioneer Express” or “Dorsey and Swift Express, see Figure 2. Polland's correspondence with the “Marking Device Association”, a national organization interested in the history of such devices, was enlightening. He inquired about methods by which a rubber cancel, or mark, could be differentiated from those made by a metallic handstamp on either a cover or a stamp. The response indicated that the impression from

rubber dies carries a grain pattern that is distinguishable under a microscope, noting that, in famous kidnapping cases, the F.B.I. determined that the surface patterns were identifiable in the same way as skin and fingerprints. They also stated that it was dangerous to depend entirely on this because some post offices used a muslin cover on their ink pads that could be transferred, complicating the impressions. Alternatively, a smooth metal die might show no pattern of any kind.



**Figure 6:** The second Modified Luco Cover was altered by Dr. Polland.

Polland created another cover, see Figure 6, with additional “Polland” forged handstamps. He wrote, “If anyone has any ‘Polland Express’ other than these, I can assure them that they are forgeries of a forger, as these were the only two made.”

“Living and Learning.” Considering the education I gained from this cover; it might be the best \$17.50 I’ve ever spent. I want to acknowledge “Scotty” Polland, the long-serving Dean of the Western Cover Society, for his significant contributions to the field of western cover collecting. He utilized his expertise in philately, geography, and history to address challenges, even for the most doubtful individuals. “Collectors today owe a debt of gratitude to Scotty for making cover collecting more interesting, informative, and pleasurable.”<sup>5</sup>

#### References:

1. The Sounding, D. Klauber, Coulter Ridge Press, 2006.
2. How to make forgery “Polland Express”, W. Scott Polland, M.D., October 1968, Western Express, October 1968, Page 8-14.
3. How to make forgery “Polland Express”, W. Scott Polland, M.D., October 1968, Western Express.
4. The Pioneer Miner and The Pack Mule Express, Ernest A. Wiltsee, Quarterman Publications Inc., Lawrence, Massachusetts, 1931
5. IN MEMORIAM, Basil C. Pearce, Western Express, NO. 130 VOL. XXXII No. 3, July 9, 1981, Page 1.

## Happy Father’s Day

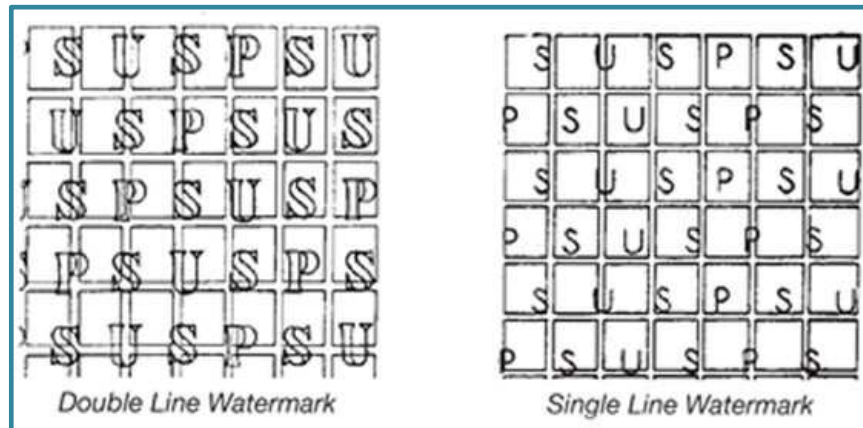
June 15, 2025





# U.S. Watermarks on Stamps circa 1895 to 1916

by David B. Waller



**Figure 1:** diagrammatic representations of the double and single line “USPS” watermarks used on stamps circa 1895-1916, (L.E. Repeta, 2000).

In 1895, the Post Office Department and the Secret Service seized approximately 40,000 counterfeit stamps targeting the 1894 stamp series printed by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing (Figure 3). The counterfeiting occurred at 26 Carl Street in Chicago, which is why these stamps became known as the "Chicago" or "Carl Street" counterfeits (Figure 2). The Canadian Novelty Co., based in Hamilton, Ontario, distributed the forgeries, which advertised seemingly legitimate discounted prices for these stamps in the Chicago Tribune. Consequently, the Postal Service implemented the use of watermarked paper to produce stamps to dissuade future counterfeiting. Watermarking stamps continued until 1916.



**Figure 2:** Scott #250 on left and “Chicago Forgery” on right obtained from “The Long History of Counterfeit U.S. Stamps”, February 2017 Lynn’s Stamp News by Donna Houseman.

It is interesting to note that this was an attempt to catch counterfeiters producing large numbers of stamps (*e.g.*, sheets of stamps) prior to use. It was not designed to identify stamps affixed to a letter because identifying a watermark would have been almost impossible. In addition, all the stamps of a particular issue produced by the postal service would have had to be printed on watermarked paper; otherwise, the absence of watermarking would not provide evidence of forgery. Today, the main

application of watermarking is in banknotes (*i.e.*, paper money), because their forgery is far more serious.

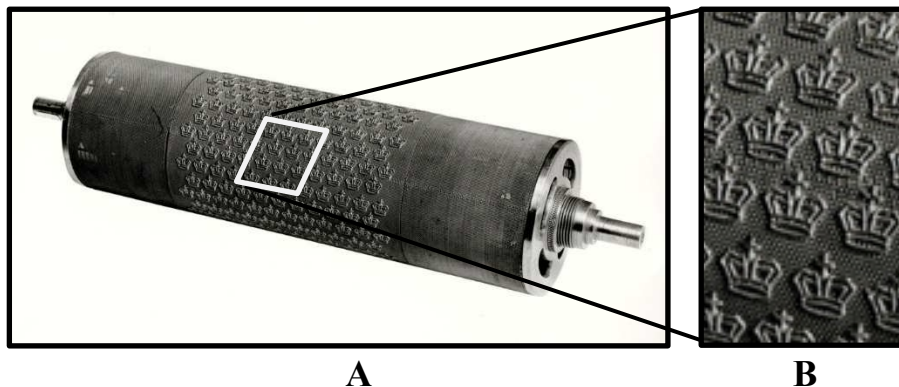


**Figure 3:** 1894 regular issue stamps Scott #s 246-263. Image taken from Ebay (Item # 197094830471) offered by Happy Living Collectibles.

So, when was watermarking first developed? In 1826, an Englishman named John Marshall invented the dandy roll that he used to watermark handmade writing paper. The first dandy rolls resembled a giant rolling pin and consisted of a wire mesh with raised letters, emblems, insignias, or other characters that were impressed onto the moist paper as the sheet was fed continuously under the roll (Figure 4).

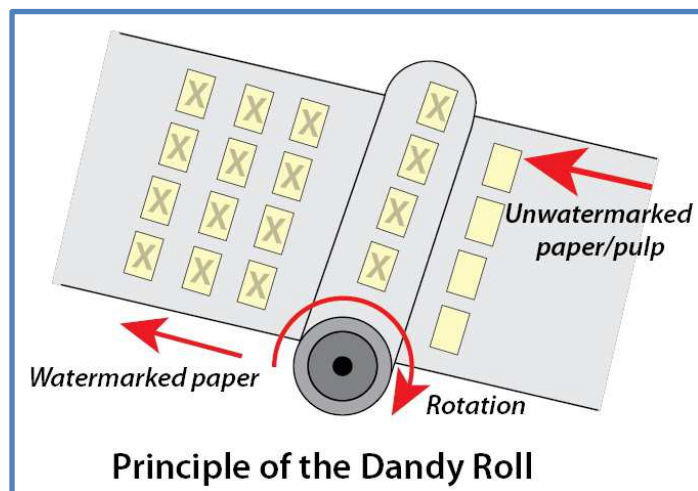
To create a watermark on paper, the thickness of the paper pulp is manipulated during the paper-making process, causing certain areas to appear lighter when held up to a light source. Initially a dandy roll or similar technique is used to compress the fibers in specific areas, allowing more light to pass through.

The traditional dandy roll method utilized a dandy roll, which is a light roller covered with a screen-like material embossed with a pattern. This patterned surface is pressed against the wet paper pulp compressing the fibers in the patterned areas. As a result, these compressed areas became thinner, allowing more light to pass through and creating the watermark effect (Figure 5).



**Figure 4:** A- dandy roll used to create a crown watermark pattern on postage stamp paper in England and B- close-up of the dandy roll showcasing the matrix of crowns intended to be impressed on the paper, Images obtained from The Stamp Forum, “The Dandy Roll and Watermarked Paper”, April 2023 by REL1948.



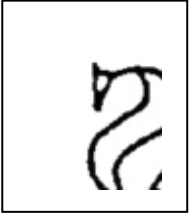



A further development of the dandy roll concept led to cylinder mold watermarking, where differing depths of design are incorporated at various levels of the paper, creating a three-dimensional effect with depth variation. This system is hugely expensive and time-consuming to produce.





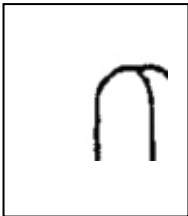


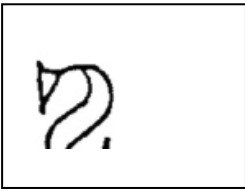
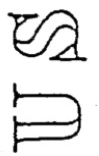
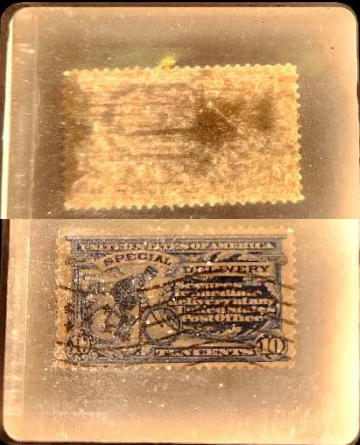
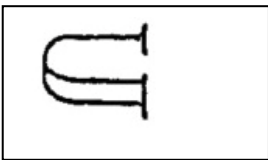
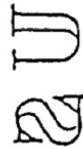

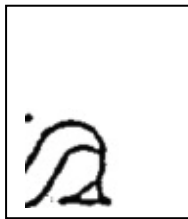
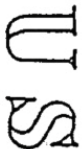

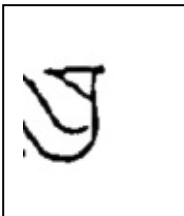
**Figure 5:** A diagram of the process of impressing a watermark on paper using the dandy roll process. Image obtained from the American Philatelic Society “Watermarks a Philatelic Introduction” March 2022 by D. McGill.

The process was designed to provide the watermarks in a particular orientation. This orientation is referred to as “attitude.” The proper attitude is achieved when viewed from the top of the stamp (i.e., oriented right side up); the watermark is also right side up and can be read from left to right. In short, an upright watermark reads the same way as the postage stamp. Any deviation from upright constitutes a variation in watermark attitude. These include reversed, inverted, inverted reversed, sideways, sideways reversed, sideways inverted, and sideways inverted reversed (Table 1).

**Table 1**

Orientation	Diagram*	Example	
		Watermark**	Reproduction
Upright	 <p><i>upright</i></p>		
Reversed	 <p><i>reversed</i></p>		



<b>Inverted</b>	 <i>inverted</i>		
<b>Inverted Reversed</b>	 <i>inverted reversed</i>		
<b>Sideways</b>	 <i>sidewise</i>		
<b>Sideways Reversed</b>	 <i>sidewise reversed</i>		
<b>Sideways Inverted</b>	 <i>sidewise inverted</i>		



<p><b>Sideways Inverted Reversed</b></p>	 <p><i>sidewise inverted reversed</i></p>		
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\*Watermark orientation is viewed from the face of the stamp.

\*\* Images in column 3 are from an electronic watermark detector.

**Table 1:** Diagrammatic examples of the possible attitudes of the watermarks on U.S. stamps from circa 1895-1916 featuring images of actual stamps and their watermarks. All stamps shown in column 3 are part of the Author's collection. Complete images in column 2 and partial images in column 4 are sourced from "Yesterday in U.S. Stamp News: A USPS Watermark Primer" by Louis E. Repeta March-April 2000.

Several methods can be employed to better observe a watermark on a stamp for identification purposes. Holding the stamp up to a bright light with the backside facing you is the easiest and least invasive method for seeing a watermark. Unfortunately, this can be challenging if the stamp is canceled or if the engraving on the face of the stamp interferes with the identification of the mark. Another method involves using a small tray and watermark fluid (i.e., an organic solvent such as lighter fluid (naphtha), Figure 6B). Place the stamp in the tray face down and add a couple of drops of watermark fluid onto the stamp. The watermark will become visible almost immediately. Since this fluid is a hydrophobic organic solvent, it will not damage the gum and evaporate relatively quickly from the stamp's surface. I recommend this method for used and/or canceled stamps, rather than mint ones. While this method has been in use for over a century (i.e., first use 1839), residual solvent that inevitably remains within the paper and/or ink of the stamp is undesirable.



**Figure 6:** Watermark detections systems: **A-** is an image of the signoscope used to create the images in Table 1. Image obtained from Worth Point website, **B-** is a tray containing watermarking fluid. Image obtained from Kenmorestamps.com and **C-** is the method using blue ink filled plastic pouches. Image obtained from Lynn's Stamp Magazine, Insights "Check watermarks to assure you have the right stamp, April 2021.

Electronic watermark detectors also use lighting from the side and/or the back to reveal a watermark (see images in Column 3 of Table 1, Figure 6A). The electronic watermark detector is by far the most expensive option (i.e., ~\$200 on Ebay). Still, it has the advantage of revealing flaws in stamps, such as repairs, creases, and thins, though some can also be detected with the watermark fluid. This method utilizes compression to visualize the watermark. It therefore requires a special, clear translucent sheeting over the stamp to prevent damage to grill marks that may be present on some older stamps. All of the watermarked stamps presented here were observed using the Signoscope watermark detector.

Another type of watermark device uses sealed plastic pouches filled with dark blue ink (Figure 6C). When the pouch is placed over a stamp and pressure is applied by a roller, the ink in the pouch will reveal the watermark. The ink-filled pouch is fast and less complicated than using the watermark fluid with the tray. However, if the pouch bursts under pressure, the blue ink could severely damage your stamp.

I have utilized the first three methods and highly recommend the watermark detector for mint stamps that have no hinge and lack grills.

**References:**

L.E. Repeta, "A USPS Watermark Primer", Parts 1 & 2, March- April 2000 Yesterday in U.S. Stamp News.

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## Remembering D-Day June 6, 1944



Troops landing on Omaha Beach in Normandy on June 6, 1944, D-Day Operation Neptune.

On June 6, 1944, Operation Neptune was launched. It was a massive amphibious assault, with troops landing on five separate beachheads in Normandy during World War II, now known as D-Day. It was a pivotal moment in the Allied forces effort to liberate Western Europe from Nazi Germany. While the exact meaning of "D" is debated (e.g., "disembarkation" or "day of decision") it serves as a standard term used in military planning for similar operations. We honor those who

fought and gave their lives during this assault and in Operation Overlord that eventually liberated Western Europe from the Nazis.



Monument on Omaha Beach, Normandy

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- Puerto Rico Town cancels. Bring to a meeting. Will trade or buy? See **Manuel Marti** PSC # 410.

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## San Diego County Philatelic Library Events

### **Yard Sales**

**July 11th Members 6:00 - 9:00 PM**

July 12th Public 9:00 - 12:00 PM  
October 17th Members 6:00 - 9:00 PM  
October 18th Public 9:00 - 12:00 PM

### Silent Auctions

September 20th 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM  
November 5th 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

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## Stamp News 2025

### New Stamps for 2025



On June 7, 2025, in Three Oaks, Michigan, the United States Postal Service® will issue the *U.S. Flag* stamp (Forever® priced at the First-Class Mail® rate) in one design, in a pressure-sensitive adhesive (PSA) pane of 20 stamps (Item 124200), a PSA double-sided booklet of 20 stamps (Item 685400), a PSA coil of 100 stamps (Item 741000), a PSA coil of 3,000 stamps (Item 752100), and a PSA coil of 10,000 stamps (Item 762800). With this new stamp, the U.S. Postal Service continues its long tradition of celebrating the U.S. flag. The stamp features an image of Old Glory, fluttered by a breeze, against a bright white background. Art director Antonio Alcalá designed the stamp using a photograph by Doug Haight.



This stamp was issued June 10, 2025, in Kennebunkport, Maryland and honors the life and legacy of former first lady Barbara Bush (1925-2018), wife of the 41<sup>st</sup> president, George H.W. Bush, first lady of the United States from 1989 to 1993 and mother of the 43<sup>rd</sup> president, George W. Bush. The stamp art is a detail from the official 2005 White House oil on canvas portrait of Mrs. Bush by Chas Fagan. She is shown in a purple top and black jacket, wearing one of her signature multistrand pearl necklaces. Art director Derry Noyes designed the stamp.



<https://stamps.org/news/c/news/cat/us-new-issues/post/usps-announces-more-stamp-subjects-for-2025>.



Customers may purchase stamps and other philatelic products through the Postal Store at [usps.com/shopstamps](https://usps.com/shopstamps), by calling 844-737-7826, by mail through USA Philatelic, or at Post Office locations nationwide.

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