



LABOR DAY  
2025

# POWAY STAMP CLUB

## NEWSLETTER

*San Diego County's Best Stamp Collecting Club*

APS #112097

September 10<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)

## CLUB MEETINGS

### September General Meetings

#### September 10<sup>th</sup> Presentation

Art Berg, our fearless leader and President of the Poway Stamp Club, will be presenting on the topic of stamp condition. Condition is important in our hobby. It's amazing what we need to know about that little piece of paper. However, what's most important? Is it gum, perforations, or margins? Do perfins destroy a stamp? What about cancels, fading or stains. Come and find out what Scott and Stanley Gibbons, two of the largest stamp catalog publishers, have to say on the matter.

**"The good, very good, and not so good"**

#### September 24<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 Grund</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>Manual 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>

### PSC Website

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



## CLUB EVENTS

The following is the meeting schedule for the remainder of 2025; all events are proposed and subject to change as necessary to accommodate other events such as auctions.

September	10	Art Berg, "The good, very good, and not so good"
	24	Large Voice Sale
October	8	Stephen Gill "Philatelic Treasure Hunting, Part II"
	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>

## CLUB NOTES

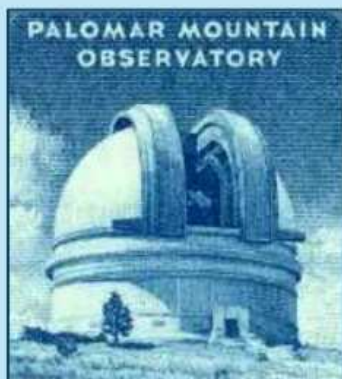
### Club Meetings

The Poway Stamp Club meets twice a month, on the second and fourth Wednesday at 12675 Danielson Court, #413 in Poway. The meetings begin 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.

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 encouraged to provide input for the Club's monthly 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 to find a schedule of activities, resource links, and contact information as well as our newsletter.

**Take a look!**

## Next Bid Board

Our next Bid Board will be September 20<sup>th</sup> through October 4<sup>th</sup> and submissions will have to be into Trice by September 14<sup>th</sup>. Make sure that you visit the website and place your bids. 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 encouraged to provide articles for the monthly newsletter. Join our Internationally recognized Writers Guild and submit your items to the Club's 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.

Some 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.



# Labor Day

## September 1, 2025



Scott #1082

Labor Day celebrates the American labor movement and the contributions of workers to the country's development and prosperity. It emerged from the efforts of labor activists and unions during the late 1800s, a period marked by long working hours, low wages, and unsafe conditions.



Scott #s 4801 a-j



Workers and unions organized strikes, demonstrations, and rallies to advocate for better working conditions, including shorter workdays (ideally 8 hours), better pay, and safer workplaces. The first Labor Day celebrations took place in various cities, with the first recorded in New York City in 1882. Labor Day became a federal holiday in 1894, under President Grover Cleveland, solidifying its place in American culture.

## Grandparents Day September 7, 2025



Scott #2011

National Grandparents Day, was established to honor grandparents and their contributions to families and society. The holiday's origins stem from the efforts of Marian McQuade, a West Virginia woman who recognized the importance of intergenerational connections and the wisdom older adults possess. In 1970, she launched her campaign for Grandparents Day. In 1973, West Virginia became the first state to officially recognize Grandparents Day and in 1978 President Jimmy Carter officially proclaimed the first Sunday after Labor Day as National Grandparents Day, solidifying its national observance.

## Hispanic Heritage Month September 15 – October 15, 2025



Scott #s 4497-4501

Hispanic Heritage Month, celebrated annually from September 15 to October 15, recognizes the contributions and history of Hispanic and

Latino Americans. It began as Hispanic Heritage Week in 1968, established by President Lyndon B. Johnson, and was expanded to a month-long celebration by President Ronald Reagan in 1988. The dates were chosen to coincide with the independence days of several Central American nations, including Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua, all of which declared independence from Spain on September 15, 1821.



Scott #s 2103 and 3781

## Remembering 9/11/2001



Scott #B2

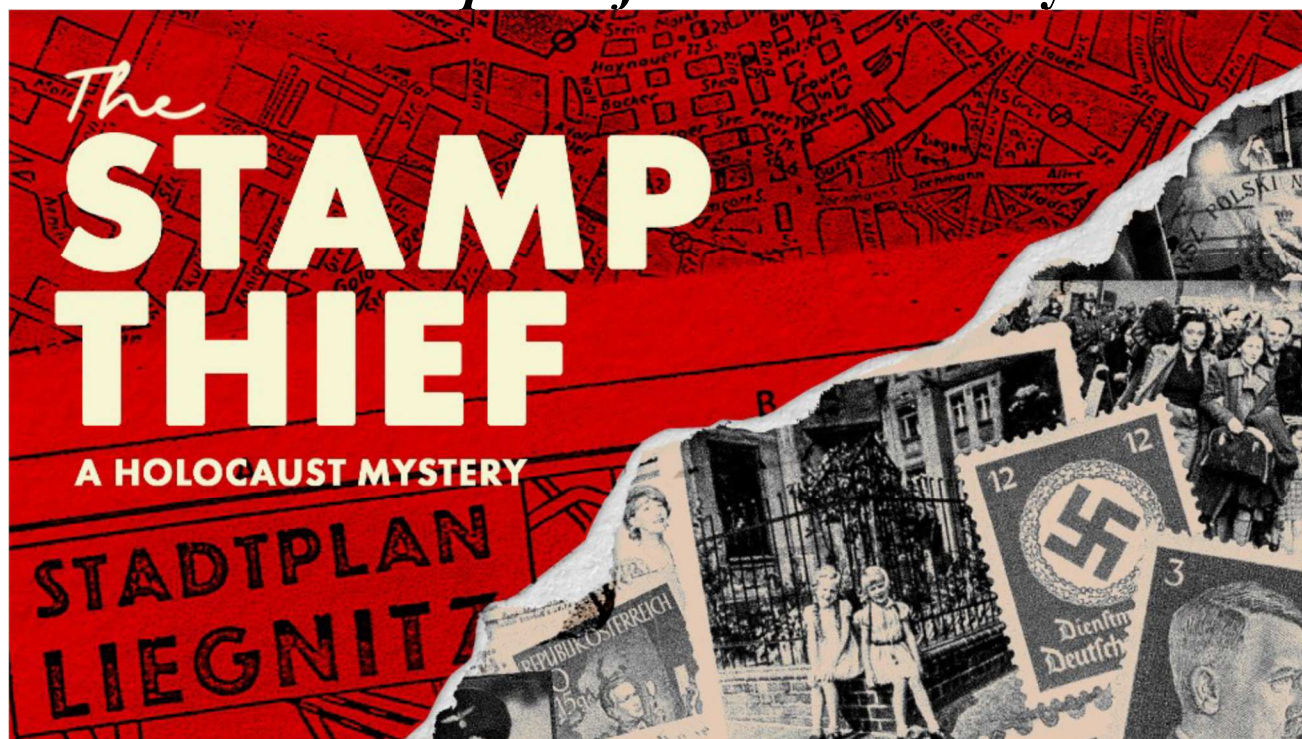
September 11, 2001, is known for the terrorist attacks on the United States. Nineteen al-Qaeda terrorists hijacked four commercial airplanes, crashing three into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, while the fourth crashed in Pennsylvania. The attacks resulted in 2,977 souls being lost.

### Key Events:

- World Trade Center: Two planes were flown into the Twin Towers, causing both to collapse.
- Pentagon: Another plane struck the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia.
- Shanksville, Pennsylvania: Passengers and crew members on the fourth plane fought back, preventing it from reaching its intended target (the White House or the Capitol).

## In the News

### *The Stamp Thief Comes to Poway!*



*The Stamp Thief* is a new documentary film about a modern-day quest to find a collection of valuable stamps stolen from holocaust victims by the Nazis during WWII. A limited number of exclusive screenings have taken place with the producers. Audience response has been very positive.

*"From an Oscar, Peabody, and Emmy award-winning team, "The Stamp Thief" is part detective story, part heist film, and part untold history. The documentary investigates a tale dating back to the Holocaust: that a mysterious Nazi stole priceless stamp collections from concentration camp victims and buried the stolen stamps in a small town in Poland.*

*Embarking on a real-life "Argo"-like adventure, one-time "Seinfeld" producer Gary Gilbert sets out to confirm the story and recover the stamps. His tactic: a fake movie shoot. His goal: to return the stamps to their rightful owners, hopefully delivering a small measure of justice more than 70 years after the Holocaust."*

The Poway Stamp Club and Temple Adat Shalom have teamed up to co-sponsor a screening in Poway in October. The screening will be followed by a panel discussion including one of the film's producers and a PSC member!

Click for preview: <https://www.thestampthief.com/trailer>

Detailed information regarding the screening, ticket sales, and sign up will be available at PSC



meetings throughout September. Ticket sales close on October 1st. No day-of-event ticket sales. For additional information contact Richard Stern – (619) 895-1960. Tickets are \$18. PSC Members and their guests will pay \$10 per ticket.

## Images from GASS



Swearing in of the new American Philatelic Society Officers. Far left: Mark Banchik, President, 4th from left: David Klauber, Board Member at Large.



**Upper left:** PSC Members from left to right, Les Lamphear, David Klauber, Ann Wood, and Trice Klauber, **Upper right:** David Klauber, APS Board Member at Large, Mark Banchik APS President, David Nebel APS Young Philatelic Leadership Fellow (YPLF) and **Lower Center:** APS Mark Banchik addressing the APS General meeting.





## Join the American Philatelic Society

The American Philatelic Society is the largest nonprofit stamp collecting organization. The APS encourages all new members to join and stay updated on current Philatelic news through their website at [Stamps.org](https://www.stamps.org) as well as various other social media channels.

### **Membership Benefits:**

New and renewing APS members receive the monthly journal, “The American Philatelist”, and access to its expansive digital archives.

### **StampChats:**

The APS continues its series of live online philatelic related discussions, providing a platform for experts and enthusiasts to share knowledge and build community.

### **Philatelic Resources:**

The APS website provides news, information about events, and resources for collectors of all levels.

### **Stamp Collecting:**

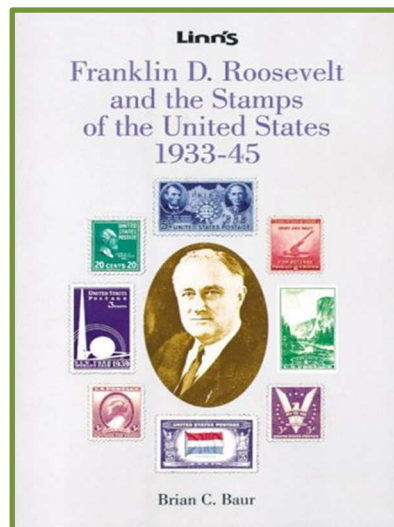
The APS sells stamps on the APS Stamp Store, featured through the online auction site, “Hipstamp” ([wHipstamp.com](https://www.hipstamp.com)) as well as through their Stamp Circuit Mail Sales program.

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## At The SD Philatelic Library

### Franklin D. Roosevelt and the Stamps of the United States 1933-1945

by Neil Schneider



**Figure 1:** Franklin D. Roosevelt and the Stamps of the United States 1933-1945 by author Brian C. Baur and published by Linn's Stamp News.

This is a book concerned with the Postage Stamps of the United States during the Roosevelt era. An era that saw not only the Great Depression but also World War II. Written by a Roosevelt historian to fill in the gaps of what he describes as “America’s greatest stamp collector while he held the office of President” (Figure 1).

From March 4, 1945, until his death April 12, 1945, Roosevelt personally approved each of the more than 200 stamps issued during that time. He accepted and rejected some and designed some himself.

In his youth, Franklin Roosevelt collected many things besides stamps. He collected naval ship models, stuffed and mounted birds, miniature books, and naval prints. He continued some of these as an adult, but stamp collecting seems to have been his favorite.

His hobby was nurtured by his mother Sarah Delano Roosevelt who began collecting when she was 5. She passed it to her brother Fred, who added to the collection and then passed it onto Franklin when he was 10.

While at Groton and then Harvard his interests changed, and his collecting seems to have waned. A familiar pattern among collectors I personally know. Franklin never abandoned his collection for any appreciable length of time.

Cox and Roosevelt running for President and Vice President were defeated by Warren Harding and Calvin Coolidge in 1920. Afterwards FDR travelled to his summer cottage in New Brunswick Canada. There he was struck with infantile paralysis and spent countless bed-ridden days poring over his stamps.

He went to Warm Springs Georgia to receive therapy and swim in the natural warm springs. After long hours of therapy, he spent his evening hours going over his stamp albums and making notations on new stamps he had just mounted.

In 1928, he was elected Governor of New York. As the depression brought on new challenges for the Governor, he found time each evening to spend with his collections. Many collectors who heard of his interest in stamps sent him stamps and covers for his collection.

During his term as Governor only collectors in New York were aware of his interest. As his campaign for President advanced and campaign covers were issued (Figure 2), more collectors across the nation became aware of his stamp collecting.

While previous presidents took little interest in the issuance of postage stamps, FDR became

deeply involved in all aspects of postage stamps of the United States. Almost overnight what had been considered a child’s hobby came of age. Many of those who never had an interest suddenly became collectors.



**Figure 2:** A F. D. Roosevelt campaign cover from the international Exchange Club of Syracuse New York dated September 11-14, 1932.

The Roosevelt years were an interesting time in the production of United States postage stamps. Five days after his inauguration he authorized the Postmaster General to issue the first stamp during his administration. Many firsts of the stamp world occurred during this time. They prompt many people to the Post Office Departmental to praise or complain.

The Post Office Department also saw a terrific scandal during this time concerning specially produced stamps given as gifts for FDR and other officials by Postmaster General Farley. These scandals pale compared to those of today.

Roosevelt used stamps to tell Americans about their history and the people who affected this history. He wanted stamps to educate not just provide postage for mailing an envelope. Stamps also carried the victory of the Allied Forces over Germany in World War II.

There is more information on the history of the various stamps issued during FDR's tenure from the Century of Progress to the United Nations Conference.



Celebrating Spanish Heritage, Scott #s: 5812-5815 (2023)



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## Editor's Corner

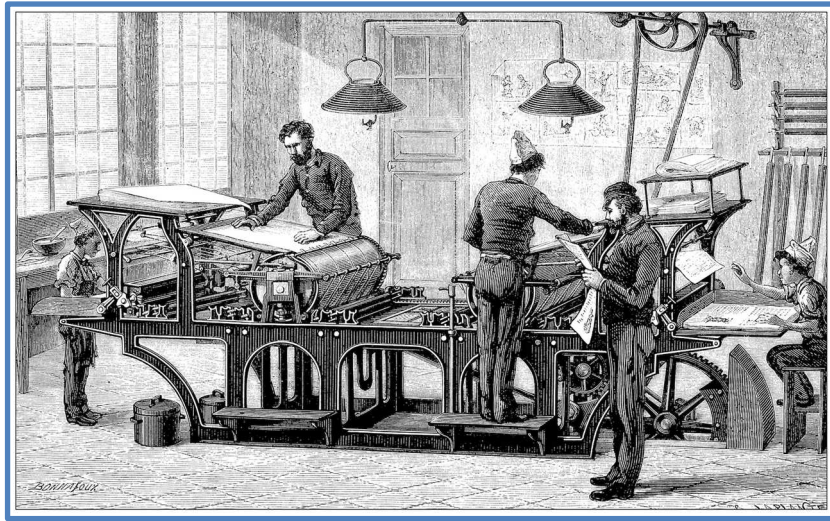


Image obtained from <https://www.gettyimages.com/search/2/image?phrase=antique+printing+press>.

To Our Readers,

A special “Thanks” to all of you who have contributed significantly to the Poway Stamp Club’s Newsletter over the past year. Particularly, Jim Grundy, David Klauber, Manuel Marti, Bill Connor and Jon Schrag. Without your contributions and dedication to our publication we would not have received the esteemed Gold Medal APS award for excellence over the past several years.

David Waller,  
Editor-in-Chief

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## Member's Articles

### Every Cover Tells a Story

by Jim Grundy



Usually, I write about a single cover or postcard, but this article will focus on a group of 40 postcards that were sent to a man named A. J. Colt between 1908 and 1918. Seventeen of these postcards, written between 1908 and 1909, were sent to him from two sisters in Ballarat, Australia, while he was serving on the U.S.S. New Jersey and are the basis for this article. The other twenty-three postcards will provide useful personal information about A. J. Colt that was not available in Google searches. Unfortunately, I don’t have any idea how Mr. Colt responded to these postcards.



**A**



**B**

**Figure 1:** A- Photo of A.J. Clot and B-one example of the forty postcards sent to A.J. Clot.

To understand the story that these seventeen postcards tell, we have to find out how the U.S.S. New Jersey, the two sisters from Ballarat, and A. J. Clot came into contact with each other.

The battleship New Jersey was launched in 1904 and commissioned into the fleet in 1906. About this time, President Theodore Roosevelt devised a plan that would show the world the strength of the U.S. Navy and hopefully calm the tension between the United States and Japan regarding the treatment of Japanese civilians in the United States. The plan was that the New Jersey and 15 other battleships would sail around the world on a goodwill tour, making stops in key ports along the way. This fleet of ships would be called The Great White Fleet.

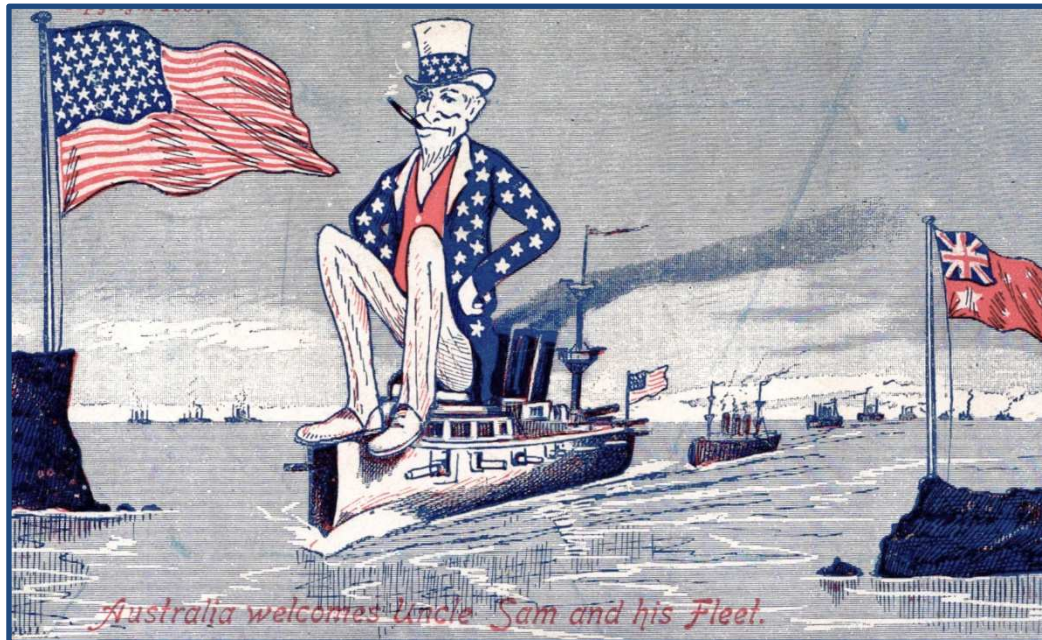
The Great White Fleet left Hampton Roads, Virginia on December 16, 1907, on their trip around the world. The ships and their 14,500 men sailed south around the southern tip of South America (the Panama Canal didn't open until 1914), then north to the northwestern United State, to Hawaii, and arrived in Melbourne, Australia on August 29<sup>th</sup>. The fleet stayed in Melbourne until September 5<sup>th</sup>. During this time the sailors marched in Melbourne and were treated as royalty. The fleet sailed

**Continued on next page.**



Celbrating Labor Day, Scott #: 3186e (1999)





**Figure 2:** Image of “The Great White Fleet” arriving in Melbourne Australia.

north to Japan, where they received a very friendly welcome that eased the tension between Japan and the United States. From Japan, they sailed south and then west, through the Suez Canal into Mediterranean Sea, through the Straits of Gibraltar, across the Atlantic Ocean. They returned to Hampton Roads, Virginia, on February 22, 1909, after covering 43,000 nautical miles, visiting 20 cities on six continents.

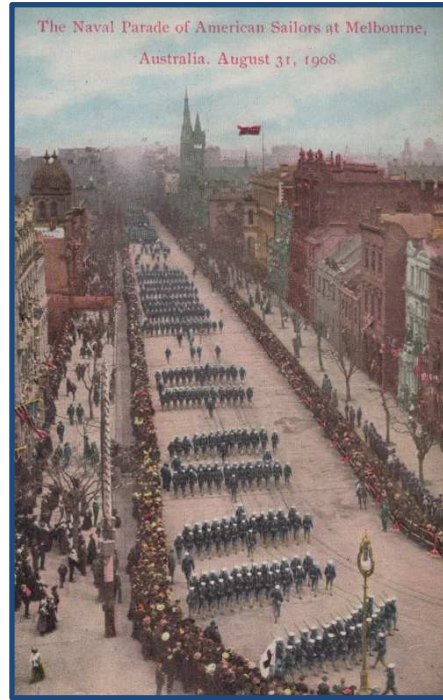
It is possible that the two sisters met A. J. Colt, even though the distance between Ballarat and Melbourne is seventy miles, a significant number of people did come to Melbourne to see the fleet. Colt would have told them that he was a sailor on the U.S.S. New Jersey and that his name was Jack. I assume that is his name because the sisters refer to him as “Dear Jack”, “Darling Jack”, and “Dear Old Jack”. The sisters were able to find his mailing address from the American Consulate in Ballarat. They started sending him postcards in September of 1908 (soon after the fleet left) and the last date on the postcards that I have is September 1909. Over this period, they sent him their picture, asked him for his picture, thanked him for the picture postcards, and wished they could sail around the world with him. I tried to find some information about Betty and Mary but found nothing. The name in the return address, “Delamarr” was always written enclose in parenthesis, which indicates to me that it may be a slang name.

I tried to find out who A. J (Jack) Colt was. The postcards were addressed to Mr. A. J. Colt. I Googled every combination of initials, and initials with names I could think of, but found nothing. Then, I thought, the other twenty-three postcards may provide a clue. I was right! One postcard was addressed to Mr. John (not Jack!) Colt and another addressed to Mr. Albert J. Colt. Albert John Colt had been found! He was born on December 26, 1890, in Inola, Oklahoma, with seven brothers and sisters. I couldn’t find any record of him joining the Navy, but I imagine it would have been in 1907 or 1908. The 1910 Census lists his address as U.S.S. New Jersey. After the fleet world tour, he returned to Inola and married Ehmah Rash on January 27, 1912. They had a son, James Howard Colt, in October of that year. This marriage is very confusing because in Betty’s postcard





A



B

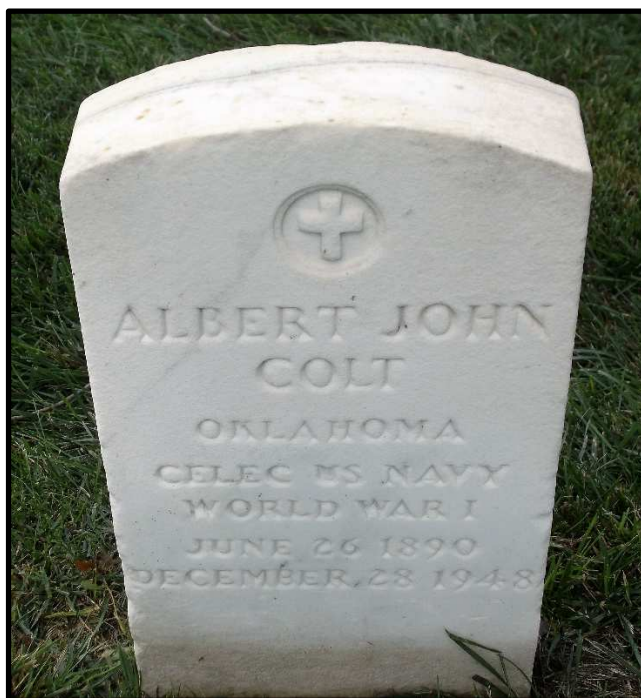


C

**Figure 3:** A-Photograph of the sisters, Betty and Mary and B-C-Parade and celebration on the arrival of The Great White Fleet in Melbourne, Australia.

of January 7, 1909, she writes, "How delighted you seem at the prospect of returning home, I suppose it is only natural when one has a wife and children to see". Some records that I found indicate that he had three children. Albert and his wife were very active in civic affairs in Inola until she died in 1914. After leaving the Navy, he remained in the Navy Reserves. In 1918, he was recalled to active duty and worked at the Sperry Gyroscope Company near the Brooklyn Navy Yard. While he was in the Navy, his wife's family moved to Kansas City, Kansas. He also moved to Kansas City after his discharge from the Navy.

After World War I, the battleship New Jersey had become obsolete and was sunk by Navy dive bombers to prove their growing importance to the military. Since I could not find the true identity of Betty and Mary, I have nothing to say about their lives after 1909. As for Albert John Colt, he died on December 28, 1948, in Kansas City and is buried Leavenworth National Cemetery. This concludes the story of U.S.S. New Jersey, sisters Betty and Mary of Ballarat, Australia, and A. J. Colt that was told through a packet of postcards.



**Figure 4:** Tombstone of A.J. Colt June 26, 1890-December 28, 1948.

## Early U.S. Essays and Proofs

by David B. Waller



I have been a collector for many years and have come across stamps that looked like regular issued stamps but in some cases without perforations. They were often labeled by a Scott # followed by a letter and number indicator (*e.g.*, P2, P3, P4, Tc, etc.). I knew that these stamps were not issued as imperforates, but since I was focused on early commemorative issued stamps, I did not pursue an understanding of these specimens. Now, as the Editor of the Poway Stamp Club Newsletter, I have begun to investigate these and other rarities of the Philatelic community and will share my adventure with you.

Lynn's Stamp Magazine discusses the history of these specimen stamps, referred to as Essays and Proofs, some of which is provided below.

In the late 1800's and early 1900's essays of future stamps were produced in small quantities as a tool for selecting an engraved image and color. Today, design and color essays are kept by the U.S. Postal Service and few, if any, ever reach private stamp collections.

Early essays were often created by the engraver in parts, the vignette, the frame and the number and/or lettering. Sometimes, the artist might draw in pencil cross-hatching around a vignette, or even the suggested frame and lettering. Combinations of essays for the vignette and the frame were sometimes built into full models in the exact size of the final stamp (Figure 1).



**Figure 1:** Essays of bicolored stamps were often printed separately such as this one for Scott #120 with frame on left and vignette on right.



**Figure 2:** A-Scott # 117E2e (Mystic Stamp Company) and B- Scott #117. The difference can be seen in the denomination engraving. The number "12" in the essay is smaller than that actually issued.

Occasionally, essays are now prepared as artists' sketches. In several early cases, however, finished plate essays fully gummed, perforated, and sometimes grilled would be submitted (Figure 2A). All this material, whether an artist's sketch or final plate proof, remains an essay until the production and release of the stamp, then it is designated a proof. (It should be noted that reprints of stamps previously issued and sold by the Postal Service are not classified as proofs and were primarily produced for and sold to collectors (*e.g.* the Atlanta Trial Color series of the 1869 pictorial issues produced for the International Cotton Exposition of 1881)).

Certain stamps may have involved several engravers each having responsibility for a portion of the stamps design. It is not uncommon for one engraver to prepare the vignette, another prepare the frame that will showcase the vignette, and still another to provide the lettering and numbering for the frame. Consequently, a number of proofs may have been prepared for a single stamp.

When art for a stamp issue is accepted, it becomes an "artist's proof." When the engravers copy this



work and that work is printed, these are called "progressive proofs", or "engraver's proofs." Proofs taken from a die are "die proofs"; those pulled from a plate before printing are "plate proofs." Various colors often are used in making proofs; these are "trial color proofs". When a proof is printed in the exact color of the issued stamp, it is termed a "color proof".

Although proofs are known to exist in many varied styles, those listed below are the most common:

**Large die proofs (P1)** were printed on paper about the size of the engraver's die block, approximately 40mm by 50mm (Figure 3A). Margins often show the imprint, letters and numbers of the original contract printers (*i.e.*, in the case of Figure 3A it is the "National Bank Note Company, N.Y." displayed below the stamp image). In the United States, these large die proofs usually were printed on India paper and mounted on card stock. Those with the engraver's name or an official approval designation are highly valued.



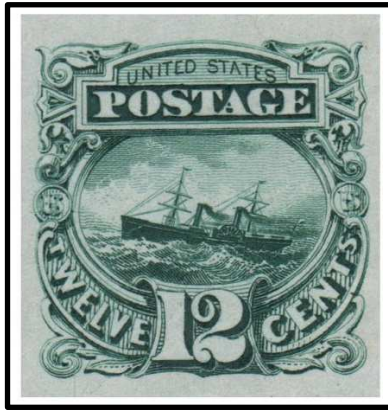
**Figure 3:** A-Large die proof Scott #65 (momenstamps, Hipstamp Item No.: 68299565) and B-Small die proof Scott # 73, USPhila.com).

**Small die proofs (P2)** have narrow margins, seldom larger than 3mm to 5mm in width (Figure 3B). Approximately 300 types were printed for 85 album sets prepared by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing in 1904. These are found on fibrous, white wove paper. Another special printing of 413 different small die proofs was made for the 1915 Panama-Pacific Exposition. These were produced on soft, yellowish wove paper, and are extremely scarce.

**Plate proofs** are found on India paper (**P3**). They were made from finished plates and are excellent impressions, showing a sharpness and color far superior to the stamps themselves (Figures 4A-B).

**Card proofs (P4)** are printed on high-quality, clear white card stock, which can vary in thickness (Figure 4C).

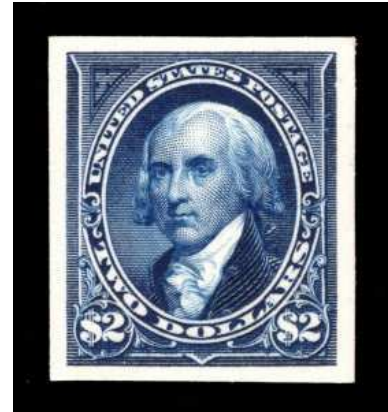
**Hybrid proofs** are really plate proofs of all issues prior to 1894. They have been cut to shape and pressed onto large cards to resemble the large die proofs.



A



B



C

**Figure 4:** A-Plate proof of Scott #117P3 (Mystic Stamp Company), B- Plate proof of Scott #68P3 (momenstamps, Hipstamp, Item No.: 68412949) and C-Card proof of Scott #262P4 (momenstamps, Hipstamp Item No.: 68387611).

**India paper proofs** are on a thin, soft, opaque paper, which wrinkles when wet. This paper also varies in thickness and shows particles of bamboo. Strangely, India paper was developed in China in the 18th century and was once referred to as "China paper".

**Trial color proofs (Tc)** trial color proofs are printed examples of postage stamps, created during the design and production process to test different ink colors before finalizing the stamp's appearance (Figure 5A). These are usually printed on special paper. They can also be color proofs of essays prior to selection of the design for production (Figure 5B).



A





## B

**Figure 5:** A-Trial color proofs Scott # 37 (momen stamps, Inc. Ebay Item No.: 388719738464) and B- Trial Color Proof of Scott #117E2c (Hipstamp, offered by ggasser Item no.; 36936122).

The U.S. Essay-Proof Society, which has since disbanded, defined a proof as "any impression, the design of which was approved for use on an issued stamp of an established government or private post, from any die, plate, stone or type, printed for the purpose of (1) examination or reference, (2) for determination of satisfactory quality of design, color, ink, or imprinted surface, or (3) for determination of the effect of cancellation or method of separation".

The Scott *Specialized Catalogue of U.S. Stamps Essays and Proofs* lists hundreds of varieties of proofs and trial color proofs from the postmasters' provisionals of New York (1845) and Providence (1846) to the 6¢ 50th Anniversary of Powered Flight airmail of May 1953.

Up until half a century ago or more, stamp proofs were available to collectors. In early days, congressmen could secure them for their constituents upon request. Thousands were distributed in this manner. Today, proofs are not freely distributed and retained only by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing and the United States Postal Service.

## U.S. Pictorial Issues

The 1869 National Bank Note Pictorial Issue was a significant departure in U.S. stamp design, being the first to feature images other than national leaders and the first to be printed in two colors. Despite being withdrawn after only a year due to public dislike of their shape, design, and gum, the 1869 pictorials are now highly regarded by collectors, especially those seeking rare items due to their short circulation. The National Bank Note Company produced various essay designs for the 1869 issue, some differing from the issued stamps, for example, by featuring smaller numerals (Figure 2A). Trial color proofs were issued to experiment with colors before the final ink choices were made for the issued stamp (Figure 5B).



**Trial Color Proofs of the 1869 Pictorial Issues created for the 1881 International Cotton Exposition, (i.e., known as Atlanta Trial Color Proofs)**

Atlanta trial color proofs in philately refer to a series of experimental stamps printed for the 1881 International Cotton Exposition in Atlanta. This series of engravings are not truly “proofs” *per se* as they were made 12 years after issuance of the pictorials. They were created to showcase the American Bank Note Company's printing capabilities and were available for public viewing and purchase at the event. The engravings were printed in various colors and denominations, representing the full range of U.S. postal issues up to 1881. They are an exceptional grouping of color varieties of this rare issue and highly prized by collectors. One can observe that the 1cent (buff), 3 cent (ultramarine), 6 cent (ultramarine), 10 cent (yellow), and 90 cent (vignette black) issued colors are not represented. Seldom are they seen for sale as a complete set (Figure 6).









**Figure 6:** Complete set of Atlanta Trial Color Proofs Scott #s 123TC-132TC from Momen Stamps Inc. Ebay Item No. 388601383193.

## “Specimen” Stamps in Your Collection

by Bill O-Connor



Over the years, I have come across a few specimen stamps that to me have been more of a curiosity rather than a collecting interest. I have read articles that indicate a fraudulent attempt to sell stamps with a false overprint; a few years ago, I came across a set of Irish airmails, overprinted with the term, specimen. Be careful in purchasing such items.

In the past, specimen stamps were issued by various postal authorities to let the system know what the issues looked like. The Universal Postal Union, headquartered in Switzerland received such examples of new postal stamps so all members of the UPU would be aware of the types of stamps being issued. Some countries may have issued stamps as gifts or for promotional reasons. Recently, in the past 50 years or so, some countries have sold or provided specimen stamps to collectors. The following examples, including a postal stationary item, have come my way over the years. The first three items presented were found in old stamp albums, usually at the end of the country being collected.

The first example shown is a cut square from a Barbados registration envelope of 1882, one penny rose (Figure 1A). This is one of four such examples that I acquired decades ago from the back of an old beat-up album.





**Figure 1:** A-Barbados cut square registration and B-Great Britain One shilling green Jubilee series.

The second example is the most abused copy of a specimen in my collection (Figure 1B). This Great Britain, Scott 122, one shilling, green stamp, is a very faded example of the Jubilee Issue. I do not remember acquiring this stamp, as I noticed the overprint sometime after the purchase.

The next example is from Montserrat, 2 ½ penny blue, 1922-29, at one time part of the Leeward Islands in the Caribbean (Figure 2A). The entire set of 21 specimens is listed for \$300.00 in the 2022 Scott Classic Specialized Catalogue.



**Figure 2:** A-Montserrat 2 1/2 penny Blue and B-Australia 10 Shilling.

This Australian stamp, a Ten Shilling stamp, Scott 178, is from this country's first issue of George VI in 1938 (Figure 2B). The overprint stamp is listed in the 2021 Stanley Gibbons Catalogue at a price cheaper than the regular stamp. Check out the one-pound stamp of this issue for a great surprise. This stamp and the following stamp were gifts to me from a friend.

The one-pound specimen overprint from Papua New Guinea, 1952, is also listed in Stanley Gibbons for about the same cost of a regular stamp (Figure 3A). I have the impression that if Stanley Gibbons listed these stamps, then perhaps these specimens were available to the general public for purchase.



**Figure 3:** A-Papua New Guinea One pound and B-St. Lucia Mustang 1965 automobile.

This St. Lucia, 1984 Scott 690, Se-tenant (*i.e.*, stamps joined together), is an example of a number of automobile stamps issued by this Caribbean nation (Figure 3B). I am showing you the picture of a Mustang 1965, due to the fact that I had a slightly later model in my very distant past. St. Lucia produced a whole host of Trains, Planes, and Automobiles for the philatelic world.



**Figure 4:** A-St. Vincent Music stamp and B-Seychelles Royal Wedding.

In 1989, St. Vincent, an island in the West Indies, issued a series of stamps, Scott #1142-#1149, honoring the American Jazz and Big Band Eras (Figure 4A). I am showing you the Louis Armstrong stamp, as I think the radio jazz programs of the early 1970s getting me through my early years of teaching here in north county, San Diego.

The final example of a specimen stamp for this article is from the Seychelles. This group of islands is off Madagascar in the Indian Ocean. This 1981 stamp was part of a whole host of stamps honoring the marriage of Prince Charles and Lady Diana (Figure 4B). This Scott #471 is the only example that I have for the series.

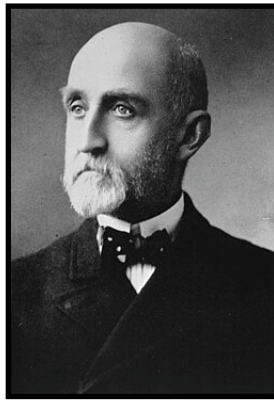
Hopefully, this sparked a little interest in this more obscure aspect of our hobby. I have not seen a cancelled specimen stamp; it would be interesting to find one on cover.

# Numbered Military Postal Station in Puerto Rico

by Manuel Marti



In 1890, Captain Alfred Thayer Mahan, a member of the Navy War Board and leading U.S. strategic thinker, wrote a book titled *The Influence of Sea Power upon History* in which he argued for the creation of a large and powerful navy modeled after the Royal Navy. Part of his strategy called for the acquisition of colonies in the Caribbean Sea that would serve as coaling and naval stations, being strategic points of defense upon the construction of an Isthmusian canal.



Alfred Thayer Mahan; September 27, 1840 – December 1, 1914

On February 15, 1898, U.S.S. Maine exploded and sank in Havana Harbor, Cuba. According to the Navy's leading weapons expert, Philip Alger, the explosion was due to a coal fire igniting a reserve magazine of six tons of gunpowder, much of which was already degrading due to the humid climate. However, the United States forwarded an ultimatum to Spain to withdraw from Cuba following the sinking of U.S.S. Maine. In response, Spain broke off diplomatic relations with the United States, and on April 23, 1898, Spain declared war.



Starboard bow view of  
U.S.S. Maine, 1898. She exploded  
and sank on the evening of 15  
February 1898, killing 268 sailors



U.S. troops landed in Puerto Rico on July 25, 1898. This landing occurred during the Spanish-American War, specifically in the town of Guánica, on the southern coast of the island. The invasion was part of a larger campaign to secure the island, which ultimately led to its cession to the United States in December 1898.

The Spanish-American War officially ended for Puerto Rico with the signing of the Treaty of Paris on December 10, 1898. However, the actual transfer of power and military occupation by the U.S. occurred in the months following the armistice on August 12, 1898. U.S. troops landed in Puerto Rico in late July 1898, and by October 18, 1898, the last Spanish troops had departed, and the U.S. flag was raised in many public buildings.

On August 3, 1898, Military Station #1 opened as a branch of the Washington, DC Post Office in Playa de Ponce, Puerto Rico. To simplify procedures and paperwork, especially registered mail, all military stations in Puerto Rico would operate as a Washington, D.C. branch. Early postmarks of the military stations were standard Railway Mail Service skeleton ring markings. Faced with equipment shortages, military stations used whatever equipment was available including Spanish canceling devices and auxiliary markings. Later, steel duplex cancelling devices were issued to each station.

Military postal service for the Spanish American War was operated by the Railway Mail Service. As early as June 29, 1898, the RMS was instructed to provide three clerks for duty in Puerto Rico. The clerks were assigned to Tampa, Florida until a U.S. base was established on the island. Henry Robinson was designated as Chief Clerk. After waiting for three weeks, the railway postal clerks were ordered to report to Nathan Smith, Postal Agent for Puerto Rico, in Newport News, Virginia no later than July 23. They were to prepare to depart for Puerto Rico immediately. Accompanying the RMS staff were three Post Office Clerks.

On July 28, Henry Robinson and his staff steamed from Newport News Virginia on U.S.S. St. Louis to Ponce arriving July 31, 1898, one week after troops had landed. Arrangements had been

made for Robinson to set up shop in the Customs House on the dock at Playa de Ponce, two miles from the city of Ponce. With limited furnishings and supplies available soldiers were sent to the Spanish post office in Ponce to remove what useful equipment was available for use in the new military post office.

During and after the conflict, post offices were being opened in the captured territories. The first being opened two miles from the city of Ponce, at 1 PM on August 3, 1898, Military Station #1 opened as a branch of the Washington, D.C. Post Office in Playa de Ponce, Puerto Rico.

**Continued on next page.**



Celebrating Grandparents Day Scott#: 1951 (1982)



RARE FIRST DAY USE FROM THE  
FIRST MILITARY POSTAL STATION  
AT PUERTO RICO.

M. Sta. No. 1, Porto Rico, Aug 3 '98  
(Playa de Ponce), military station  
duplex on Spanish American War  
patriotic cover bearing 2¢ rose pink  
(279Bc), canceled by cork, addressed to  
La Moille, Ill.

The first station opened in the former Spanish Custom House at Playa de Ponce and operated there until September 17th, when it was moved from the beach to the main post office in Ponce. The provisional Porto Rico railway duplex was used for just ten days. Below are two examples of the cancels used. Figure 1 shows the provisional cancel used at the Playa de Ponce, and Figure 2 shows the cancel used once the post office was moved to the city of Ponce post office.

**Figure 1:** Railway duplex strike on 1898 cover to Marlboro Mass. with violet "Soldiers Letter/Collect postage from Addressee/W.F. Dusseault, Chaplain/6th Regt Mass. Vols." four-line hand stamp, additional "Soldier's Letter" in pencil, "Marlboro, Mass Rec'd, Aug 16, 1898" arrival back stamp and 2¢ postage due stamp tied by cork cancel; reduced slightly at left.



**Figure 2:** Military Sta. 1, Porto Rico, Wash. D.C., May 29, 99, bold duplex ties 2¢ reds (279B) imprint single on Post Office Department, Post Office at Ponce, Porto Rico.

**The Second Military Station was opened in the city of Guayama, P.R.**



Mil. Sta. No 2 W.D.C., Guayama, Porto Rico, Feb 26 '99, sharp duplex strike with "2" barred oval tying 1¢ green (279) and 2¢ rose pink (279Bc) pair, additionally canceled by cds rim on 1899 Farmacia Bruno corner card cover to New Haven Conn., reverse with partial military transit and New Haven (3.6) machine arrival.

The third Military Station was Playa de Mayaguez a scarce Spanish provisional cancel date stamp was used (possibly) due to having no canceling device or stamps. If you note the date stamp uses the Spanish version of date, month and year. Enlarged view of the cancel is to the right of the cover.



**Mayaguez Provisional** Playa de Mayaguez, Pto.-Rico, 23 Ago 98, Spanish double-circle on buff cover endorsed "Soldiers letter - J.S. Mansfield, Captain 11 Infantry, Comd'g Co. H" at left to DeRuyter N.Y., reverse with "Military Sta. 1, Porto Rico, Wash., D.C., Rec'd Aug 24, 98" (Mayaguez Provisional was created to prepay transmission of mail inside Puerto Rico during the period of transition when stamps were not yet available).





Mil. St. Mayaguez, P.R. Sep 16 98, clear duplex with “3” barred oval tie U.S. 1¢ green (279) and 2¢ rose carmine (279Bc) pair on 1898 blue cover, Mayaguez P.R.” flap imprint to New York City, reverse with “Military Sta. 1, Porto Rico, Wash. D.C., Rec’d Sep 18 ‘98” transit and New York arrival. To the right enlarged view of the Mayaguez cancel.

The fourth Military Station is San Juan. The small buff piece below is from October 18<sup>th</sup>, the date which Puerto Rico was transferred to the U.S.



San Juan - Periodo Terregno (transfer day) Certificado, S. Juan de Pto. Rico, 18 Oct. 98, two framed handstamps tie U.S. 1¢ Trans-Mississippi (285) and 2¢ Trans-Mississippi (286) “Mil. Sta. No 4, W.D.C. San Juan, Porto Rico, Rec’d Nov 18 ‘98” arrival cds.

Cover below was sent on January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1899. It has the merchant oval stamped at lower left from Villar y Ca. The Per Caracas was a coastal passenger steamship built by William Cramp & Sons in Philadelphia.

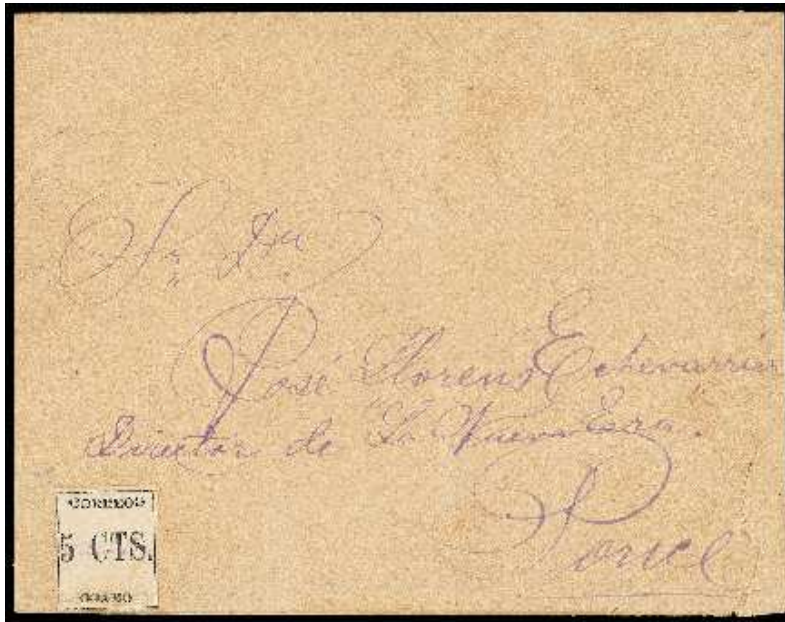


Mil. Sta. No 4, W.D.C., San Juan, Porto Rico, Jan 3, 99, U.S. 5¢ Trans-Mississippi (288) on light buff cover to New York City, purple "Villar y Ca and endorsed per "Caracas" at top left, New York arrival backstamp.

### **Puerto Rico 1898 Coamo Provisional**

The fifth Military Station is Coamo which has it's one Provisional stamp, as opposed to a hand cancel. It is very RARE on cover as only Ten Coamo covers are known in total, three which were

used by Captain R. D. Potts on mail to San Francisco. Seven are known for single Coamo stamps exhibiting the proper local use within Puerto Rico during the approximate three-week period when regular stamps were not available.



One of only two recorded Coamo provisional tied by a military station post mark, this being the only covers known sent abroad bearing a Coamo Provisional.



Coamo Provisional, 1898, 5¢ black, type II (201) position 10, ample to large margins showing complete frame lines, good impression, tied by "Military Sta. 1, Porto Rico, Wash. D.C., Sep 19, 98" duplex on Potts correspondence cover to Presidio, California.

The sixth Military Station was Utuado. Utuado was occupied by American forces on August 8,

1898. The military post office opened on 9 September 1898. The use of the Spanish date stamp was 18 days after the military station at Utuado had opened indicating a lack of canceling devices. The cover below shows such an example of the Utuado provisional stamp.





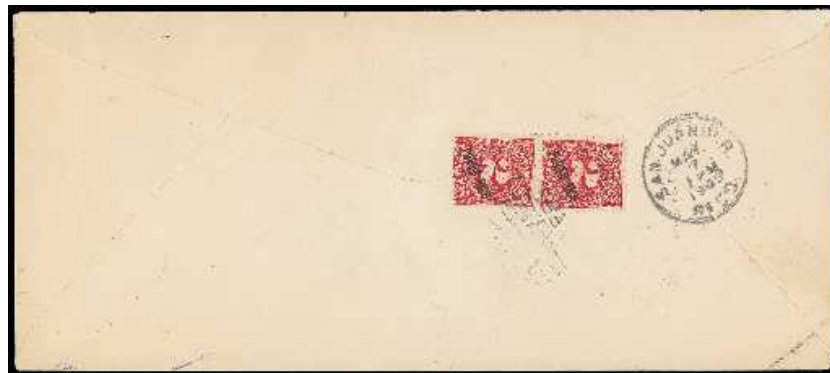
Utuado, Pto. Rico, 27 Set. 98, unusually clear strike of Spanish double circle date stamp on cover piece bearing U.S. 1¢ green (279) and 2¢ rose carmine (279Bc) to Aguadilla.

Military Station number 7 is Yauco, Porto Rico. With all of its' faults this cover shows a nice strike of the military cancel(s). Mil. Sta. No 7, W.D.C., Dec 10 '99, two duplex strikes tie, 1¢ yellow green (210) pair on cover to Ponce, red "J.M. Gatell, Farmaceutico, Yauco, P-R." merchant hand stamp, various transits including "Military Sta 1, Porto Rico Wash. D.C., Dec 18. '99" duplex and New York transit



### The Rare Military Station 8 Juana Diaz

Military Station Number 8 W.D.C., Juana Diaz, Porto Rico, May 6, 1900, with a clear duplex strike on 1900 Board of Charities of Porto Rico penalty cover to San Juan, purple "Postage Due '4' Cents." Straight line, reverse with Porto Rico, 2¢ Postage Due (J2) pair tied by grid cancel, "San Juan, P.R., Rec'd May 7, 1900" backstamp.



Front and Back



View of the cancel for Juana Diaz.

#### References:

- All images are from the Kewriga Auctions Sale 7, June 7, 2025, The C.A. Stillions Collection of Washington D.C. Postal History.
- Catalogo Filatelico de Puerto Rico - Hugo Store (1977)
- The Postal History of Puerto Rico - R.B. Prestor and M.H. Sanborn American Philatelic Society-Handbook Series 100pgs. (1950)

## Member Classifieds

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### For Sale:

- Christmas seals for sale. Singles or full sheets of most dates. Some covers with seals tied by the cancel. See Bob at a PSC meeting or call (858) 278-7873 **Bob Schappelle**.

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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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- You May see the most current Lcstamps lists on our Club Webpage at: [powaystampclub.com/lc-corner](http://powaystampclub.com/lc-corner).



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## San Diego County Philatelic Library Events

### Yard Sales

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

### Silent Auctions

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

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## Stamp News 2025

### New Stamps for 2025

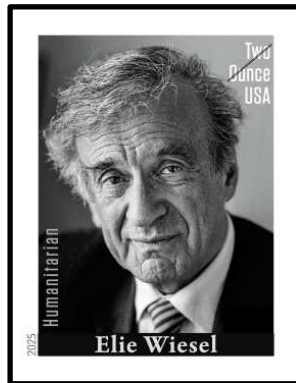


William F. Buckley First day of issue Sept. 9, 2025, in New Haven, Connecticut



One of the most influential public intellectuals in modern U.S. history, William F. Buckley, Jr. (1925–2008) defined the conservative movement of the mid-20th century and was one of its most recognizable spokesmen. Author of more than 50 books, Buckley founded *National Review*, one of the nation's leading conservative publications, and hosted the Emmy Award-winning public affairs television program *Firing Line* for more than 30 years.

This stamp features a striking black-and-white portrait of Buckley created by artist Dale Stephanos. Using graphite and charcoal on hot-press watercolor paper, Stephanos created the artwork by hand before refining the details digitally. He based the portrait on a photograph taken by Steve Schapiro in the 1960s. Art director Greg Breeding designed the stamp. The William F. Buckley, Jr., stamp is being issued as a Forever® stamp.



**Eli Weisel First day of issue Sept. 17, 2025, in New York City, New York**

This stamp honors Elie Wiesel (1928–2016), a survivor of Nazi concentration camps whose writing about the Holocaust is forever seared on the public consciousness. This two-ounce stamp features a 1999 black-and-white photograph of Wiesel in a suit and tie with a pensive expression on his face. Embodying the struggle and urgency of the Holocaust, Wiesel became the voice for victims and survivors, fighting for human rights at every opportunity. He wrote *Night* (1960), which would become one of the most powerful accounts of the Holocaust. Using his devastatingly minimalist style, Wiesel published dozens of works throughout his career that focused on the Holocaust and the Jewish experience. Art director Ethel Kessler designed the stamp with a photograph by Sergey Bermeniev.



**Holiday Cheer First Day of issue Sept. 13, 2025, in Washington DC**

With four mixed-media illustrations of seasonal flora and fauna, the Holiday Cheer stamps usher in

the simple pleasures of the season. The first stamp features three scarlet amaryllis flowers; their bright green stalks tied together with a red ribbon. The second stamp shows a holiday wreath with a mix of light and dark green leaves interspersed with holly berries and a large red bow at the top. The third stamp pictures a plump yellow Bartlett pear, a red pomegranate, and a reddish-orange clementine nestled against a branch of an evergreen tree. The fourth stamp shows two crimson cardinals with black facial markings and dark shading on their wings; each perched on a mistletoe branch. Art director Derry Noyes designed the stamps with artwork by Denise Fiedler. The Holiday Cheer stamps are being issued as Forever® stamps in booklets of 20.



### **Winter Landscapes First day of issue Sept. 19, 2025, Danville, Indiana**

Celebrate the beauty and serenity of snow with Winter Landscapes, featuring five winter scenes. One stamp features two brilliant red barns that strikingly contrast with the surrounding snow, sky, and trees (John Moore, photographer). The landscapes in two other stamps focus on the beauty of freshly fallen snow: One image shows a long fence bounded by tall trees laden with snow-covered branches (Juanita Phillips, photographer). The other features willowy evergreens shrouded in snow, highlighted against a cloudy sky and far-off hills (Katherine Plessner, photographer). A fourth stamp shows a mass of icicles suspended against a fiery sunset and a backdrop of frozen waves (Carson O'Fallon photographer), while the final stamp depicts a house surrounded by frosty pines set against a deep pastel sky (Mike Blottenberger, photographer). Art director Ethel Kessler designed the stamps with existing photographs. The Winter Landscapes stamps are being issued as Forever® stamps in booklets of 20.

<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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