



First Christmas Stamp
Scott # 86

Happy Holidays

POWAY STAMP CLUB NEWSLETTER

San Diego County's Best Stamp Collecting Club

APS #112097

December 2025

In This Issue

- Next Club Meetings and Presentations Schedule
- Club Notes
- Member Spotlight
- In The News
- At The SDPL
- Editor's Corner
- At The Philatelic Library
- Article: David Klauber
- Article: David Waller
- Article: Manuel Marti
- Member Classifieds
- SDPL Events Schedule
- Stamp News 2025

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

CLUB MEETINGS

No Meetings in December

CLUB EVENTS

The meeting schedule for the remainder of 2025 and January 2026.

December	10	Holiday Party
	23	No Meeting
January	14	Club Elections and Ugly Stamp Contest
	28	Bob Apgar



2025 Club Board Members

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

2025 Club Volunteers

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

2025 Club Representatives

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

PSC Website

Powaystampclub.com



The Poway Stamp Club's Program Director, Bill Gallagher, is in search of a few Philatelists to give a presentation to our beloved Poway Stamp Club. The topic will be of your choice, short or long, technical or topical, it is up to you. Available dates are:

January 14th, February 11th, April 8th, May 13th,
June 10th, July 8th, August 12th, September 9th,
October 14th, and November 11th.

Live presentations add so much to our meetings. I strongly encourage everyone to participate. To claim a spot, please e-mail Bill at: ORS2@cox.net or call him (760) 840-0459.

CLUB NOTES

Club Meetings

The Poway Stamp Club meets twice a month, except in November and December, on the second and fourth Wednesday at 12675 Danielson Court, #413 in Poway. The meetings begin at 6:30pm.

Membership

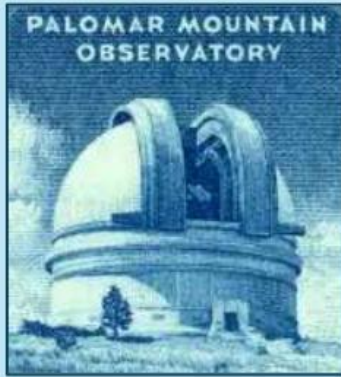
It is time to inspire others to collect stamps. Enroll a new member today. Give a gift that could last a lifetime. Annual memberships to the Poway Stamp Club are \$10. For those individuals who are already philatelic collectors (and have been a member of the Club in good standing for two years), a lifetime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

If you have not renewed your membership for 2026, then please do so as soon as possible. If you have any questions, please contact Trice Klauber at: indysmama@gmail.com

Next Bid Board

Our next Bid Board will be January 24th through February 5th and submissions will have to be into Trice by January 19th, 3:00pm. 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.

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

The Poway Stamp Club and many of its members are also 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

Please contribute!

Club Website

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!

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 today.

E-mail: dwaller@dbwipmg.com.

Member Spotlight!

By David Klauber



The Poway Stamp Club Newsletter highlights its new members in each issue. Since our last newsletter there are five new members. Today's spotlight is on our newest members.

**Bev Turnquist
Michael von Berg
Sandra Varnum
George Turiansky
Maria Holinaty**

We have 5 new members since our last newsletter.

#623 Bev Turnquist of Lakeside, California,

Joined us at a Club meeting and was presented for membership by our President, Art Berg. She was voted in by the membership. Bev collects U.S and Foreign stamps. Welcome to the Club Bev!

#624 Michael von Berg of San Diego, California. Michael found our club via the APS and the club website. He applied and was accepted by our Secretary. Michael collects US Stamps, German Stamps, Mint Sheets, and Plate Blocks. A warm welcome to you, Michael!

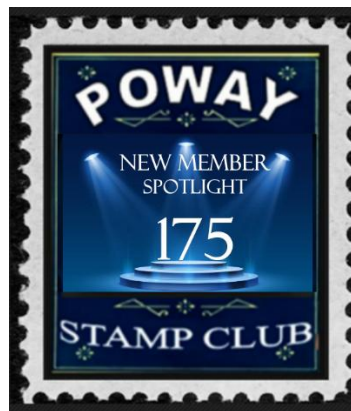
#625 Sandra Varnum of San Diego, California. Sandra discovered our club through the club's website. She applied and was presented at a club auction by Art Berg, and membership was approved. Sandra collects unknown stamps, as she is new to

Philately. Let's all get behind her and help her enjoy stamp collecting. Welcome Aboard, Sandra!

#626 George Turiansky of Parsippany, NJ. George found our club via the Club Website. He applied and was presented at a club auction by Art Berg, and membership was granted. George collects U.S. stamps. Welcome to the group. We look forward to meeting with George in the future.

#627 Maria Holinaty of San Diego, California. Maria found our club via George Turiansky. She applied and was presented at a club auction by Art Berg, and membership was granted. Maria is a new collector, and we hope to see her at our bi-monthly meetings. Welcome to the Club, Mariae.

This brings our total paid membership to 175. We look forward to getting together at PSC meetings with our new members



Happy Holidays:

**Hanukkah
December 14th-22nd**



Hanukkah celebrates the Maccabees' victory over the Seleucid

Empire in the 2nd century BCE, which allowed them to reclaim and rededicate the Second Temple in Jerusalem. The story is that when the Maccabees cleaned the Temple, they found only one day's worth of oil for the menorah, but it miraculously burned for eight days. This miracle is why Hanukkah is celebrated for eight days and why many traditions involve oil, like eating fried foods. The holiday's significance is often summed up by the phrase on the dreidel: "nes gadol hayah sham" (a great miracle happened there). The name "Hanukkah" means "dedication".

The holiday is celebrated by Lighting the menorah: A candle is lit each night for eight nights, with one additional candle added each night. The candles are lit at sunset, and the lighting is done from left to right. Foods fried in oil are traditional to remember the miracle oil. Examples include latkes (potato pancakes) and sufganiyot (jelly-filled donuts). A game is often played with a Dreidel: a four-sided spinning top with Hebrew letters on each side, where players gamble with chocolate coins (gelt), nuts, or other small items. It has become common to give gifts or "gelt" (money or chocolate money) to children and it is encouraged to give to charity (tzedakah) during Hanukkah. (GoogleAI)

Christmas December 25, 2025



Christmas is a major Christian holiday celebrating the birth of Jesus, observed on December 25th. It combines religious traditions,

such as attending church and religious services, with secular customs like decorating Christmas trees, exchanging gifts, and holding family gatherings. The birth of Jesus is seen as the fulfillment of God's promise to bring salvation and hope to humanity. This holiday is celebrated by exchanging gifts, in many forms, pre-dates Christianity and was absorbed into Christmas celebrations from ancient festivals like the Roman Saturnalia. It includes Decorating evergreen trees with ornaments and lights with families and friends gathering to share meals and celebrate the holiday season together.

The figure of Santa Claus is a popular secular symbol of Christmas, bringing gifts to children and adding to the festive atmosphere.

December 25th was chosen by church officials to celebrate Jesus' birth around the 4th century, possibly to align with or replace existing pagan winter festivals like Saturnalia, which also occurred in late December.(Google AI)

Holiday Party

by Trice Klauber

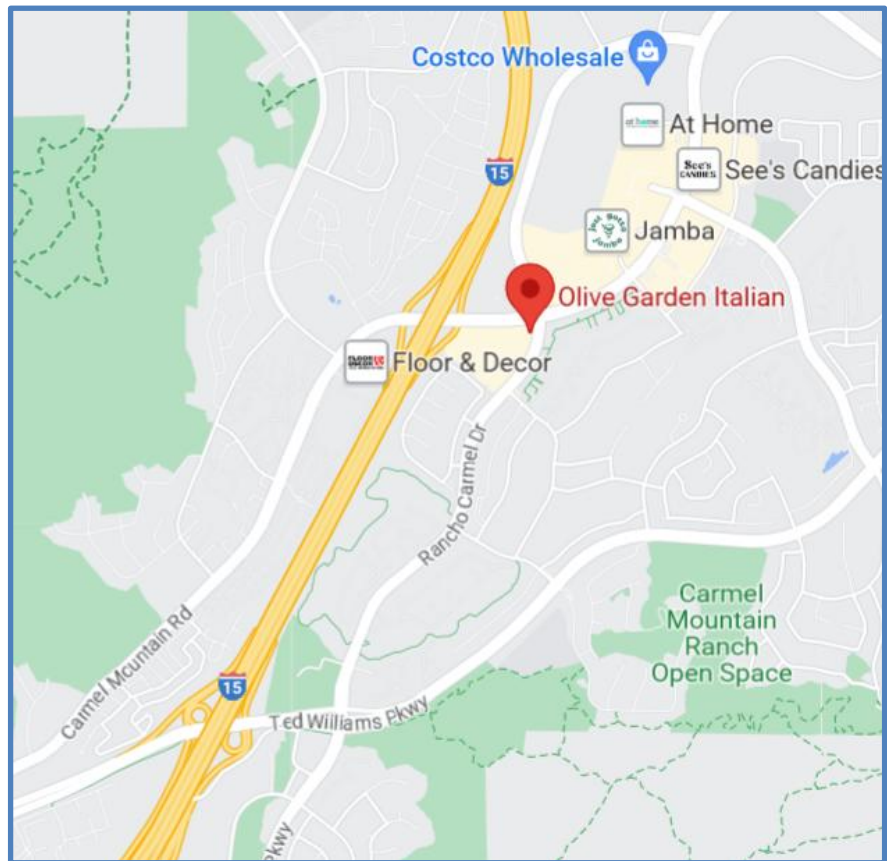
The PSC Holiday Party - The Club has confirmed that we will be celebrating the holiday this year with a dinner/ gathering. We will celebrate the holidays on **December 10th, 2025, at 6:00 pm**. A Map to the restaurant is included below.



OLIVE GARDEN
11555 CARMEL MOUNTAIN RD
SAN DIEGO, CA 92128

The Club pays for members who are current as of this notice. Members are responsible for their guests' expenses. The cost for each additional guest is \$25.00 as well as any alcohol purchased. All alcohol must be purchased at the bar. All dinners include choice of entrée, bread sticks, soup or salad, coffee, tea or soft drinks. A dessert will also be provided.

We have 100 seats, and Trice has accepted 100 reservations. She is now accepting names for the waitlist. Contact Trice at: indysmama@gmail.com



Map
Olive Garden, Carmel Mountain Rd.

Directions: From Interstate-15, take the Carmel Mountain Road exit. Turn East. The restaurant is on the corner of Carmel Mountain Rd and Rancho Carmel Drive.

In the News

In the November issue of the American Philatelist there is a section in the back of the magazine called “Show Time”. This section is also available online at stampshow@stamps.org and lists the upcoming shows and APS events throughout the United States. Some of these are club gatherings and others are shows labeled “B” for bourse only events and “WSP” for World Series of Philately events.

Below is a listing of the **WSP** events and **Boston World Expo** in 2026:

January 16-18, Sarasota National Stamp Exposition in Florida
see sarasotationalstampexhibition.com for details.

January 23-25, Southeastern Stamp Expo in Georgia
see sestampexpo@gmail.com for details.

February 20-22, San Diego Stamp Show in California
see sandiegostampshow.net

March 13-15, Garfield-Perry March Party in Ohio
see MarchPartyChair@garfieldperry.org for details.

March 20-22, St. Louis Stamp Expo in Missouri
see stlouisstampsexpo.com for details.

May 8-10, Rocky Mountain Stamp Show in Colorado
see rockymountainstampshow.com for details.

May 23-30, Boston 2026 World Expo in Massachusetts
see boston2026.org for details.

August 7-9, Baltimore Philatelic Society Philatelic Expo (BALPEX) in Maryland
see balpex.org for details.

August 28-30, National Philatelic Exhibitions of Washington (NAPEX) in Virginia
see napex.org for details.

September 18-20, Indiana Stamp Club (INDYPEX) in Indiana
see indianastampclub.org for details.

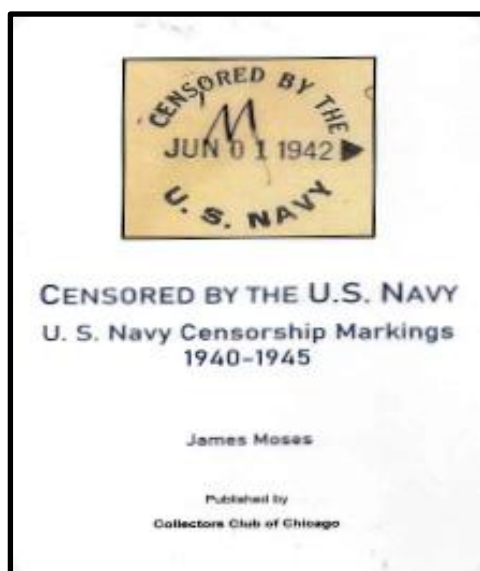
December 4-5, Florida State Stamp Show (FLOREX) in Florida
see florexstampshow.com for details.



At The SD Philatelic Library

Censored by the U.S. Navy U.S. Navy Censorship Markings 1940-1945

by Neil Schneider



James Moses Published by
Collectors Club of Chicago

Censor marks are those markings that signify an envelope (or package) and contents were reviewed by civilian, military or naval authorities for information that may be of value to an enemy or damaging to morale. Postal censorship is not new. Formalized postal censorship markings, a very visible part of an organized program, have been around since at least the Anglo-Boer War in the late nineteenth-early twentieth century.

Censorship planning by the Joint Army and Navy Board commenced with President Roosevelt's declaration of national emergency on September 2, 1939. The Office of the Chief of Naval Operations concurrently began planning for censorship of international cable and radio traffic. Bulletin Number OP-16-D was issued by the Chief of Naval Operations stating naval censors would be provided with circular rubber stamps of a stated size and wording.

The Censorship Branch was established in the Military Intelligence Division, War Department General Staff, following the President's approval of the Joint Board plan on June 4, 1941. It assigned responsibility to the Navy for radio and cable censorship and to the army postal and telegraph censorship. Military personnel engaged in these operations transferred to the Office of Censorship, March 15, 1942. Executive Order 9631 of September 28, 1945, abolished the Office of Censorship effective November 15, 1945.

There were 147 countries and island groups across six continents that hosted U.S. Navy, Marine and Coast Guard censorship stations as well as naval and merchant craft of numerous types. Return addresses may be the most convenient way of determining the probable location of censors. In many cases, a specific ship or craft may be named. In cases of land bases, a Navy location code system was established in November 1942. This was needed to standardize the postal entities operating across the Atlantic and Pacific areas of operation, the Marines and the Coast Guard, many of whom had established their own censorship policies before the formal declaration of war.

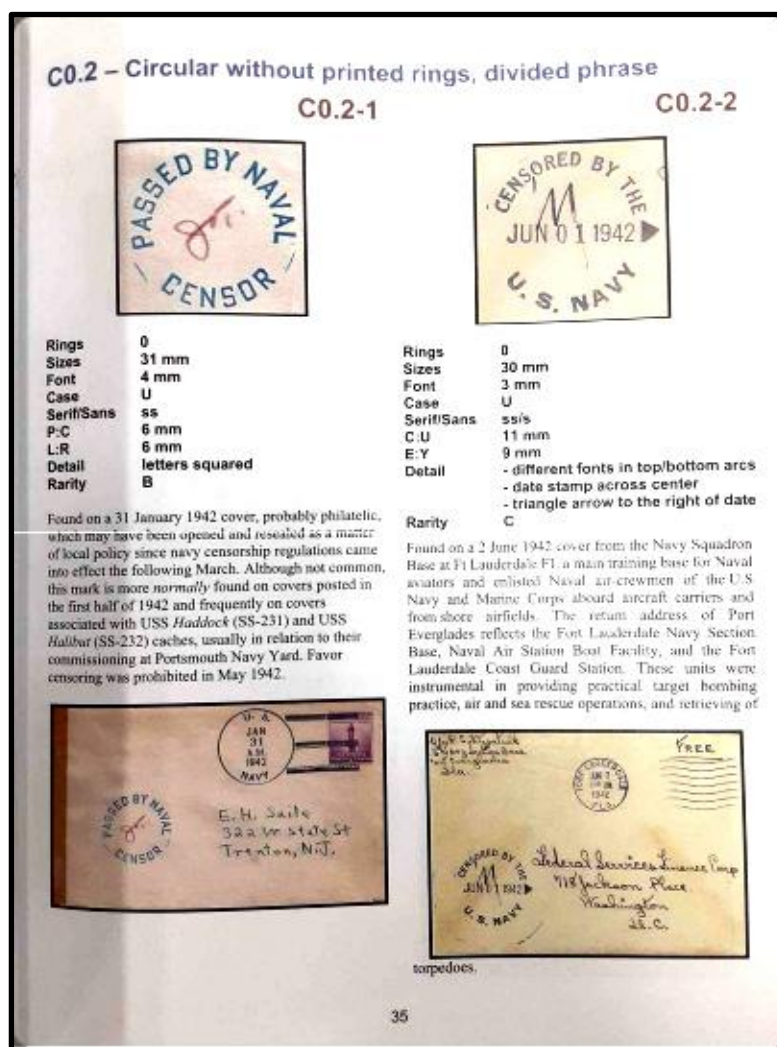


Image of page 35 from Censored by the U.S. Navy.

This catalog is broken up into sections based upon the shape of each mark. The beginning of each section has an index of illustrated examples of each of the marks found by shape. In addition, each section contains an individual page for each mark containing measurement details, significant marks, notes, and additional information. It may also reference very similar marks with which they may be confused.



Editor's Corner

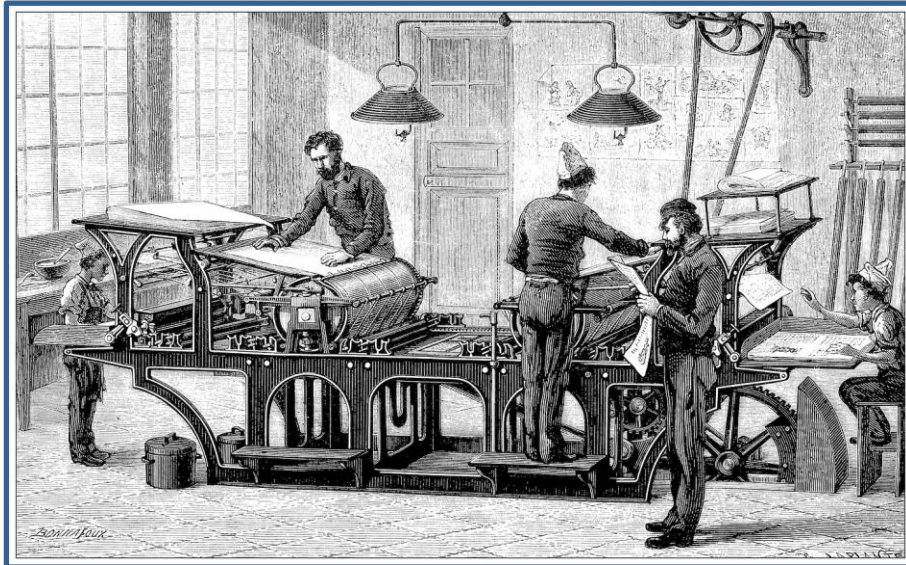


Image obtained from www.gettyimages.com/search/2/image?phrase=antique+printing+press.

To Our Readers,

This was a fantastic year for the Poway Stamp Club. Our membership continued to grow, our finances have increased, we hosted a couple spectacular events (*e.g.*, the San Diego Stamp Show and special viewing of the movie “Stamp Thief”) and we continue to be one of the largest stamp clubs in the United States.

I look forward to seeing what the Poway Stamp Club brings in 2026 and would like to wish all of our readers a Happy Holiday season.

David Waller,
Editor-in-Chief



Member's Articles

New and Historical American Bison Stamps & EFO Plate Varieties

By David M. Klauber



American Bison Stamp (2026)

The U.S. Postal Service will release an "American Bison" stamp in 2026, featuring a modern photograph by Tom Murphy and artwork from a 1923 stamp. Celebrating our “national mammal” and historic philately, the stamp features a photo of a bison and artwork from a stamp issued when the species was recovering from near extinction. Designed by USPS art director Greg Breeding using Murphy’s image and the 1923 artwork, it’s printed in intaglio.



American Bison Scott #569

The 1922-25 U.S. stamp series features a 30¢ issue that showcases the majestic American Bison,

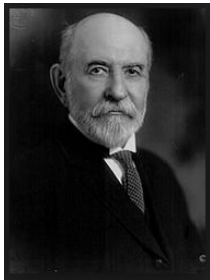
also known as the Buffalo. Once, vast herds of these incredible animals roamed freely across North America. Before the 1800s, it's believed that over 30 million bison inhabited the continental United States. Sadly, by 1889, only 551 remained. Since then, dedicated efforts have been made to protect and restore this remarkable species. Today, you'll find over 500,000 American buffalo thriving in U.S. and Canadian reserves, a true testament to successful conservation.



Montana – Bison Exhibit Today

In 1955, the Smithsonian bison display was dismantled and stored in Montana. In 1996, after neglect, the mounts were restored and displayed at Fort Benton Museums & Heritage Complex, showing their original poses. These specimens came from the last wild herds between the Yellowstone and the Missouri Rivers. Hornaday took twenty-four animals, but only six mounts were shown at the Smithsonian in 1887. The original base was left at the Smithsonian.

It was in 1957 that workers undertaking a major, and much-needed, refurbishment of the Smithsonian's U.S. National Museum discovered a metal box embedded in the base of an artifact, sparking curiosity and excitement among both visitors and staff. Inside was a note dated March 7, 1888, written by naturalist, hunter, and conservationist William Temple Hornaday.”¹ The note Hornaday had enclosed within the Buffalo Group's base read:



*“My Illustrious Successor,
Dear Sir: Enclosed please find a brief and truthful account of the capture of the specimens which compose this group. The Old Bull, the young cow and the yearling calf were killed by yours truly. When I am dust and ashes I beg you to protect these specimens from deterioration and destruction....*

W.T. Hornaday, Chief Taxidermist”

William Temple Hornaday (1854-1937) was the Chief taxidermist at the National Museum from 1882 to 1890. He also served as director of both the Institution's first zoo and the New York Zoological Park, and was the president of the American Bison Society. Hornaday played a crucial role in founding the American conservation movement and became one of the most well-known naturalists of his time.

In 1886, Hornaday went to Montana to collect American bison for the National Museum. Expecting the herds to vanish soon, he was shocked to find few animals left. He gathered specimens and dedicated his life to saving the species. Hornaday also brought live bison to Washington to educate Americans and promote conservation. He created a popular exhibit, started a live display that became a zoo, and published a book that helped garner support for protecting these animals.

Hornaday’s advocacy is credited with helping to preserve the American bison from extinction. At the end of the nineteenth century, he began to plan, with Theodore Roosevelt's support, a society for the protection of the bison. In 1905, the American Bison Society was formed with Hornaday as

its president. When the first large-game preserve in America was created in 1905, Hornaday offered fifteen animals from the Bronx Zoo herd for a reintroduction program. He personally selected the release site and the individual animals.⁴ As a result, by the year 1919, nine herds had been established in the US through the efforts of the Hornaday and American Bison Society.⁵



Hornaday with a bison for shipment to the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge, 1907⁶.

“Hornaday was a pioneering force in the early wildlife conservation movement, and he influenced such figures as Aldo Leopold, Rosalie Edge, and Olaus Murie. In 1914, Hornaday created the Wildlife Protection Medal to recognize and encourage important contributions to conservation.”⁷

The American Bison Stamp



Bison by Charles R. Knight Image from \$10 bill, 1901

A 1901 Charles R. Knight bison drawing inspired the 1923 stamp vignette. Knight saw the exhibit and a bison at the Zoological Park, as in the photo. The stamp, issued in Washington, D.C., had 282,608,477 un-watermarked stamps (SC#569). In 1931, 340,000,000 stamps were reprinted with the Stickney rotary press (SC#700).

Scott 569 features the 30-cent Buffalo stamp from the Fourth Bureau Issue, unique for lacking a ribbon banner and description below the main image. Designed by Clair Aubrey Huston and

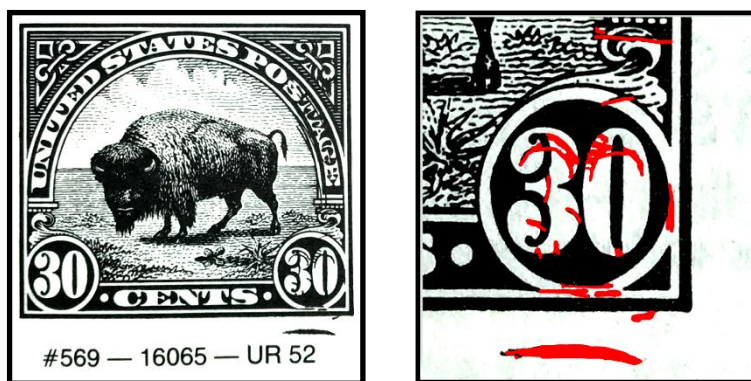
inspired by Charles R. Knight's 1901 buffalo, it was part of a series released from 1922-1931, including 27 definitive stamps from 1/2 cent to \$5. The first version (#569), issued in 1923, has perforation 11 all around; the second (#700) from 1931, has perforation 11 sides and 10½ top and bottom.

Plate varieties and EFO's of the 30 cent Fourth Bureau Issue



30¢ Bison variety with double transfer.
(Images courtesy D. Klauber)

This double transfer is listed in the Scott Specialized Catalogue #569, 1923 30c Olive Brown, variety (pos. 16065 UR 52) from the Fourth Bureau issue. It has a striking appearance, especially in the “30” and “STAGE” of “POSTAGE”. The Scott catalogue values this mint at \$225. The first impression was mistakenly entered on the plate and then burnished out for re-entry. However, the original wasn't completely removed, leaving evidence of that initial impression alongside the new one. Interestingly, for 16065 UR 52, French mentions that “Johl calls this one of the most remarkable Doubles he has seen”.



L.C. French 569 UR Pane stamp 52 Doubling in **RED**.

Several double transfer stamps are highlighted in the Encyclopedia of Plate Varieties on U.S. Bureau Printed Postage Stamps by Loran C “Cloudy” French. French explains that a double transfer, or re-entries, happens when an impression, due to misalignment or other reasons, isn't entirely removed from the plate before the next one is made. As a result, traces of the first

16065 — UL 54 — DT in "P*S" of POSTAGE — WPG 11/22/30
 — **UR 52** — Dropped Transfer on r. part of design; "STAGE" is Doubled so completely that each letter has a counterpart beside it; r. numeral and all of design in this area strongly Doubled downward (Johl calls this one of the most remarkable Doubles he has seen) — MWS 7/7/30, 10/6/30, WPG 11/22/30, BS 10/33, 2/54, SM 6/10/33, SC, SGI IV, SH 9, 74, JP, SUS, SL 11-12/72, USS 12/75
 — LR 95 — DT in "P*S" of POSTAGE — WPG 11/22/30

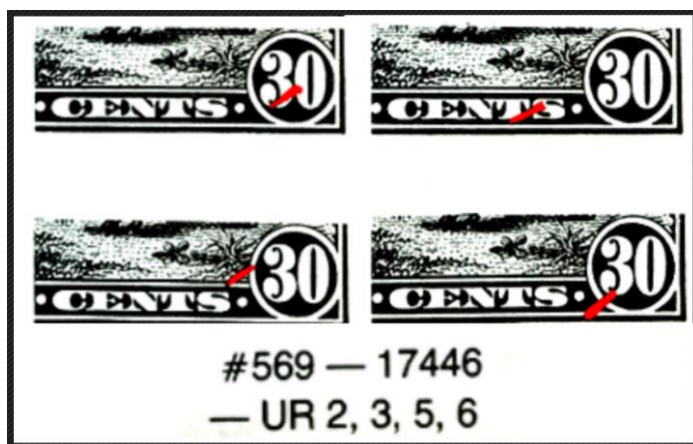
L.C. French 569 Sheet 16065 Pane Varieties.

impression collect ink and appear alongside the new one, creating a distinct and interesting effect.

#569 — 30¢ olive brown
Position Unknown
 1) — DT of b. half of l. frame — MWS 7/29/26
 2) — DT in l. gutter, l. value tablet, UNITED, and l. triangle — SH 9, BS 7/40, SUS
 3) — SE at b. — DT along l. side, in l. numeral, UNITED, and "CE" of CENT — BS 11/41
 4) — triple ST to l. — SH 8, 9
 5) — ST shows as Thickened r. outer frame, and Thinned white area between it and inner frame line; Thickened vertical line in ur. triangle, ornament above r. numeral, and lr. corner triangle — SM 8/26/33

Other varieties identified by French
 (Positions unknown).

The extraneous transfers shown below identify the four known wedged shaped marks located on sheet #17446 UR (Upper Right) pane, stamps #2, 3, 5, and 6.

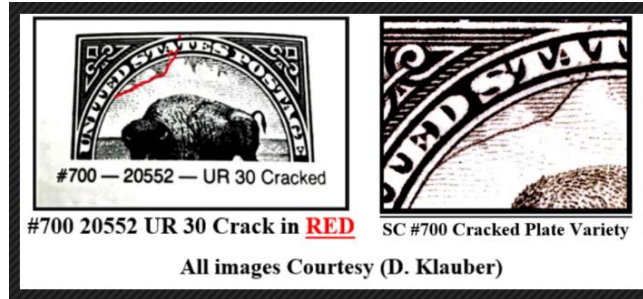


Description & location of Ex-Transfers by French Extraneous Transfers in **RED**.

17446 — **UR 2, 3, 5, 6** — Extraneous Transfer leaves wedge-shaped Mark in each design, in r. numeral on 2, to l. of r. value tablet on 3, across "TS" of CENTS on 5, and to ll. of r. value tablet on 6 — SH 47, SM 2/18/33, SC, CCP 4/35, JP, USS 5/68, SL 11-12/72

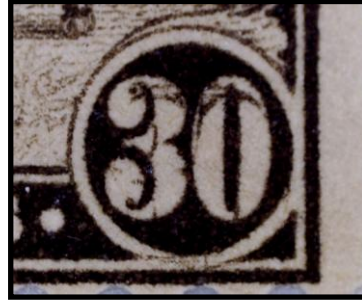


SC #700 Cracked Plate Variety.



Above is a copy of the Scott #700 variety from 1931. The stamp is a 30c Bison with a CRACKED PLATE across the vignette. The Scott Catalog Value for this item is \$143.00

— UR 30 — Crack across ul. part of vignette, starts below "E" of UNITED and ends at "A" of STATES — SM 7/14/34, SMJ 6/35, BS 8/36, 6/51, SH 90, SL 11-12/72, SUS
— UR 30 — above Crack Burnished and Recut — BS 8/36, 10/36, 6/51



Additional images of the 569 DT 30¢ Bison variety with double transfer
(Courtesy David Klauber)

Again, EFOs make an exciting and educational addition to any stamp collection, as they reveal how stamps are produced and how mistakes can occur during the stamp production process.

¹ *Last of the Wild Buffalo*; H.R. Shell, *Smithsonian Magazine* Feb, 2000.

^{1a} William Temple Hornaday, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Temple_Hornaday, wikipedia.org

² William Temple Hornaday: *Saving the American Bison; Stories from the Smithsonian*, <https://siarchives.si.edu/history/featured-topics/stories/william-temple-hornaday-saving-american-bison>

³ Ley, Willy (December 1964). "The Rarest Animals". *For Your Information. Galaxy Science Fiction*. pp. 94–103.

⁴ *Annual Report of the American Bison Society [for the years 1905-1907]*. New York: American Bison Society. 1908.

⁵ *Annual Report of the American Bison Society [1919-20]*. New York: American Bison Society. 1920.

⁶ About Hornaday, Wildlife Conservation Society, WCS Library & Archives, http://hornadayscrapbooks.com/about_hornaday

⁷ Hornaday Biography Susan Leiter, WCS Department of Ornithology, and Steven P. Johnson, former WCS Librarian and Archivist.



Official Departmental Stamps of 1873

By David Waller



Figure 1: Set of War Departmental proof stamps, Scott #s O83-O93P4 proofs, Hipstamp #51356004, Saratogatrading.

Official United States departmental stamps were a series of stamps used by federal government departments for their official mail, replacing the previous "franking" privilege in 1873, Figure 1. Each department had its own set of stamps, with the "U.S. Postage" verbiage replaced by the departmental designation, Figure 2.



Figure 2: Images of the top engraving of an 1873 90-cent regular issue Scott #218 (left, Hipstamp #48460413, Momenstamps) and the top engraving of the Treasury Department 90-cent denomination stamp (right, Ebay #157124285032, Sanderson Stamps).

The departments included: Agricultural, Executive, Interior, Justice, Navy, Post Office, State, Treasury, and War Agencies of the government. They are similar in design to the 1873 regular issue stamps of that time and printed by the Continental Bank Note Company. Each department was given its own color Agriculture-yellow, Executive-carmine, Interior-vermillion, Justice-purple, Navy-ultramarine or dull blue, Post Office-black, State Department- green with higher denominations, greater than 90 cents, bicolored green and black, Treasury-brown, and War-rose, Figure 3. These issues were created to provide better accounting for government postage required by a new law implemented in 1873.



Figure 3: Images of representative examples of Official Departmental postage proofs. Top row, left to right: Scott #O1P4 (Ebay #127286461472, Stampsnstuff), Scott #O11P4 (Ebay #304780137111, Travelstamps), Scott #O86P4 (Arpin Philately), and Scott #O39P4 (Ebay #127286461356, Stampsnstuff), Middle row: Scott #O77P4 (Ebay #404477771370 USStampshop), Scott #O30P4 (Ebay #304382214111, Travelstamps), Scott #O64P4 (Ebay #365776198878, Stampsnstuff) and Scott #O22P4 (Ebay #127286045337, Stampsnstuff), Bottom Row: Scott #O54P4 (Ebay #304780239310, Travelstamps) and Scott #O71P4 (Smithsonian).

Prior to 1873, U.S. government officials could send mail for free under the "franking" system, Figure 4. As long as an envelope bore an authorized signature, it was sent without postage. However, the franking privilege was widely abused. By 1869, an estimated 31,930 individuals had franking privileges, costing the government an estimated \$5 million per year. Officials often sent personal mail for free. One tale describes a senator who used his franking privilege to send his horse home by tagging its bridle. The system allowed incumbent politicians to mail large quantities of campaign literature at no cost, giving them a significant advantage over challengers.

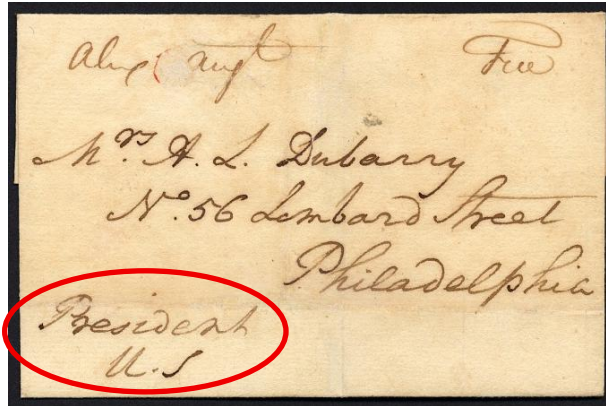


Figure 4; President George Washington sent this letter to Mrs. A. L. Dubarry, Philadelphia, using his free frank privilege. Washington chose never to sign his name to a free franked envelope; he signed with his office (image obtained from the National Postal Museum, Smithsonian).

In 1873, Representative William S. Lincoln of New York accused the company Dimmick & Co. of fraudulently using his frank for political mailing, Figure 5. While Lincoln was cleared of wrongdoing, this case highlighted the systemic misuse of franking stamps by political organizations.



Figure 5: Black and white photo of W.S. Lincoln (Wikipedia). William Slosson Lincoln (1813-1893) was postmaster of Newark Valley from September 20, 1838, to February 24, 1841, and from December 19, 1844, to September 19, 1866. He served as supervisor in 1841, 1844, 1865, and 1866. He was justice of the peace in 1852 and 1855. Lincoln was elected to the 40th Congress from March 4, 1867, to March 3, 1869. Following his term in Congress he engaged in the practice of law in Washington, D.C., until his death.

In response to public outrage over the misuse of franking, Congress passed legislation on March 3, 1873, that mandated the use of special stamps for official government mail. The new rules went into effect on July 1, 1873, effectively ending the franking privilege. In 1884, the stamps were declared obsolete and replaced with "penalty" envelopes, Figure 6. These envelopes were pre-printed with an official seal and a warning against unauthorized use. The 1873 departmental stamps were in circulation for just over a decade before being replaced due to congressional complaints about mailing costs. The ban was eventually undone, and exceptions for certain government mailings were granted. The franking privilege was fully restored for members of Congress in 1891.

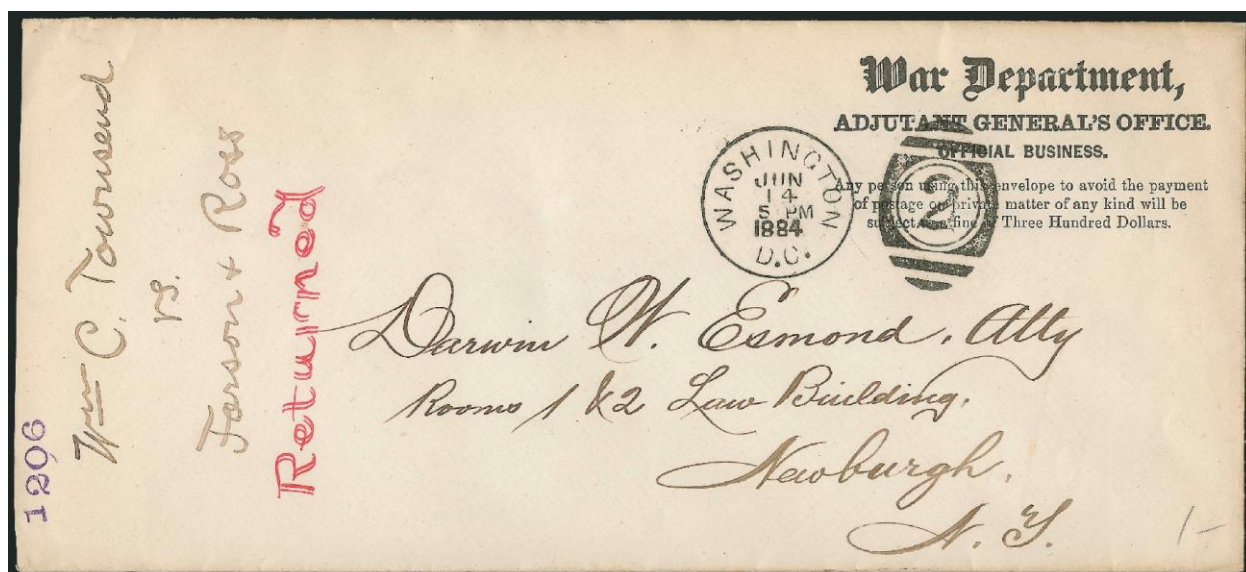


Figure 6: image of a “Penalty Envelope sent by the Adjutant General’s Office to Darwin W. Esmond Atty in Newburgh New Jersey. In the upper right corner is the warning “OFFICIAL BUSINESS”. Any person using this envelope to avoid the payment of postage or private matter of any kind will be subject to a fine of Three Hundred Dollars.” (image obtained from USPhila.com).



Editor’s Choice

Most Attractive 1893 Columbian Issue

Scott #s 233 is this month’s Editor’s choice for the most attractive U.S. stamp from the 1893 Columbian issue series. The stamp shows Columbus’s fleet setting sail from Spain carrying with them the hopes and desires of Queen Isabella in finding a new World. The selection of ultramarine highlights and gives life to the ocean in the foreground. Currently, there are two types of this stamp known, the two-leaf and three-leaf varieties.



Three Wise Men - The Three Kings

by Manuel Marti



The Magi's visit is a key event in the Christmas story, symbolizing the recognition of Jesus as the Messiah by those outside of the Jewish community. The story we know today, and the story told in the Bible differ somewhat.

That being told, my story is with the Christmas Stamps issued throughout the world celebrating the event on 25 December and January 6th (Epiphany).

The Bible tells of the Magi's visit to Jerusalem, their encounter with King Herod, and their journey to Bethlehem, where they found baby Jesus and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

They are referred to as "Magi," which in that time period means wise men, astrologers, or priests from Persia (*"They came from the East", suggesting they were from regions like modern-day Iraq, Iran, or Saudi Arabia*).

While the Bible doesn't provide names or specific origins, later traditions gave them the names Melchior, Caspar (or Gaspar), and Balthazar, and associated them with Persia, India, and Arabia, respectively.

They were guided by a star and came to Jerusalem asking about the newborn king of the Jews. The gifts they brought are significant: gold (associated with kingship), frankincense (associated with worship and divinity), and myrrh (associated with burial and foreshadowing Jesus's death).

The visit of the Magi is celebrated on Epiphany, which falls on January 6th in many Christian traditions. Here are just a few of those stamps.

Christmas Three Kings Great Britain #879 Star of Bethlehem



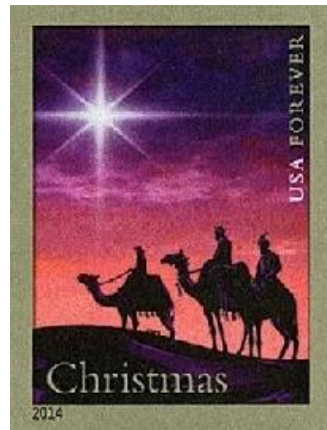
Three Kings Following Star

Christmas Berlin 1986 SG#B731



'Adoration of the Three Kings'

USA 2024 Sc# 4945a



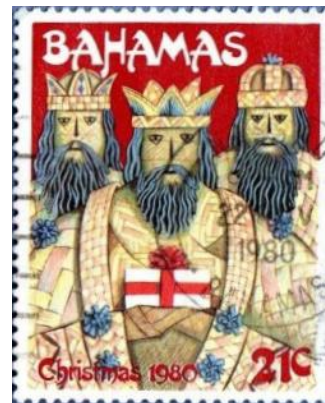
Three Magi 2014

Magi Three Kings Adoration



Gibraltar #SG442-SG443

Bahamas Three Kings



#SG574 Christmas 1980

Australia – \$3 Int. Booklet Stamp



2023 Christmas Three Wise Men

Sweden 1988 Maxicard



Scott #1716

Great Britian Christmas 'Three Kings'



1983 16p 'Three Kings' SG 1232

WISHING YOU ALL, A **MERRY CHRISTMAS** AND A **HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.**



Member Classifieds

If you would like to have a **FREE** advertisement in the PSC Newsletter, please email:
PSCphilately@gmail.com.

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**.

Wanted:

- U.S. Columbian issue stamps with fancy cancels. Top prices paid. Contact West Virginia **Bob McArthur** at rmatsukasa@gmail.com or (858) 486-9932.
- Puerto Rico Town cancels. Bring to a meeting. Will trade or buy? See **Manuel Marti** PSC # 410.

Bargain Lists:

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


**Complete your U.S. and
International Stamp Collections**

• Country Price Lists • Collections • Mixtures • Special Offerings

www.Lcstamps.com

(60+ years of serving the stamp hobby)

- We carry the World from A to Z covering the Classics through Current, www.dpstamps.com.



D & P Stamps
 San Diego, CA
 Phone: 619-987-1019
 Email: pat@dpstamps.com
www.dpstamps.com

We carry the World from A to Z covering the Classics through Current

We have a very extensive stock in the following areas:

- Portugal and Colonies
- France and Colonies
- Italy and Colonies
- British Colonies
- Latin America
- Middle East

- Wanted: Confederate stamps for ongoing color study, looking for examples of all Confederate issues, seeking variety, including potentially more affordable items. Please send a photo of both the front and back to klawbohr@gmail.com. Please Include your minimum price and return email address.

Newsletter Disclaimer

The information contained in the Poway Stamp Club Newsletter is for general information purposes only. All information is provided in good faith, however the Club makes no representation or warranty of any kind, expressed or implied, as to the accuracy, adequacy, validity, reliability, availability, completeness or authenticity of any information presented. Any use of the information contained herein is solely at your own risk and Poway Stamp Club assumes no liability.

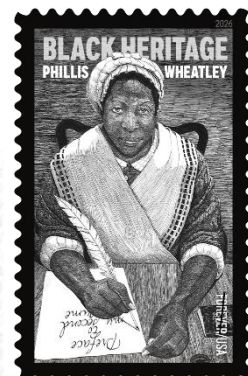
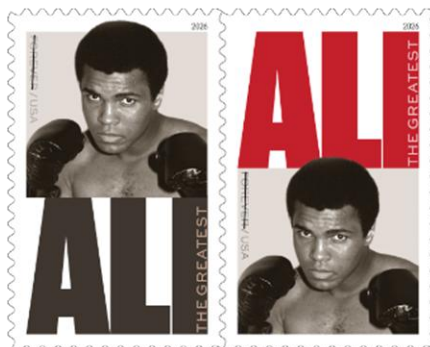
San Diego County Philatelic Library Events

None

Stamp News 2025

No New Stamps for December 2025

Here is a sneak preview of some proposed stamps for 2026.





about.usps.com/newsroom/national-releases/2025/1029-usps-provides-sneak-peek-at-2026-stamps.htm



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

New Stamps – Copyright © 2005 USPS. All Rights Reserved