



# Poway Stamp Club

## Newsletter

*San Diego County's Best Stamp Collecting Club*

August 11, 2021

### In This Issue

- Club Meetings and Presentations Schedule
- APS Circuit List (August)
- Member Spotlight
- Article: "Editors Corner"
- Contest: Bob McArthur
- Article: Bill O'Connor
- Article: Bob McArthur
- Member Classifieds
- Stamp News

### Poway Stamp Club Goals

"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."

*Established*  
MAR. 17, 1976

### Contact Us

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

### Club E-mail

PSCphilately@gmail.com

### PSC Website:

Powaystampclub.com  
Powaystampclub.org

### PSC Bid board:

Powaystampclub.com/bid-board

## Next Meetings (August)

Our next Poway Stamp Club meeting will be held on

**Wednesday August 11<sup>th</sup> 2021.**

**Meeting time:** The meeting will begin promptly at 6:30 PM.

**Meeting Place:** 12675 Danielson Court, Suite #413), Poway, California 92064. Please remember to bring your badge. The office phone number in case you need it is 1-858-748-5633.

At the August 11<sup>h</sup> meeting our program will be:



*Circuit Books*  
and

***Member Trading Extravaganza!***

The meeting will begin with our regular Club business including the Club drawing, followed by a "**Club Donations Voice Sale**". If you wish to preview these lots, they will be available at 5:30 p.m. in the Library prior to the Wednesday meeting. Following the sale the meeting will progress with the distribution of APS circuit books. Club members who do not wish to participate in the circuit books are encouraged to bring in stamps and other items **for sale or trade** with other club members. This is an opportunity for all of our members to sell or trade with on another their duplicate stamps.

At our Second August 25<sup>th</sup> meeting:

Our program will Highlight a presentation by Mr. Bob Eygenhuysen on collecting pre-cancel stamps.



### 2021 PSC Club Officers:

**President:** Art Berg  
**V President:** David Klauber  
**Treasurer:** Bill Kolb  
**Secretary:** Trice Klauber  
**Board (AL):** Bill O'Connor  
**Board (AL):** Scott Boyd  
**Prev. President:** Thor Strom  
**Program Dir.:** Bill Wacenske

### PSC Club Volunteers:

**Registrar:** Trice Klauber  
**Auctioneer:** Duane Pryhoda  
**Club Librarian:** Scott Boyd  
**Newsletter Editor:** D. Klauber  
**Newsletter Cont.:** Jon Schrag  
**Phil/Lib Rep:** Bob Eygenhuysen  
**Opp. Drawing:** Ray Hacecky  
**WebMaster:** Flash

### PSC Representatives:

**Federal Rep:** Bill O'Connor  
**S.D. Phil. Council:** Nick Soroka  
**Rep (Alternate):** Art Berg  
**APS Rep:** Trice Klauber

### Stamp on Page 1

Stamp image on page one is a  
 of the steel blue 1861 24¢  
 Washington (courtesy D.  
 Klauber). There were only an  
 estimated 80,000 distributed  
 near the beginning of the Civil  
 War. Just how steel blue US  
 #70b came to be is still a  
 hotly debated issue. The rare  
 #70b is valued by Scott at  
 \$850.<sup>00</sup>.

## *2021 Club Meeting Schedule/Presentations:*

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

<b>August</b>	Aug 11, 2021	Circuit (APS) Voice Sale
	Aug 25, 2021	Bob Eygenhuysen (Precancels)
<b>September</b>	Sep 08, 2021	Circuit (APS)
	Sep 22, 2021	David Klauber (Proofs)
<b>October</b>	Oct 13, 2021	Circuit (APS)
	Oct 27, 2021	Ugly Stamp Contest
<b>November</b>	Nov 10, 2021	Circuit (APS)
<b>December</b>	Dec 8, 2021	<b>Holiday Dinner</b>

## *APS Circuit List for August*

The following are the APS Circuits for our upcoming August Meeting.

1. United States Wash/Franks
2. United States 19<sup>th</sup> Century
3. United States 19<sup>th</sup> Century (Unused)
4. Canada
5. United States Starting at #300 - #497
6. New Zealand
7. IRAN/Persia
8. Lebanon
9. CHINA (Treaty Ports)
10. Portugal
11. China (Unused)
12. Australia
13. Malaysia
14. Denmark
15. Canada
16. German States
17. Australian States (NSW/Queensland/So. Australia, Victoria, etc.)
18. United States (BOBs)



POWAY STAMP CLUB  
APS Chapter  
#1137-112097

## APS

There are thirty-two PSC club members who are also members of the American Philatelic Society. The PSC is also a member of the APS. If 33% of our members are also members of the APS the club receives a free years membership.

## Meetings

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

Philatelic Library  
12675 Danielson Ct #413,  
Poway, CA 92064

More info at:  
[www.powaystampclub.com](http://www.powaystampclub.com)

## Participation

All Stamp Club members are strongly encouraged to provide input for the monthly Club newsletter. Your knowledge and expertise should really be shared. Please submit items to the Club Secretary at:

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

## Club Website

Try our new website at:

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

You will find our activities and affiliations, interesting links, contact information including the current and previous versions of this Newsletter!

Give it a try!

You can use the Web Presence to introduce others to our Club.

## Club Notes:

### 1. Poway Stamp Club Meetings Have Resumed

The Poway Stamp Club has resumed gathering twice monthly on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month. It is so nice to see all of our philatelic friends again.

### 2. Next Bid Board – The PSC Bid Board Schedule

The Sixth 2021 Bid Board will start on August 21<sup>th</sup> ending on September 4<sup>th</sup>. Please submit items by COB August 18<sup>th</sup>. We look forward to your continued support.

### 3. Collecting Tip - The USPS has announced that it will stop producing Priority and Express Mail flat rate stamped envelopes. These have never been big sellers and most collectors are unaware of their existence. Plus they were only sold in packs of five, ten, and twenty-five making them expensive to acquire. I anticipate that postally used examples for non-philatelic purposes will begin to appreciate in price. The designs were the same American landscapes used in the adhesive stamps. Scott number U664 with Mount Rushmore is a typical example. –McArthur-

### 4. String of Pearls – Is a very good description of this unfamiliar pre-cancel variety of Postage Due Stamps. Club member Jack Wadlington introduced the editor to the existence of this unusual variety. New York City introduced this postage due in late 1879. The “String of pearls” surrounding an “N” and sideways “Y” remained in use until March 1887 and can be found in many colors with grayish black being most scarce. The varieties also include orientation differences having been applied while the stamps were still in sheet form with a rubber roller on each row of 10 stamps at one time.



### 5. Support your Club – The Poway Club is San Diego County’s most active Stamp Club. Please feel free to forward this Newsletter to anyone you think may find it interesting. You may also support the club by joining the APS. The club will receive a finder’s fee for each member who joins the society.

6. **First Stamp** – The World’s first adhesive postage stamps were introduced in Great Britain during the postal reform of 1840. Because Great Britain was the only nation with postage stamps at the time, there was no need for its name to be placed on them. It is because tradition is undying amongst the British, to this day “Great Britain” is not placed on its stamps.
7. **Club Participation** – Club and Library members are strongly encouraged to provide input for the bi-monthly newsletter. Your participation is critical to our successes as a Club. Please submit items to the Club Secretary at [Indysmama@gmail.com](mailto:Indysmama@gmail.com).
8. **Re-gumming** – Occasionally when a stamp is Re-gummed, the moisture will permeate the tips of the perforations; this is because when the stamp was originally separated from the sheet or coil, the edges were left exposed. When the stamp is then re-gummed, the exposed feathered tufts stick to each other. To prevent this sticking, a “faker” will start applying gum from the center of the stamp and work to the exterior. This can cause the gum to pile up and to avoid the gum from piling up on the tips, they are often left un-gummed. This again is another indication of a re-gummed stamp.
9. **Philatelic Library Open** - We have been notified that the San Diego Philatelic Library is open. Contact the Library for details @ 1-858-748-5633.
10. **Local Show SANDIPEX (Aug 8<sup>th</sup> and Sept 12<sup>th</sup> 2021).**

**San Diego Philatelic Expo SANDIPEX Stamp Shows  
Free Admission! – Free Parking!  
Doors Open from 10am – 4pm**

The show in its 19<sup>th</sup> year is located just 4 blocks to the north of the Philatelic Library on Poway Road. The show is held at the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks Lodge #2543, 13219 Poway Road Poway, CA 92064 . The following is a list of the current 2021 **SANDIPEX** Monthly show dates.  
Email: [cbcestamp@aol.com](mailto:cbcestamp@aol.com)

11. **Coil Forgeries** - It is not uncommon for forgers to utilize booklet panes trimmed to make coil stamps. It is important to note that watermarks are always sideways on a stamp held upright. This will not be the case with a coil made from sheet stamps. Be sure to check the strait sides of a supposed coil stamp to make sure there are not any residual pieces of perforations that have not been fully cut away. – Editor –



**12. Club Donations (Meeting Voice Sales)**

The Poway Stamp Club will be adding Voice Sales to our bi-weekly Circuit meeting agenda. There has been an influx of donated items to the Club via our Website. These donations to the club have started to accumulate, necessitating ongoing sales. We will attempt to complete the Voice Sale portion of the meeting in 15 minutes or less. If you wish to preview the voice lots, they will be available at 5:30 p.m. in the Library prior to the Wednesday meeting.

**13. Become a Color Expert!** – I have created PDFs of White's *Encyclopedia of the Colors of United States Postage Stamps*. These include the four volumes owned by the San Diego Philatelic Library and the fifth volume which they do not own. The book is an indispensable reference work and difficult to locate. When last I checked, I could find only one partial set (volumes 1-4) for sale with an asking price of \$1500. I will make a copy for anyone who wants one. All I need is a flash drive. Contact me at [rmcarthur@cox.net](mailto:rmcarthur@cox.net) or see me at the library on most Tuesday or Thursday afternoons. - Robert McArthur

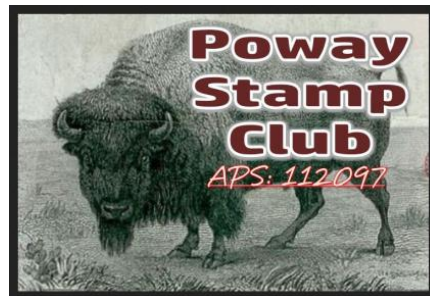
**14. Drawing or Scratching Forgeries** – Drawing in or scratching out parts of a common variety of a stamp to alter its appearance and make it look like a rarer variety frequently occurs. You can utilize a microscope in strong light to examine these stamps. Also, use of an ultraviolet light can be used to detect alteration of a different in which will typically show up under ultraviolet light.

**15. Stamp Authentication** – An authenticated stamp should be for comparison whenever possible when determining authenticity or identification. This also applies in the case of re-gumming.

**16. Stamp Show** – San Diego Stamp Show;

When: October 8-10, 2021, Show location: La Jolla Marriott  
4240 La Jolla Village Dr. La Jolla CA 92037.

Sponsor: San Diego Stamp Show Inc. Opens at 10 AM.



## *Member Spotlight!*

**By: Jon Schrag**



The Poway Stamp Club Newsletter highlights its new members in each issue. Today's spotlight is on New Member

**Sheryll Ruecker**  
**PSC #506**

**SHERYLL RUECKER** is an advanced, sophisticated stamp collector. She is well-known for her collecting expertise of the “dead country” NEW HEBRIDES 1906-1980 (now called Vanuatu). Her award-winning collection of the South Pacific country has won praise at multiple stamp shows including WESTPEX. Originally from Australia, she and her husband are residents of Borrego Springs. Sheryll says she is currently expanding her collecting interests to include classic USA. (She is having great fun as a new active bidder of USA stamps on the PSC bid board.) She says her current energetic-living motto is “collect what you like and see where it goes!”

The Poway Stamp Club is a very diverse group of people of various backgrounds tied together by a common interest in stamps. We are all very fortunate, indeed!

## Definitions

The following definition of EFO and other terms are here in support of the ongoing Editors Corner series on Varieties, EFO's and Counterfeits.

**EFO** is the shorthand for "Error, Freak, or Oddity". It's a term applied to philatelic items that were formed unintentionally abnormal.

**Errors:** Are usually "major" errors having catalog status where something in the process has gone entirely wrong. Examples of "errors" are consistent, unintentional deviations from the normal. Typically errors are stamps that are wrongly perforated, both between or completely imperforated, Full incorrect, shifted or omitted color(s), inverted centers or frames, multiple impressions, missing/inverted surcharges, missing or wrong watermarks or tagging and FULL stamps on either side of an interpane gutter, factually wrong or misspelled information etc.

**Freaks:** Also called "varieties", are generally defined as a lesser degree of production problem. Typically freaks have flaws that are not consistent or do not have catalog status. Examples of freaks include ink smudges, off center perforation shifts, partially missing colors or partial/random color shifts, pre-printing paper folds, paper creases, over or under inked stamps, and so forth. Freaks often sell for less than their "error" counterparts. Printing plate cracks, wear and other flaws such as repairs or re-entries are freaks and not typically considered to be errors.

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## Editors Corner

By D. Klauber

### Varieties & EFOs Part XXXV



### The 2c Washington 491 Type II



#### U.S. #491 Type II

1916-22 2¢ Washington Carmine, carmine rose

Printing & Method:: BEP, Rotary press

Perforations 10 Vert. Wmk. None

# Issued: 295,500, Issue Date: November 17, 1916.

Courtesy D. Klauber

**The 2c 491 Washington Issues** – Unlike most other issues, the horizontal coil is actually scarcer than the vertical coil. It was in production for only a short period of time before being replaced by the Type III, Scott 492. The earliest 491 documented date of use was January 2nd, 1917. It is predicted that there were fewer than 300,000 of these stamps issued. This coil issue was used to develop the perfect perforation; prior to this stamp the coils were issued in a number of different perforations. When the perforations were too large, the stamps would tear, when too small the stamps tended to break apart prior to sale. It turns out that perforation 10 coils were the perfect balance. From this issue on all coils were issued using the 10 perforation.

### Oddities:

The catch-all category for anything that is left. Oddities can be subtle problems that do not have catalog status.

Examples can be cancel and plate varieties, inverted USPS cancels, very minor perforation shifts, minor color shifts, etc. Most oddities are a curiosity and have lower EFO values.

There continues to be a debate about the definition of freaks vs oddities. This is one area where a classification can be a matter of personal opinion. Frequently the debate is over pre-printing paper folds and centers on how minor (oddy) or how major (freak) a fold is. As it turns out, one mans freak, is a another mans oddity.

### Counterfeit, Forgery, or Fake.

#### Counterfeit:

Fraudulent reproduction of a stamp meant to defraud the issuing authority. (Typically used as postage)

#### Forgery:

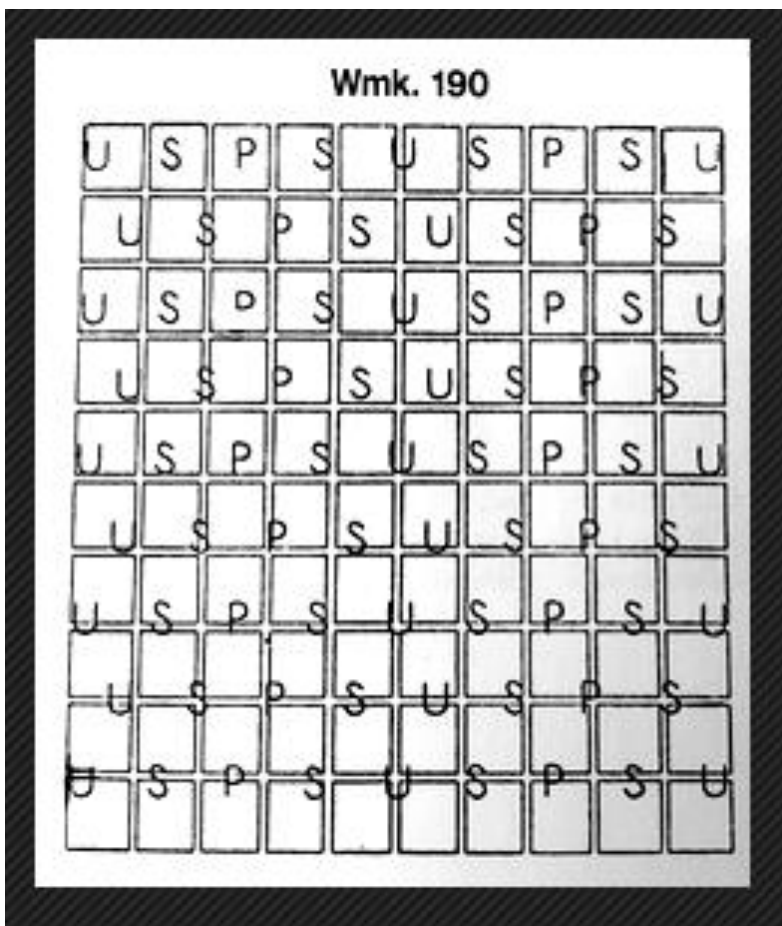
Fraudulent reproduction or alteration of a stamp meant to defraud (not the issuing authority), In philately, forged stamps are altered to defraud the buyer.

#### Fakes:

An imitation stamp, or reprint. There are many fakes on the market, typically sold as fakes they are rarely sold as genuine. In philately, fakes are an expression of art are not offered as genuine to defraud. (reprints may be considered fakes)

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**Identification of Type II** – A used Washington Scott #491 un-watermarked 2c Carmine Rose Type II is currently listed at **\$800.00** and is considered one of the most frustrating stamps to accurately identify. The #491 is often confused with the U.S. #454. The main cause of this confusion is that the singular difference between the 491 and the 454 is the 491's lack of a **single line watermark**. The single line watermark (190) is typically very faint or in some cases extremely hard to make out. Many collectors experience frustration when determining **the lack of a watermark** or “proving the negative” which is a difficult thing to do.



Layout SLWM 190<sup>2</sup>

Add insult to injury, the bottom third of the watermark chart is littered with stamps that contain only a very small portion of a U, S, P or S. In some cases only a corner or tip of a single letter. The 1916 #491 un-watermarked issue was the result of the BEPs attempt to save money, during the time there was a practical need to save money in order to support Europe during WWI and the expected and imminent entry of the U.S. into the conflict.



## More Important Definitions

### Reissues

(A reprint of a currently available stamp)

### Reprints

(Copies of the obsolete originals, or previously issued.

They are sold by the Government they are not classified as proofs and sometimes printed for collector's purposes only)

### Special Printings

(Original plate stamps for non-postal use, while originals are still valid for postage)

### Government issued Reproductions

(Not printed from the original plates, not valid postage, considered likenesses.)

Examples US Scott 3-4

### Se-tenant Pair

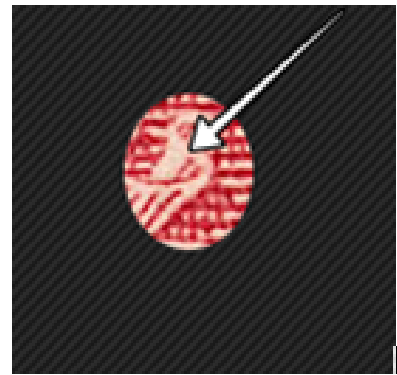
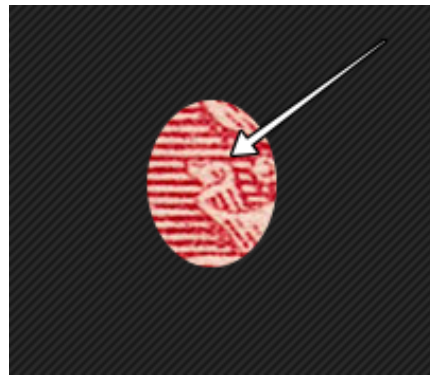
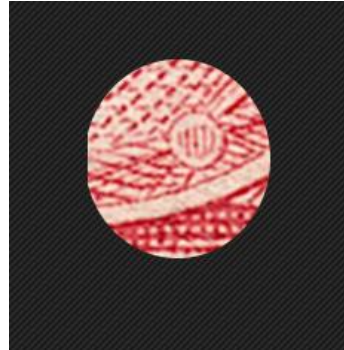
A planned pair, strip or block of adjacent stamps (either horizontal or vertical), which were printed from the same plate and/or sheet. The stamps must be un-separated and deliberately different from each other by design, color, denomination or overprint.

### Type-Variety/Combination

Pair - An unplanned pair, strip or block of adjacent stamps (either horizontal or vertical). The stamps must be un-severed and are different from each other by variety, meaning that at least one member of the pair/strip/block differs in some detail from the "normal" issue. The detail may or may not be an actual philatelic "error".

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One of the easiest ways to visually tell the difference between a 491 type II and the Type III is to look at the shading lines in the curves of the ribbons. There are only 1 left and 1 right line in the curves of a type II and 2 lines in the curves of the Type III.

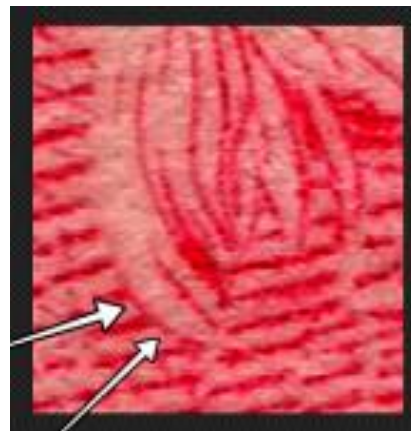


Type II characteristics

Courtesy D. Klauber

A secondary identification is a slightly more defined button with a normal top line as seen above.

**Other Identification features of Type II Stamps** - Some of the other more visible identification features of the Type II Rotary Press Washington stamps are: the strand of hair between the ear and cheek has a pronounced, curved outline on the bottom.

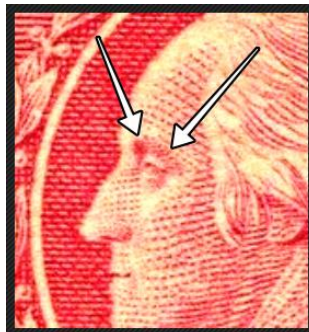


TYPE II Curved hair line

Courtesy D. Klauber

**For more information on definitions of and values for many EFOs. See the S.R. Datz book, "Catalogues of Errors on US Postage Stamps." or for definitions see, Essays for U.S. Adhesive Postage Stamps, Clarence W. Brazer.**

Additionally, the shaded area above Washington's eye pushes upwards and shading lines in his hair, and in the laurel leaves, are often more pronounced than in Type I stamps, but less pronounced than Type III<sup>1</sup>.



TYPE II Eyebrow shading lines  
Courtesy D. Klauber

Now as a philatelist, you are fully armed with all the information needed to seek out and identify one of these highly prized and expensive varieties. Using the information provided, the editor has located 2 used copies this year.



(2) 491 TYPE II's  
Courtesy D. Klauber

Again, Varieties & EFO's make an exciting and educational addition to any stamp collection for they speak to us about how stamps are produced and how mistakes can be made during their production.

1. U.S. #491 2¢ Washington, Mystic Stamps, <https://www.mysticstamp.com/Products/United-States/>
2. Plate Varieties, Cloudy French, "The United States Specialist", Vol. 51, 1980, June 1980.

# Member Contest

By Bob McArthur

## New Contest



## The Fasces

This month's contest was suggested by Sheryll Ruecker the winner of last month's contest. Her question is, "Which country's postage stamps have the largest number of issues which use the fasces as a design element." In republican Rome, the chief magistrates, judges and head priests were protected in public by lictors: bodyguards who each carried fasces, a bundle of twelve rods tied together and surrounding an axe. Each of the two Roman Consuls had twelve lictors. Lesser magistrates had fewer. The lictors used this unwieldy-looking scepter to chastise wrongdoers, and it came to symbolize the magistrate's power or *imperium* as the Romans called it. During the empire, the emperor was accompanied by twenty-four lictor.



Since Roman times the fasces has been a symbol of both republican and authoritarian regimes. There is a pair of fasces prominently displayed behind the rostrum in the House of Representatives chamber of the U.S. Capitol.

There are two ways to solve this puzzle. You can brute force a solution by going through the Scott catalog. This might be fast or it might be slow depending on where this country can be found alphabetically and at which end of the alphabet you start. Or, you may be able to solve it more easily if you paid attention at a recent Poway Stamp Club meeting and/or you read Jon Schrag's new member interviews in the PSC Newsletters. A clue: It is not the obvious choice. Difficult contests deserve good prizes. No pain, no gain, as they say.

Last month's contest prize was a nicely centered, mint, original gum, never hinged copy of Scott #231. This month's prize is a very nicely centered, mint original gum, never hinged copy of Scott #379.

Submit your answers to Bob McArthur at [rmcarthur@cox.net](mailto:rmcarthur@cox.net)

*Last Winner!*  
*Find the Hidden Gem*



The "Find the Gem" contest was won by new member **Sheryll Ruecker** who correctly picked out the five cent Columbian (Scott #234) with the Chicago World's Fair Station circular date stamp as the valuable stamp. It was the last stamp on the right in the third row. Stamps of the Columbian World's Fair series with the Chicago World's Fair Station Cancel are hard to find, particularly for values other than the two cent and they are undervalued in Scott's Specialized U.S. catalog. The market value of the stamp in the contest is around one hundred dollars. Congratulations Sheryll! Your prize is a mint never hinged original gum Scott #23.





## San Diego Philatelic Library

The San Diego County Philatelic Library is a not-for-profit philatelic library in Poway, San Diego County, California. Operated by friendly volunteers. Your stamp library consists of approximately 16,000 volumes of books, monographs, catalogs, and periodicals.

### Library Loose Stamps

The Philatelic library provides a large bucket of assorted stamps for visitor inspection. Please remember to always leave a suitable contribution for any stamp items removed from the bucket(s).

### Library Hours:

The Library hours vary based upon who can take a shift, the hours usually are:

10 to 2:00	Monday
12 to 5:30	Tuesday
12 to 3:00	Wednesday
10 to 2:00	Thursday
3 to 6:00	Friday
1 to 5:00	Saturday

Plus additional hours by appointment only.

Before you visit the Library, please call to verify staffing is available.  
1-858-748-5633.

## Member Article

By Bill O'Connor

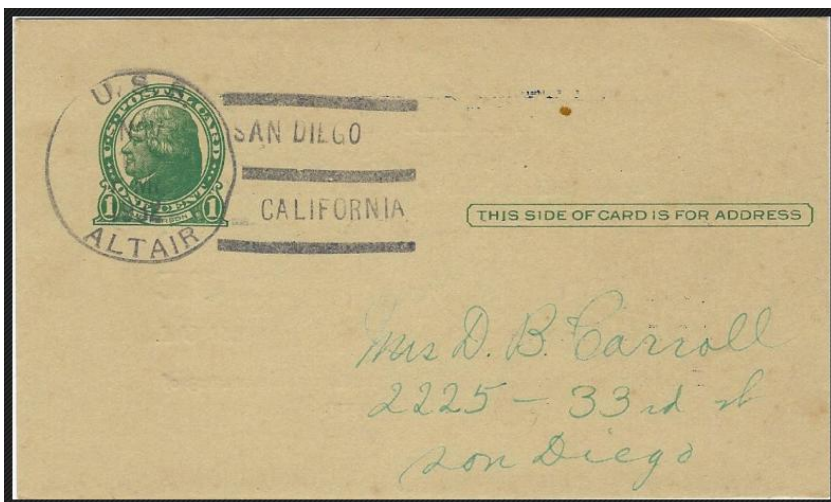
### Post Offices and History San Diego County



### Ship Cancels from San Diego, 1930's

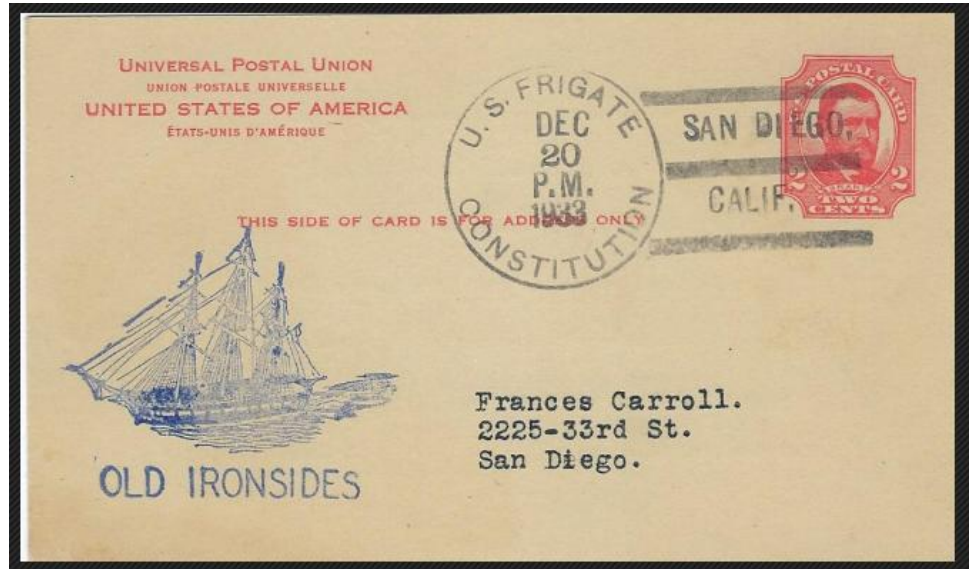
San Diego was a major United States port city to numerous American warships and military units before World War II. Even today, the military presence in the city is very important to the whole region. Included in this article are a few postal cancels from naval ships that include San Diego as part of the cancellations. Many of the naval covers that you might encounter include special cachets that honor all aspects of our history, culture, and special events of the day. The majority of the naval covers and post cards in my collection relate to the voyage of the USS Frigate Constitution, the oldest ship in the American Navy, and St. Patrick's Day cancellation used aboard Naval ships. I have over 100 covers/post cards, and happily find a few more each year.

The first example (figure 1) presented is a post card from the U.S.S. Altair (AD-11), mailed in November 1932. This ship was named for the brightest star in the constellation Aquila. The ship was designated a destroyer tender, and served with the navy until 1946. This card and the next three presented give notice on the back of the card for the San Diego Stamp Club meetings and agendas. I wonder how many e-mail notices will be kept after 90 years?



(Figure 1. U.S.S Altair)

The next three cards (figures 2-4) were posted aboard the U.S. Frigate Constitution in 1933. This ship commissioned in 1797 is still in active service today. Known as "*Old Ironsides*", its battles against the HMS *Guerriere* and HMS *Java* during the War of 1812 has immortalized this incredible relic from the past.



(Figure 2. U.S.S Altair)

After its re-commissioning in 1931, the ship went on tour visiting 90 ports, going as far North as Bar Harbor, Maine, then to the Panama Canal, and up the Pacific coast from San Diego to Bellingham, Washington.



(Figure 3. U.S. Constitution Arrives at San Diego)



The Constitution is perhaps one of the oldest functioning ships in the world, and may be viewed at the Charleston Navy Yard, Boston.

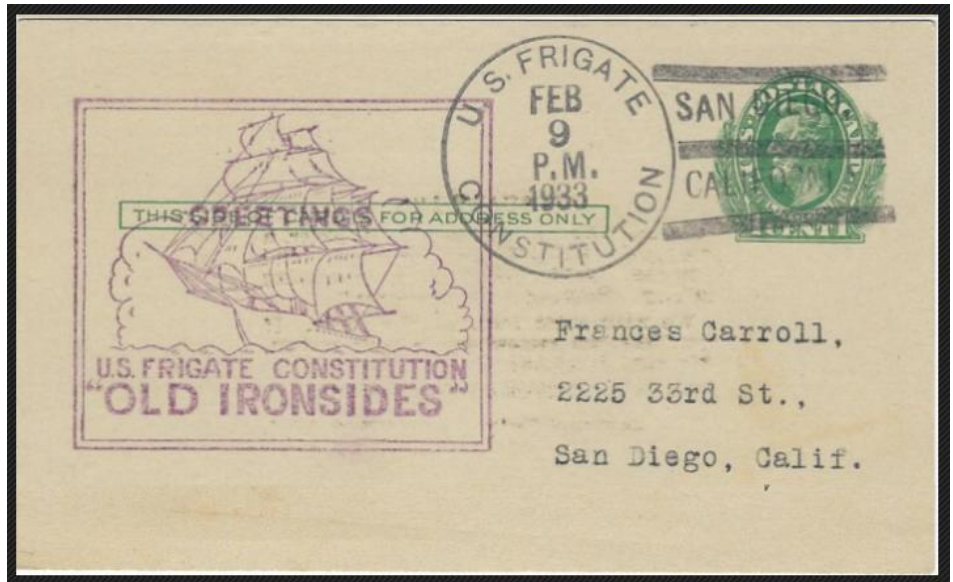


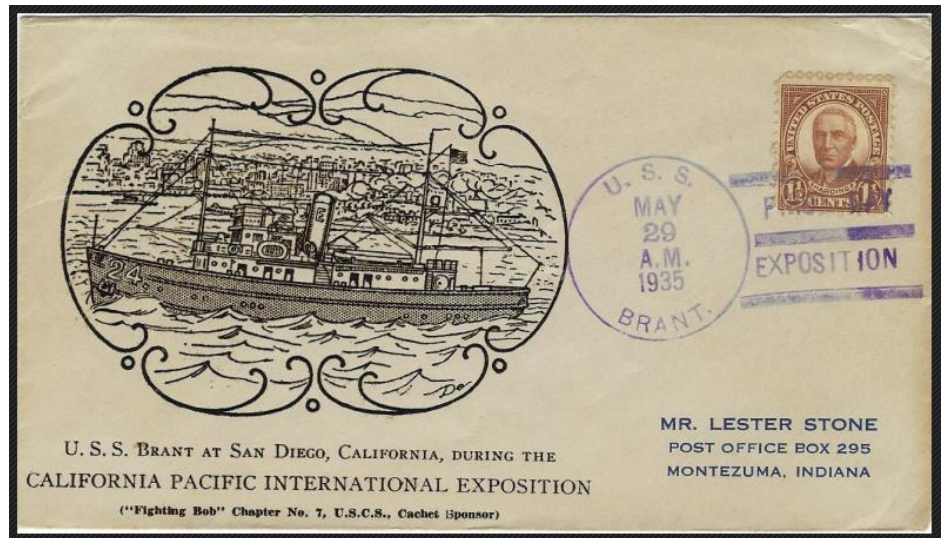
Figure 4. U.S. Constitution Greetings)

The fifth example is a cover with a wonderful cachet of shamrocks, harps, and green color commemorating St. Patrick's Day. The March 17 cancellation also adds to the festivities of the patron saint of Ireland. The date indicates the return of the U.S. Frigate Constitution on its way back to the East coast of America. The 8 cent postage is the correct rate for airmail usage as that amount was introduced on September 28, 1932, and lasted until the end of June, 1934.



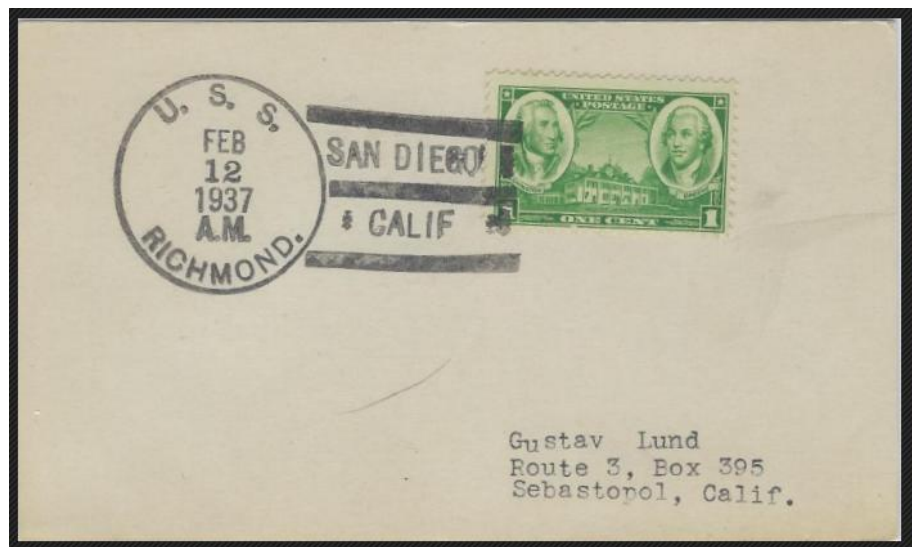
(Figure 5. Frigate Constitution (Shamrocks))

The sixth example shows an example of a naval cancel from the U.S.S. Brent (AM24). It is the first day of cancel from the California Pacific Exposition, held in Balboa Park, San Diego. This minesweeper was damaged by friendly fire off of Sicily, August, 1943; decommissioned in December of 1945.



(Figure 6. U.S.S. Brent )

Figure 7 is of the U.S.S. Richmond (CI9). This light cruiser may be best remembered for rescuing 64 members of the U.S.S. Macon, Airship on February, 12th 1935. The ship was scrapped in 1946.



(Figure 7. U.S.S. Richmond)



A St. Patrick's Day cancel of 1935. This is a second cover from the U.S.S. Brant; The name for this ship comes from a small goose called the Brant.



(Figure 8. U.S.S. Brant)

This 1936 St. Patrick's Day naval cancel indicates the U.S.S. MacLiesh (figure 9). I assume it is the U.S.S. MacLeish (perhaps the naval postal clerk got confused with the placing of the "i" and "e" with reference to spelling protocols ). This Clemson class destroyer was launched in 1919 and was named after a naval war hero of W.W.1. This ship operated in the Black Sea and eastern Mediterranean Sea in the 1920s and then transferred to the Pacific. She saw convoy duty during World War II and then decommissioned in 1946.



(Figure 8. U.S.S. MacLiesh)

Regards, Bill

## Member Article

By Bob McArthur

### The Four Cent Columbian Blue Error



Beautiful Scott 233a  
Courtesy Bob McArthur

Recently we ran a contest in which participants were asked to pick the valuable stamp from a group of twenty of the 1893 Columbian issue. Several people believed that the valuable stamp was a somewhat dark Four Cent Columbian and the famous blue error (Scott 233a). Sadly, the four-cent color error was not one of the stamps presented. This error is, however, interesting enough that it deserves mention on its own in our newsletter.

So, what exactly is the blue error? The Four Cent was supposed to be printed with blue ink. Instead, some copies were printed with an intense dark blue ink very similar in color to the ultramarine color used in the One Cent Columbian. The difference is difficult to describe. It is also difficult to present photographic images which convey that difference. Noted writer Lester Brookman described the error as like the One Cent but "livelier." Many writers have said that once you see a 233a beside a 233 the difference is unmistakable. I agree.



Photos of Scott (230, 233, 233a)  
Courtesy Bob McArthur

The Post Office Department decided that the One Cent Columbian (Scott #230) would be printed in “blue” ink and that the Four Cent Columbian (Scott #233) would be printed in “ultramarine” ink. I’ve placed those color words in parentheses because those names meant one thing to the Post Office Department, one thing to printers in general, another to the printers at the American Bank Note Company in particular, and another thing entirely to chemists. Part of our difficulty in identifying and discussing the error comes from this difference in color names. Adding to the confusion is the fact that there are different shades of each color and that over the years different catalogers and philatelic writers have used many different terms to describe the color of these stamps. For example, Antwerp Blue and Dark Ultramarine were popular around 1900. Scott, the default in the Twenty-First Century lists the One Cent as deep blue with shades of blue and pale blue. Scott lists the Four Cent as dull ultramarine and deep ultramarine.

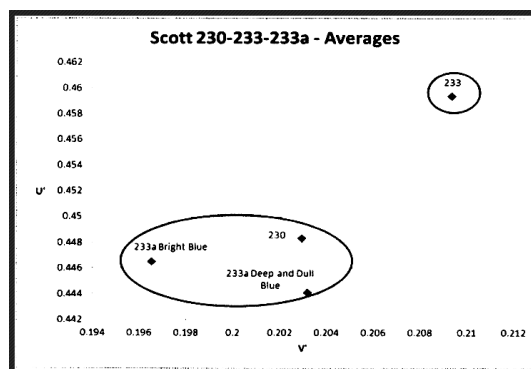
The error has an interesting history. It is probably the first Columbian stamp error to have been discovered. J. V. Painter a Columbus, Ohio collector was a friend of Cleveland’s postmaster. The postmaster from time to time allowed Painter to examine the Cleveland Post Office’s stock of stamps for anything that Painter might find of interest. Painter was doing that in September 1893 when he found a one hundred subject pane of the Four Cent Color error. Subsequent discoveries have shown that the color error was from D16 and D17. Other plates used to print the Four Cent were D18, D19, and D20. The fact that we have color errors from two plates suggests to me that the error printings were from two different press runs. I also don’t think that these press runs would have been performed on the same day leading me to the conclusion that there were probably a large number of these stamps printed. I don’t know which plate was used to print Painter’s pane. I suspect that it was D16. I also don’t know if the D17 plate strip or block was used or mint.



Theodore Steinway, a New Yorker, found and reported a used example of 233a around 1895. Since then, there have been other used examples found. Used examples appear to be less common than the mint copies. The first mention of the 233a in a catalog was in 1898. Contrast that with the famous “Broken Hat” variety of the Two Cent Columbian (Scott #231) which was not reported on in the philatelic literature until 1905. You can get a fairly accurate depiction by consulting the *Encyclopedia of Colors of United States Postage Stamps, Volume III, Issues of 1869-1893* by R.H. White. The San Diego Philatelic Library has a copy.

In years gone by, identification of the 233a was done by use of the Mark I, Mod 0 human eyeball, a not always reliable device. Today, we have the advantage of modern scientific methods. The stamps under discussion here have been examined by a number of non-destructive tests. We now have the results of video spectrographic, X-ray fluorescence, and infrared spectrometry analysis. The results of these tests provide data which conclusively proves a strong correlation between the two varieties of 233a and 230. They also show that the primary pigment in the ink used to print the 233a and the 230 is Prussian Blue, a pigment which is shown not to be present in the “normal” 233. The primary pigment in the normal 233 is Ultramarine.

Remember I mentioned Antwerp Blue earlier in this article? Antwerp Blue is another name for Prussian Blue. The Four Cent error (233a) and the One Cent (230) while both having Prussian Blue as their major component are different enough in chemical composition that they cannot be considered two different shades of the same color. The 230 seems to have higher concentrations of iron and sodium than the 233a.



**Chromaticity Plot**  
 Courtesy Bob. McArthur



Those interested in a more detailed account of this testing and its results are invited to consult *Determination of the Pigment used in the 1893 4 cent Columbian Color Error (Scott 233a)* by Thomas Lera in the Collector's Club Philatelist, Vol. 93, No. 3, dated May-June 2014. On one axis and hue on the other. The results show the differences in these stamps in a very obvious way.

You may be asking, "How was such a major error allowed to occur?" The explanation can probably be found in three expressions which have been popular in the United States Military since time immemorial. They are:

1. If you want it bad, you get it bad.
2. Your X was made by the lowest bidder.
3. Good enough for government work.

The Columbian issue stamps were printed by the American Bank Note Company (ABN) under contract to the United States Post Office Department. The ABN was the winner in a competitive bid. ABN had six months from the time the contract was let until delivery of the product was due. The contract was for a total of three billion (!) stamps (later reduced to two billion) of sixteen different designs. You can imagine that the ABN was under tremendous pressure to complete the order. I suspect that during one of the printings of the Four Cent, someone either selected the wrong color ink or they ran out of the correct color ink and substituted the wrong color to keep from having to shut down production. Quality control on all of the Columbians overall was poor. The company was not about to lose money by destroying stamps which they believed neither the Post Office Department nor the stamp buying public would notice. The result is one of the rarest and most noticeable errors in U.S. Philatelic history.

**Bob**



## Member Classifieds

If you would like to have a **Free** advertisement in the PSC Newsletter, please email: [PSCphilately@gmail.com](mailto:PSCphilately@gmail.com)

**For Sale:** I have an extensive collection of US mint plate blocks, sheets, panes, etc. The years range primarily from 1940-2002. If you are looking for specific blocks, I may be able to help. Please send an email, [waoconnor@aol.com](mailto:waoconnor@aol.com), or call/leave a message, 760-723-7372. Want lists can also be sent to Bill O'Connor, 3803 Foxglove Lane, Fallbrook, CA 92028-8764

**For Sale:** Want lists serviced for stamps of Puerto Rico. Fill holes in your collection with mostly lower catalog value stamps. See Bob at a PSC meeting or call 858-278-7873

**Bob Schappelle**

**For Sale:** Worldwide sets, Singles and Souvenir sheets. 60% off Catalog to all Club Members. Offer valid anywhere you see me. Phone: 714-476-3698 Email: [CBCSTAMP@AOL.com](mailto:CBCSTAMP@AOL.com).

**Chuck Bigler.**

**For Sale:** \$525. Cat of worldwide souvenir sheets, some high Cat machins. \$100. Call **Duane** at 858-735-3800

**Duane Pryhoda**

**For Sale:** Stamps at Bargain Prices, Come and see my Stock. By appointment so please call to set up a time. Home Phone: 858-271-0262 Mobile Phone: 858-449-3047 **Al Kish**

**Wanted:** (NEW) stamps depicting uniforms, costumes, and occupations.

**US Used:** Scott numbers: 7, 8, 10, 15, 18, 22, 26a, 30a, 32, 35, 36, 66, 261a, 276a, 277, 278, 341, 342, 350, 353, 356, 358, 386, 519, 523.

**Bob McArthur** [rncarthur@cox.net](mailto:rncarthur@cox.net)

**Wanted:** All Vietnam. Stamps and covers. Ready to trade or buy outright. Contact: [jschrag1@san.rr.com](mailto:jschrag1@san.rr.com)

**Wanted:** Puerto Rico Town cancels. Bring to meeting. Will trade or buy. See member **M. Marti** PSC # 410.

**Wanted:** Imperial China, PRC, Manchukuo, Mongolia, U.S. Double Transfers/Re-entries, U.S. 19<sup>th</sup> Century Proofs and Essays. U.S. 19<sup>th</sup> Century (SC#s 3, 64b, 101). See D & T Klauber or contact us at [Indysmama@gmail.com](mailto:Indysmama@gmail.com).

## Stamp News:



### New Stamps 2021 United States Postal Service Stamps

The 2021 stamp program commemorates Missouri statehood, Japanese Americans who fought in World War II and Chien-Shiung Wu, one of the most influential American nuclear physicists of the 20th century. Fun issuances include Western Wear, Backyard Games, Espresso Drinks, a stamp showcasing a visual riddle, and four Message Monster stamps with self-adhesive accessories. The program also includes Mid-Atlantic Lighthouses, the last of the popular Lighthouse stamp series. This is a partial list of the 2021 stamp program. All stamp designs are preliminary and subject to change.

#### Missouri Statehood

August 10  
Jefferson City, MO

This stamp celebrates the bicentennial of Missouri statehood. Missouri became the 24th state in the Union on Aug. 10, 1821. The stamp art is an existing photograph of Bollinger Mill State Historic Site by noted landscape photographer Charles Gurche. Art director Greg Breeding designed the stamp.





## Mid-Atlantic Lighthouses

August 6  
Highlands, NJ

The long-running series celebrating American lighthouses continues with five new stamps. The mid-Atlantic lighthouses featured in this issuance are: Thomas Point Shoal, MD; Montauk Point, NY; Harbor of Refuge, DE; Navesink, NJ; and Erie Harbor Pierhead, PA. The late Howard Koslow was the artist for these stamps as well as previous issuances in the Lighthouse series. Mid-Atlantic Lighthouses were the last stamps he illustrated for the Postal Service. The art director was Greg Breeding.



## Ursula K. Le Guin

July 27, 2021 | Portland OR

**U.S. Postal Service's Literary Arts Series Celebrates Author for Writings 'Ahead of Their Time'.**

The U.S. Postal Service honors the cross-genre writings of Ursula K. Le Guin, the acclaimed science fiction and fantasy author, with the 33rd stamp in its literary series. Ursula Kroeber Le Guin began exploring the potential of



science fiction and fantasy through writing in the early 1960s. In 1966, she published her first novel, "Rocannon's World," which intertwined elements of fantasy and science fiction. It inspired two sequels that established a setting for many later novels and stories.

## Mystery Message Stamp

July 14 | International Spy Museum Washington, DC



Put your sleuthing skills to the test with the bright colors and interesting shapes of the new Mystery Message Forever stamp. The U.S. Postal Service offers intrigue and excitement for customers with a stamp that needs deciphering to be fully appreciated. The new Mystery Message Forever stamp is designed to put your sleuthing skills to the test! Featuring bright colors and interesting shapes, the stamp design is a visual riddle spelling out a difficult-to-discern message. Each colorful square contains a letter in an interesting pattern.

## Dancing Back to Broadway

July 10 | Times Square, NY



New York City's Times Square will come alive with dancing in the street when the U.S. Postal Service officially unveils its Tap Dance Forever Stamps. The famous Father Duffy Square in the heart of Manhattan's Theatre District will set the stage for the first-day-of-issue stamp ceremony celebrating this rhythmic stamp series. The ceremony is in conjunction with the Tap It Out, Tap City, New York City Tap Festival. It is free and open to the public. The stamps showcase five photographs of a different tap dancer performing his or her craft against a brightly colored background that highlights the dancer's shaping and movement. The photographs were taken by Matthew Murphy and the stamps were designed by art director Ethel Kessler.

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