



# Poway Stamp Club

## NEWSLETTER

*"San Diego County's Best Stamp Collecting Club"*

October 12, 2022

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### 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.

### CONTACT US

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

### CLUB E-MAIL

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

### PSC WEBSITE:

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

### PSC BID BOARD:

[Powaystampclub.com/bid-board](http://Powaystampclub.com/bid-board)

## October CLUB MEETINGS

The Wednesday October 12<sup>th</sup> program will be:



### **Club Donations Voice Sale/Circuit Book and Member Trading Extravaganza!**

Meeting time: The meeting will begin promptly at 6:30 PM.  
Meeting Place: 12675 Danielson Court, Suite #413 (in the back of the building), Poway, California 92064.

**Please remember to bring your badge!**

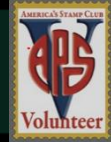
The meeting will begin with our regular Club business including the Club drawing, followed by a "**Club Donations Voice Sale**". If you wish to preview these lots, they will be available at 5:30 p.m. in the Library prior to the Wednesday meeting. Following the sale the meeting will progress with the 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 our members to sell or trade with on another their duplicate stamps.

### **At our Second October 26<sup>th</sup> meeting:**

Our program will Highlight The **ANNUAL UGLY STAMP** Contest!



# Poway Stamp Club



## 2022/23 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.

### 2022 Club Board:

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

### PSC Club Volunteers:

**Registrar:** Trice Klauber  
**Auctioneer:** Duane Pryhoda  
**Asst. Auctioneer** Jim Grundy  
**Club Librarian:** Scott Boyd  
**Newsletter Editor** D. Klauber  
**Newsletter Cont.** Jon Schrag  
**Bob McArthur**  
**Bill O'Connor**  
**Manny Marti**  
**Library Rep:** Bob Eygenhuysen  
**Opp. Drawing** Scott Boyd  
**WebMaster** D. Klauber  
**Public Relations** Valerie Merritt

### PSC Representatives:

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

### Stamp on Page 1

On the page one header is SC #13, 1855 10c Green, Ty. I, a seldom seen mint example of a rare classic stamp, the example has three large margins, fourth at bottom just touching, nice color and deeply engraved impression.

October	Oct	12, 2022	Circuit (APS) Voice Sale
	Oct	26, 2022	<b>Ugly Stamp Contest</b>
November	Nov	9, 2022	TBD - Presentation
	Nov	--	
December	Dec	14, 2022	<b>Holiday Dinner</b>
	Dec	--	<b>No Meeting</b>
January	Jan	11, 2023	TBD - Presentation
	Jan	25, 2023	c
February	Feb	08, 2023	Circuit (APS) Voice Sale
	Feb	22, 2023	TBD - Presentation
March	Mar	08, 2023	TBD - Presentation
	Mar	22, 2023	TBD - Presentation
April	Apr	13, 2023	Circuit (APS) Voice Sale
	Apr	27, 2023	TBD - Presentation
May	May	10, 2023	TBD - Presentation
	May	24, 2023	TBD - Presentation
June	Jun	14, 2023	Circuit (APS) Voice Sale
	Jun	28, 2023	TBD - Presentation
July	Jul	10, 2023	TBD - Presentation
	Jul	24, 2023	TBD - Presentation
August	Aug	9, 2023	Circuit (APS) Voice Sale
	Aug	23, 2023	TBD - Presentation
September	Sep	9, 2023	TBD - Presentation
	Sep	23, 2023	TBD - Presentation

The Poway Stamp Club invites you to share your philatelic passion by presenting at one of our meetings or writing a short article for our newsletter. If you are interested or want to find out more, Contact: **Bill Wacenske** or email at [pscphilately@gmail.com](mailto:pscphilately@gmail.com) or talk to one of our Club's officers.



**POWAY STAMP CLUB**  
APS Chapter  
#1137-112097

## APS

Thirty-five PSC club members 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 year's 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 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 site to introduce others to our Club.

THE POWAY STAMP CLUB

## Club Notes:

- **Poway Stamp Club Exceeds 100 Member Goal** – During our last club meeting we voted in our **102<sup>nd</sup> member**. This is a worthy milestone that we have all worked together to achieve. Thanks to you all for helping to make this happen!
- **Ugly Stamp Contest** – Don't forget to prepare for the 4th annual Ugly Stamp Contest scheduled for the PSC Meeting of October 26th, 2022. Winner receives a valuable Gas Card.
- **Local Show (New shows this year!)**

## SANDIPEX Show Schedule

October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Free Admission! – Free Parking!  
Doors open from 10 am – 4 pm

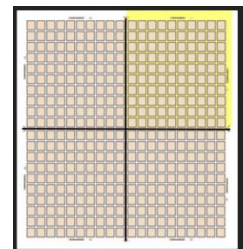
The show is located just 4 blocks to the north of the Philatelic Library on Poway Road. The show is held at the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks Lodge, 13219 Poway Road Poway, CA 92064. Ph# 714-476-3698 Email:

[cbcstamp@aol.com](mailto:cbcstamp@aol.com)

- **Poway Stamp Club Meetings** - The Poway Stamp Club meets twice monthly on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month. It is so nice to see all our philatelic friends again.
- **Prexie Presentation** – If you missed Rich's August Club presentation you may press the "Prexie Presentation" link below to view this very informative seminar. [Prexie Presentation](#)
- **Grills Presentation** – If you missed Pongs Club presentation you may press the "Grills Presentation" link below to view this well-presented seminar. [Grills Presentation Grills](#)



- **Cuba Presentation** – If you missed Arden Simoni’s presentation on Cuban Puerto Principe stamps press the “Simoni Presentation” link below to view this well-presented. [SIMONI PRESENTATION](#)
- **Club Participation** – We thank our members who help us each month by contributing to this 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).
- **USPS proposes temporary price hikes for holiday season**  
The United States Postal Service is proposing temporary price increases on packages to help cover its costs during the busy holiday mailing season. The additional temporary charges would be imposed on packages effective on Oct. 2 and remain in effect until Jan. 22, 2023. The increases would affect Priority Mail Express, Priority Mail, First-Class Package, Parcel Select and Retail Ground services. Among the increases would be a 75¢ surcharge on flat-rate Priority Mail and Priority Mail Express boxes and envelopes for commercial customers, and a 95¢ surcharge on these same products for retail customers. – NSSF –
- **NEW Bid Board:** The Eighth 2022 Bid Board will start Saturday Sat October 8<sup>th</sup> at Noon and ends Saturday October 22<sup>th</sup> at Noon. Our PSC members are both participating as sellers and others as buyers. Please support this effort as 10% of all sales go to support the club!
- **Congratulations** – Hugh Lawrence of Carlsbad California and a friend of the Poway Stamp Club, has won a Gold Medal at the San Diego Virtual Stamp Show for his presentation of the non-denominated domestic air letter sheets of China 1948-55.
- **Guide Lines** – For the flat plate printing process, the BEP engraved straight lines across the plate, between the stamps sometimes a single horizontal or vertical line, but usually two lines crossing at the center of the plate. They were used as guides for cutting the sheet into panes.





- **Show & Tell** – Do you have an interesting philatelic item to share at our next meeting? Bring it in and share it with us as we would love to see it!
- **A Word of Caution About Stamp Grading Software** - I've seen online stamp listings appearing recently with "certificates" that purport to assign a grade to a stamp being offered for sale. It is important to note that these are not certificates of authenticity. In fact, none of the "certs" I have seen so far even list the Scott catalog number and with good reason, I suspect; the software developer does not want to be liable for their licensees' possible misidentification of the "graded" stamp. There is much more to stamp grading than centering. The first step in the process has nothing to do with centering at all. The first step is verifying that the stamp is genuine and correctly identified. It also must be thoroughly examined for flaws, which has an impact on the resulting grade. Therefore, a grade assigned by a software program may not necessarily agree with a grade assigned by an expertization service. After all, a software program can't tell if a stamp is genuine, properly identified, if it has been reperforated, regummed, has inclusions, creases, thins, pinholes or any number of other faults that might negatively impact the final grade. So, if you're only concerned with stamp centering then these programs and the printed documents, they generate should do the job. On the other hand, you want to ensure that your stamps are properly identified and vetted, then you'll probably want to stick with the tried-and-true method of human expertization and grading.

- S. Gill -

- **Poway Stamp Club** – Now is a great time to develop a stamp presentation to support our new Program Coordinator who is requesting that all interested club members please advise him of any ideas/projects they may have for meeting programs. You may e-mail Bill Wacenske at: [stampdude03@gmail.com](mailto:stampdude03@gmail.com) or call 805-581-2923.

- **Farley Issues** – A special printing in 1935 for the public of certain United States commemoratives. This was in order to satisfy protests of collectors who had protested the action of the postmaster general, James A. Farley in first issuing only a limited number of these imperforates to a favored few.



## *October Circuit Meeting!*

The APS Circuit Books for the October meeting will be:

1. UNITED STATES
2. NEW ZEALAND
3. BRITISH OCEANIA
4. UNITED STATES, (MULTIPLES AND CANCELS)
5. JAPAN/MANCHUKUO
6. UNITED STATES 24-227
7. PORTUGUES COLONIES/MOZAMBIQUE CO./MACAO
8. UNITED STATES BoB
9. UNITED STATES 1900-1940
10. AUSTRALIA
11. ICEAND
12. FINLAND
13. GERMANY TO 1940
14. UNITED STATES RI14a-WY13
15. AUSTRALIA
16. UNITED STATES 11- R450/ UN
17. PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF CHINA
18. DENMARK



**Stamp Cat says  
“Don’t forget the stamps”**



## Pants on Fire

### 4<sup>th</sup> Annual



## Ugly Stamp Contest!

Meeting Oct 26, 2022

Each year the PSC attracts storytellers from all over the Universe to compete in the annual Ugly Stamp Contest and only once a year do you get a chance to tell a real doozey. According to the SCAT (Stamp Committee of Annual Tales) our contest informally started when one of the first American stamp collectors in the 1870's showed his "extremely valuable" collection of 3 torn and badly faulted stamps to a young lady for which he was interested. Alas the USC (Ugly Stamp Contest) was born. The Ugly Stamp Contest is arguably the oldest, most pathetic, philatelic storytelling contest in the United States. And that's just cuz we said so! The festivities begin at dusk or when the silly contest begins. Bring a refreshment if you can still carry one and get ready to enjoy a night of fun, besides it's free!

**Rules** - The hilarious contest honors our very first contest winner and serial teller of untruths extraordinaire Mr. Jim Grundy, a stamp collector and a master of the Western tradition for spinning very tall tales. All of you other amateur raconteurs can follow suit as long as your story is about an Ugly Stamp that is contained in your hand and your narration is less than five minutes long, but most importantly it must be anything but the truth.

Because it's all about having fun, all comers are welcome to enter the contest. However, it should be pointed out that the inclusion of bribes, originality, props, costumes, presentation flair, oddly shaped pets that are included in the tale have assisted our previous winners. The judges (PSC Members) always love appropriate and meaningful gadgets. While you 'can' read your tale from a notebook, but reading makes it a story, not a lie. Quality humor, logic, illogic, falsehood or the unimaginable is always welcome and graded as such. You can speak it, shout it, rhyme it, sing it, hum it, or mime it.....or any other method you prefer. Also, one need not lie only by oneself. Team lying and family lying are equally appreciated and are always crowd pleasers.

**Judging** - Your skills will be judged by all attending PSC members who each get two votes (on paper) As tradition follows each member gets two votes, typically each member votes for themselves first, even if they did not participate and the second vote must be for another contestant. Any ballot with the same two names on it will be tossed (The Snap Judge rules! Because she doesn't take no SCAT).

**The winner will be awarded a \$25 dollar Gas card**

## **SESCAL Stamp Show Field Trip**



# **SESCAL 2022**



2022 – the 78th Annual Stamp Exhibition of Southern California –  
October 28-30

New Location in Glendale, CA

## **Don't Miss the PSC ROAD TRIP !!!**

### **No Toga Necessary!**

We're doing it again, the highly lauded ROAD TRIP. The PSC Club is planning to attend the 2022 SESCAL Stamp show on Saturday the 29<sup>th</sup> of October.

For those who are club members and are interested in attending the show with us, the club is planning to rent a bus, offsetting most of the cost and offering the available seats for a nominal fee of \$20 per seat.

**We have 10 of 28 seats remaining in the bus at \$20 each.**

Schedule: Saturday October 29<sup>th</sup> :

**8:00 a.m.** – Leave from Philatelic Library

**10:00-10:30** -- Arrive at Show

**3:30** -- Leave show (return)

We will stop for dinner (TBD)

You will be responsible to order and pay for your meal.

**7:30-8:00** -- Return to Library Parking Lot

Please contact Trice at [Indysmama@gmail.com](mailto:Indysmama@gmail.com) ASAP to make your reservations and insure your spot.





## Member Spotlight!

By: Jon Schrag



**The Poway Stamp Club Newsletter highlights its new members each issue. Today's spotlights are on 3 new members.**

**John Peterson (533)  
Maurice Nahum (534)  
Neil Schneider (535)**

A membership request has been granted to the following person(s):

**#533 John Peterson** of San Diego California was presented for membership by Art Berg. John is an APS, ACPS, and PNC3 member. John collects Classic US ceremony programs and associate ephemera. We welcome John to our club and look forward to visiting with him at our upcoming meetings.

**#534 Maurice Nahum** of San Diego California was presented for membership by David Klauber. Maurice collects Worldwide Stamps. He has returned to stamp collecting and we are thrilled to welcome Maurice to club. See you at our next meeting.

**#535 Neil Schneider** of Poway California was presented for membership by Art Berg. Neil collects US Classics and with a specialty in Ukraine. He started collecting again after collecting the Ukraine Snake Island issue and has restarted collecting since. Welcome aboard Neil, we look forward to collecting with you soon.

**This brings our total membership to 102. We look forward to getting together at PSC meetings with our new members**



**Visit [Powaystampclub.com](http://Powaystampclub.com) today!**

## Definitions

The following definition of EFO and other terms supports 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:** These 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 a 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 David M. Klauber

### Varieties

## There Is No Substitute for Knowledge



### Understanding Grills

*After Pong's grill presentation, I was asked about this article several times and the list of "that one thing" that uniquely identifies each of the different grills. As such, I have resurrected and updated the following. – Enjoy! -*

**Grills** – On a stamp is sometimes an embossed pattern of small indentations intended to discourage postage stamp reuse. Used in the United States in the 1860s and 1870s, they were designed to allow the ink of the cancellation to be absorbed more readily by the fibers of the stamp paper, making it harder to wash off the cancellation.<sup>1</sup> Below is a Mint 79 with an "A" grill with lines enhanced, grill A is the only type where the "whole stamp" is grilled.



Grill "A" Only Whole Stamp Embossing

The United States Post Office has always been concerned about the reuse of postage. In the early years of US postal history many stamps were fraudulently cleaned and reused which resulted in the loss of revenue to the post office. There have been many approaches used to prevent the reuse of stamps which includes double papers and Grills. The grill however, was for a very short period of time used as part of the stamp creation process and was the only tactic used on standard regular issues. The other methods, such as use of double paper were considered as "experiments."

### **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 curiosities and have lower EFO values.

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

### **Counterfeit, Forgery, or Fake.**

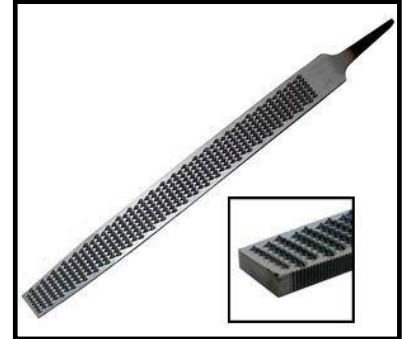
**Counterfeit:** Fraudulent reproduction of a stamp meant to defraud the issuing authority. (Typically used as postage)

**Forgery:** Fraudulent reproduction or alteration of a stamp meant to defraud (not the issuing authority), In philately, forged stamps are altered to defraud you 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 expressions of art that are not offered as genuine to defraud. (Reprints may be considered fakes)

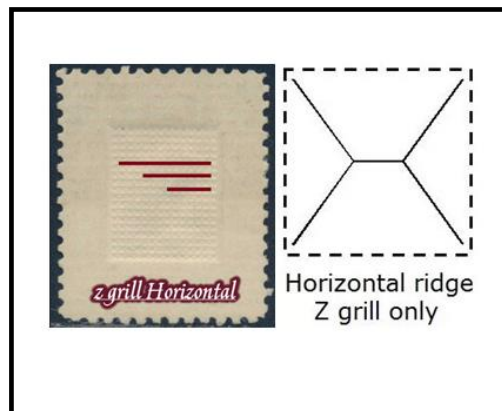
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**What is a grill?** - A grill is a very small series of triangular embosses in a stamp. These tiny impressions allow ink from a cancellation to absorb into the fibers of the stamp. It is because of this grill absorption that ink stains remains which cannot be easily removed. As a result, the stamp can without difficulty, be identified as used. Grills were applied using metal printing plates these plates had a collection of grill blocks outfitted with multiple tiny points similar to the surface of a common wood rasp.



The points were meant to gently break the paper fibers so that the cancellation inks would not just sit on top of the stamp where it could be removed. Instead, the ink was meant to soak deep into the stamp paper and be absorbed by the broken paper fibers. The grill was designed to make removing an ink cancellation more complicated. It is unfortunate that so many grills were so poorly applied. Much of the variance was the result of the fact that the fine ridges in the metal printing plate would wear down fairly quickly. The plate wear resulted in a wide variance in the grill impressions many of these being very lightly applied.

The Post Office experimented with many different patterns and as a result, there ended up being eleven different grill patterns that are identified by letters. Interestingly, the letters **A-I** and **Z** do not denote a dimension, silhouette, or appearance of a grill, but rather, indicate the order that they were identified. The "Z" grill" is the single exception, which was recognized by a Mr. William L. Stevenson. Stevenson was unable to discern which group the new grill belonged to or which grills came before or after it, so he assigned it a "Z" being suggestive of the unknown.



The "Z" The only Horizontal Ridge Grill

## 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 are 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

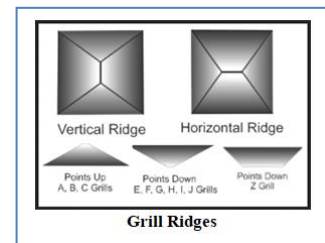
Pair – An unplanned pair, strip, or block of adjacent stamps (either horizontal or vertical). The stamps must be un-severed and are different from each other by variety, meaning that at least one member of the pair/strip/block differs in some detail from the “normal” issue. The detail may or may not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

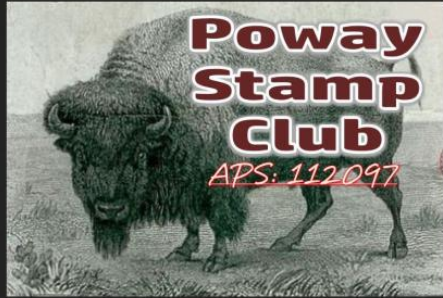
The evolution of grill experiments which started with grill pattern “A” was a true learning experience for the Post Office. As such, grill A was the only embossing that covered the entire stamp. It is because grilling breaks the paper fibers of a stamp, that this “whole” stamp grilling made the “A” type grills very brittle as well as made them nearly impossible to separate cleanly at the perforations. A decision was made to reduce the size of the grill to cover only the area in the center of the stamp. The B grill and C grills were introduced in 1867, followed by the D, Z, E, F, G, H & I grills, all of which were slightly different sizes.

Grills were applied to stamp issues between 1867 and 1871. The U.S. stamps that are known to have the eleven grills are listed by Scott Catalog Numbers in the far right column below. (Editors best try)

Grill	Points Up/Down	Grill size in MM	# of Points	Scott # Red < 10 Blue (rare)
A	U	All of stamp	n/a	79,80,80a,81
B	U	18x15	12 x 18	82
C	U	13x16	16 -17 x 18-21	83
D	D	12x14	15 x 17-18	84,85
E	D	11x13	14 x 15-17	86-91
F	D	9x13	11-12 x 15 -17	92-101
G	D	9 1/2 x 9 1/2	12 x 11-11.5	112-122
H	D	10x12	11-13 x 14-16	134-144
I	D	8 1/2 x 10	10-11 x 10-13	134-144
J	D	7 x 9.5	9-10 x 12	All CBNC issues except for the 24 and 90 cent 158e,179c
Z	D	11x14	13 -14 x 18	85A,85b,85c,85d,85e,85f

The first three grill types (A, B & C) are known as **points-up** because the points created by the grilling process point up from the face of the stamp. The rest of the grill types (D, Z, E, F, G, H & I) are **point down**, i.e. they point downward into the surface of the stamp. When magnified the point down points will show either a vertical or horizontal ridge as illustrated to the right. Only the Z grill shows a horizontal ridge while all other point-down grills (D, E, F, G, H & I) show vertical ridges.





**Grill Identification** - Identifying the various grills is much easier than most collectors realize. Rather than struggling with exact measurements of the grills, all can be positively and quickly identified because according to "*Stamp Smarter*" each has "**that one thing**" or trait that is unique to only that one grill<sup>2</sup>.

### POINTS UP GRILLS

*(points protruding upward from the front of the stamp)*

- "A" Grill - Covers entire stamp. Points are "up" (protruding up from the front of the stamp); similar essay grills exist;
- "B" Grill - **only four copies exist**, largest grill that doesn't cover entire stamp, points up;
- "C" Grill – **rare**, has 16-17 vertical rows and points "up";



**C Grill 16-17 V/Rows**


### POINTS DOWN GRILLS

*(points protruding downward from the back of the stamp)*

- "D" Grill - Has 15 vertical rows.



**D Grill 15V/Rows**

- "E" Grill - Has 14 vertical rows and the points run vertically, like this; ;



**E Grill 14V/Rows**



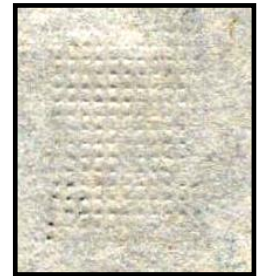
Poway Stamp Club

- "Z" Grill - Has 14 vertical rows and the points run horizontally, like this;



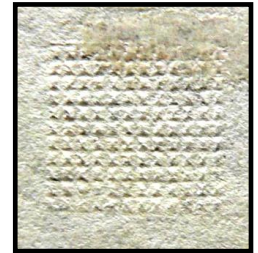
**Z Grill**

- "F" Grill - Has 12 or 13 vertical rows (usually 12). The smallest 1867-8 grill;



**F Grill**

- "G" Grill - Used only on the 1869 Issue;



**G Grill**

- "H" Grill - About the same size and configuration as the "F" grill but only used on 1870 Banknote Issue; below is an H Grill shown relative to the size of the stamp.



The H grill's size relative to the stamp



10 X 12 mm

**H Grills**



- "I" Grill - Used only on some 1870 Banknote values, is smaller than the "H" grill, usually 10 vertical rows only;

#### I Grill



- "J" Grill- Probably not regularly issued, smaller than the H" or "I" but always very heavily impressed such that some points will break through the paper.

#### J Grill



**OG (Old Guy/Gal/Gangster) Grill Measurement** – The following describes the methodology typically used to identify grills before newer technologies were developed. Typically a grill should be measured on the back of the stamp. Two methods of grill identification are acceptable. Either you can count the number of grill points (What I normally do) or you can measure the number of millimeters from edge to edge of the grill. When you're dealing with weak or incomplete grills it can be very difficult to distinguish which grill you are dealing with. In these cases you must enhance or "reveal" your grill.

**Revealing or Enhancing a Grill** - Unless the subject is mint with at least some of its gum, make sure the back of the stamp is clean. Remove any old hinges. Soak, dry, and press the stamp to remove anything that could interfere with observing the grill pattern. Now that the back of your used stamp is nice and clean, can you distinguish the grill pattern? If not, carry on with the next step.

**Next Enhancement Step** – After cleaning if the grill is still not apparent, lay the stamp face down on a table. Place a thin sheet of paper on top of the stamp. Use onion skin paper which usually works best. **Do not use the point of a pencil.** You risk ripping or damaging the stamp. Take the side of the pencil and gently rub the lead side over the paper. The ridges of the grill on the stamp will make a pattern on the paper. The stamp remains clean and undamaged. Now you have a sheet of paper with the impression of a grill that you can measure. Unfortunately, there are going to be times when the grill pattern is too weak or incomplete to make a firm determination. In these cases, it's probably safer to assume that you have a less expensive copy. Or you can try a Sign-O-Scope.



Sign-O-Scope (Courtesy D. Klauber)

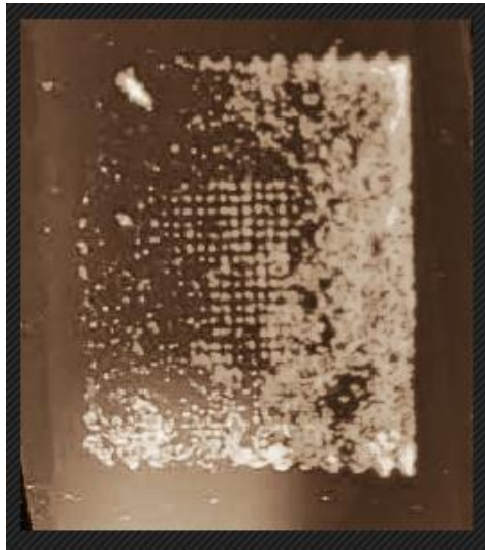
**Revealing Grills with a Sign-O-Scope** – If you have tried all of the previous methods of enhancing the grill, one other option you have is to utilize some technology to assist. If you have a Philatelic Library near you, there is a possibility that there is one of these items available for you to check out. Now, first it is important to understand that Sign-o-Scopes typically come with a set or two of vinyl inserts. (See below) It is unfortunate that they 1) don't last forever, 2) are typically thrown away upon opening, 3) Provide little benefit when viewing watermarks. But when used properly they are amazing; they will show, thins and Grills like nothing I have ever used or seen before. In order to reveal grills with a Sign-O-Scope you will need to find or acquire these inserts or you will most likely not be successful with your identification.



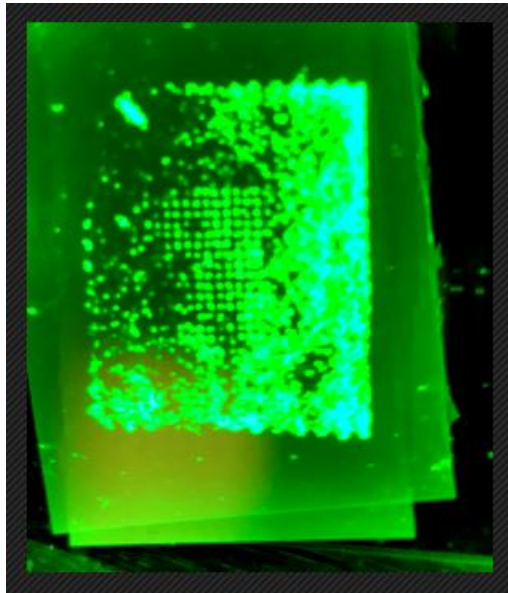
Vinyl Inserts for a Sign-o-Scope

What I learned recently is that the **Sign-O-Scope** is amazing at identifying thins and grills. It is important to note that it is essential that you use the vinyl inserts on both sides of the specimen stamp. Be sure to tighten up the wing nut at the bottom of the scope to press the “sandwiched” stamp sufficiently to expose the grill marks more clearly. It may be necessary to adjust the color setting on your scope to make the grill contrast even that much better.





Examples of Grills on a Scott #136 Banknote issue.



Examples of Grills on a Scott #136 Banknote issue.

The previous two examples of grills on a Scott 136 were nearly invisible using any of the other methods. Using the Sign-o-Scope will allow you to clearly count all of the press grill marks both horizontally and Vertically

As always there is no substitute for knowledge – Ed Deming

1. Wikipedia, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grill\\_\(philately\)#cite\\_note-Bennett-1](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grill_(philately)#cite_note-Bennett-1)
2. Easy Identification 1867- 1868 Grills, Bill Weiss/Don Denman, [/www.stampsmarter.com/learning/ID\\_1867\\_1868Grills.html](http://www.stampsmarter.com/learning/ID_1867_1868Grills.html)
3. <http://www.shaulisstamps.com/tips/Grills.htm>

## Member Article

By Robert McArthur

### American Philatelic Covers



### Price for Fancy Cancel Covers

John W. Hill (1834-1931) was the postmaster of Waterbury, CT from 1869 to 1886. He likely received the job as a patronage position in reward for his support of the Republican Party and his service in the Union Army during the Civil War.

His time as postmaster was distinguished by his use of self-carved postage stamp cancellers. His many designs were complex and were often of a whimsical nature. Needless to say, they have been very popular and are avidly collected. These cancels are now known as Waterbury Cancels. Last month, a cover bearing three one cent Franklin stamps cancelled with the Waterbury “Running Chicken” cancel sold at auction for the astonishing price of \$310,000. I think this is a record for U.S. fancy cancels.



## Member Article

By Manny Marti

### In Search of Pascual Lopez



Recently I bought a wonderful cover. It was not just a cover, but a First Day of Issue of Scott # 704-715 to Puerto Rico. To make it even better it was addressed to a Lieutenant Colonel Pascual Lopez. Who was Lieut. Col. Lopez? The search has begun.



A quick search of the web put me on the 65th Infantry Regiment (nicknamed "The Borinqueneers" during the Korean War). It had the following information.

**The early history:** Puerto Ricans have participated in many of the military conflicts in which the United States has been involved. For example, they participated in the American Revolutionary War, when volunteers from Puerto Rico, Cuba, and Mexico enlisted in the Spanish Army in 1779 and fought under the command of General Bernardo de Gálvez (1746–1786), and have continued to participate up to the present-day conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. Puerto Rico became a U.S. Territory after the 1898 Treaty of Paris which ended the Spanish–American War.

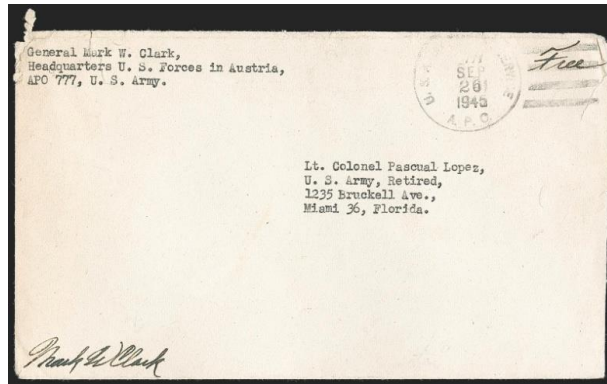


*Officer Staff of the Porto Rico Infantry (cir. 1906) Lt.  
Teófilo Marxuach pictured on top row, fifth L-R*

On 1 July 1901, the United States Senate passed a bill which would require a strict mental and physical examination for those who wanted to join the regiment. It also approved the recruitment of native Puerto Rican civilians to be appointed the grade of second lieutenants for a term of four years if they passed the required tests. On 23 April 1904, Congress authorized the recruitment of the local population as second lieutenants, leading to the recognition of Jaime Nadal, Henry Rexach, Pedro Parra, Eduardo Iriarte, Teofilo Marxuach, Eugenio María de Hostos, Luis Emmanuelli and Pascual López.

**Note:** *In 1905, one battalion participated in the inauguration of President Theodore Roosevelt. That year, seven Puerto Ricans were appointed as Second Lieutenants.*

My first mention of Pascual Lopez (as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut) but who were these other men? What were their stories? Another search on the web came up with a sale of Siegel Auction Galleries It had a cover from a General Mark W. Clark. Military, youngest four-star general in the US Army during World War II, leader of the Fifth Army when it captured Rome in June 1944.



*free frank "Mark W. Clark" and "Free" on cover to Lt. Col. Pascual Lopez in Miami Fl., light strike of "U.S. Army Service A.P.O. Sep. 26, 1945" date stamp, typed return address indicates origination in Austria*



On the group, Philately of Puerto Rico (Filatelia de Puerto Rico) on Face Book there was a post from **Aimee Poitevin Devine** as follows: Obituary for Waldemar E. Lee from "The American Philatelist," Vol. 45, Issue 10. 1932.

*"He spent the afternoon with a stamp buddy, Lt. Col. Pascual Lopez. Then he went home and was playing duets on the piano with his daughter (my grandmother) when he had a heart attack. I love that he was able to do the things he loved before he died."*

So LT C. Pascual Lopez was a stamp buddy, as was Waldemar who's obituary below describes him as an armature stamp collector (which I doubt based on his other interests).

Knowing this information, I contacted the American Philatelic Research Library requesting information on both Waldemar E. Lee for which I had an APS member number and any information on Pascual Lopez.

IN MEMORIAM

WALDEMAR E. LEE

A. P. S. # 4831

Waldemar E. Lee, one of the best known business men in Porto Rico, died suddenly at his home in San Juan on April 12th, aged fifty-two years.

Mr. Lee apparently had been in good health until he was stricken about 9 o'clock. He had been at business during the day. During the afternoon he had spent some time in Bayamon with Lt.-Col. Pascual Lopez, with whom he collected and frequently exchanged stamps.

Born in Ponce, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Eduardo Lee, Mr. Lee had resided in San Juan since shortly after 1898. He had engaged in a wide variety of business and until its dissolution was a member of the firm of Finlay, Waymouth & Lee. At the time of his death he was treasurer of Pyramid Products, Inc. He also represented several foreign corporations and had the distinction of representing more foreign governments as consul than any other man in Porto Rico. He was consul for Norway, Denmark, The Netherlands, Brazil and Honduras.

For many years Mr. Lee had served as member of the San Juan Harbor Board under appointment of several governors and he was interested in many community activities.

Mr. Lee was an enthusiastic amateur stamp collector and was reputed to have one of the finest collections of stamps in the island, including some rare and valuable Porto Rico issues. He was also interested in preserving articles of local historic interest and had many old photographs, prints, books and documents, some of them very rare.

He is survived by a widow, a son, now in Cornell University, and a daughter.

A few days later I received an email from Alicia Leathers, APRL Library Assistant as follows: I found two entries for Capt. Pascual Lopez (#4905) in our membership directories:

1. April 15, 1917 in Ballaja Barracks, San Juan, Porto Rico (*The Ballajá Barracks is a historic building and former military barracks located in the Ballajá section of Old San Juan*) June 1, 1920 in Cayey, Porto Rico (*Cayey, officially Cayey de Mueas, is a mountain town and municipality in central Puerto Rico*)

We are not sure if directories were ever published for 1918 or 1919, but if so, we do not currently own them. Hope this helps with your research! So my philatelic search has come to an end. I do not know anything from his military history, but nothing other than government websites. As for the other men listed, they all held ranks of Major and above and served in WW 1. The 65<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment was deployed to guard the Panama Canal. Some have stories to tell others not so, as for the other men mentioned earlier, this is what I found doing very little research.



LTC Henry Carlos Rexach

Lieut. Colonel Henry C. Rexach was born on November 29, 1875, at Rio Grande, Puerto Rico. He attended prep school in Puerto Rico and then attended the Dickinson Preparatory School in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. In 1904, he graduated from Dickinson College.

He entered the Dickinson Law School but withdrew to join the military. In March 1905, he received his commission as a Second Lieut. in the Puerto Rico Provisional Regiment of Infantry. In April 1905, he was promoted to First Lieut. During World War I he served as a Major in the National Army. In January 1928, he was promoted to Lieut. Colonel in the Regular Army. He last served with the 84th Division of Infantry Reserves at Indianapolis, Indiana. He died at age 54 on Thursday, March 27, 1930, at Walter Reed General Hospital after a prolonged illness. Survivors include his widow, Mrs. Anne R. Rexach. Funeral services were held at the chapel at Fort Meyer, Virginia. Interment was at the Arlington National Cemetery.



*Death: 27 Mar 1930 (aged 54) Washington, District of Columbia, USA,  
BURIAL Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Arlington County,  
Virginia, USA*

Teófilo Marxuach was a Lieutenant Colonel in the United States Army. He served in the Spanish American War and in World War I. He was born in Arroyo, Puerto Rico, the son of José M.



Marxuach from Aguadilla, Puerto Rico and Josefina Plumey from Lares, Puerto Rico. He was a civil engineer. In his military life, Teófilo Marxuach Plumey played a very important role in World War I for the United States. (According to information taken from [http://www.houseofpuertorico.com/articles/PR-A\\_Commonwealth.htm](http://www.houseofpuertorico.com/articles/PR-A_Commonwealth.htm))

"The first shot of World War I by the U.S. was fired in Puerto Rico on the 21st of March 1915, ordered by a Puerto Rican serving in the U.S. Army, Lieutenant Teofilo Marxuach. Lt. Marxuach was officer of the day at El Morro Castle, at the entrance to San Juan Bay. An armed supply ship for German submarines in the Atlantic, the Odenwald, tried to force its way out of the bay. Lieutenant Marxuach ordered his men to open fire from the walls of the fortress and forced the ship to return to port and be interned".

Lt. Colonel Teófilo Marxuach Plumey is buried in a very beautiful and peaceful area of the Puerto Rico National Cemetery in Bayamon, Puerto Rico, very close to the entrance. His son Gilberto José, a Colonel in the United States Army and considered "The father of the San Juan Civil Defense", is buried in the plot next to his grave.



*LTC Teófilo Marxuach Plumey*

BIRTH 28 Jul 1877 Arroyo Municipality, Puerto Rico, USA  
DEATH 8 Nov 1939 (aged 62) Puerto Rico, USA BURIAL  
Puerto Rico National Cemetery Bayamon, Bayamon  
Municipality, Puerto Rico, USA

According to Puerto Ricans in World War I "Lt. Teófilo Marxuach's unit of the Puerto Rico Regiment of Infantry was stationed at El Morro Castle, (then an Army base called Fort Brooke) at San Juan Bay. The United States tried to remain neutral when World War I broke out in August 1914. However, Washington insisted on its neutral right to send ships without them being attacked by German U-boats. The American ships carried food and raw materials to Britain.

On March 21, 1915, Lt. Marxuach was the officer of the day at El Morro Castle. The Odenwald, built in 1903 (not to be confused with the German World War II war ship which carried the same name), was an armed German supply ship which tried to force its way out of the San Juan Bay and deliver supplies to the German U-boats waiting in the Atlantic Ocean. Lt.



Marxuach gave the order to open fire on the ship from the walls of the fort. Sergeant Encarnacion Correa then manned a machine gun and fired warning shots with little effect. Marxuach fired a shot from a cannon located at the Santa Rosa battery of "El Morro" fort, in what was the first shot of World War I fired by the regular armed forces of the United States against any ship flying the colors of the Central Powers, forcing the Odenwald to stop and to return to port where its supplies were confiscated.

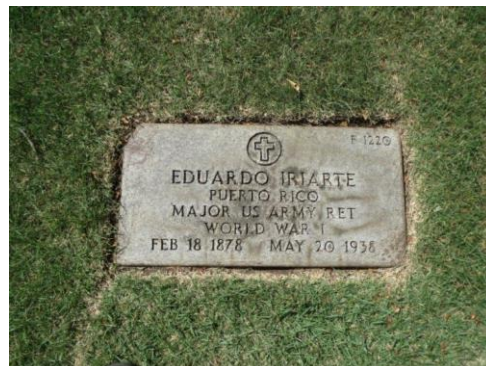
The shots ordered by Lt. Marxuach were the first fired by the United States in World War I. Marxuach's actions became an international incident when the German Government accused the United States Government of holding the Odenwald illegally against its will without firing the customary warning shot as required by international law. The United States Government responded that the official report of the United States War Department made by the commander of the fortress of El Morro Castle, Lt. Col. Burnham, made it clear that only warning shots were made and that none were aimed at the Odenwald."

BIRTH 18 Feb 1878 Aguadilla  
Municipality, Puerto Rico, USA  
DEATH 20 May 1938 (aged 60)  
Condado, San Juan Municipality,  
Puerto Rico, USA



MAJ Eduardo Iriarte Koppisch

BURIAL Puerto Rico National Cemetery,  
Bayamon, Bayamon Municipality Puerto Rico.



### Sources:

- *Find a Grave* - <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial>
- *Wikipedia -65th Infantry Regiment (a must read for military history buffs)*
- *Hispanic Veterans: Contributions to the Nation and Community, By United States Congress. House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, Sept 28<sup>th</sup>, 1994.*
- *Siegel Auction Galleries*
- *The Evening Star, Friday, March 28, 1930 and Monday, March 31, 1930*[HTTPS://ARCHIVONACIONAL.COM/](https://archivonacional.com/) GENERAL ARCHIVE OF PUERTO RICO

## Member Article

By Bill O'Connor

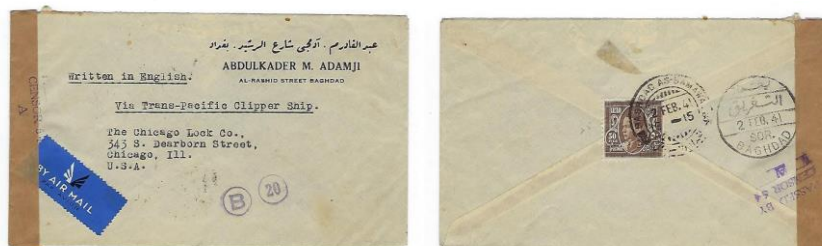
### Interesting Air Mail Routes to America from Middle East during World War II



I have collected censor mail world-wide used during World War II for quite some time. The predominate mode of transportation used on covers in my collection have been sent via air mail. In some cases, air mail is used partially with steamship service. A few post cards are seen occasionally as well as parts of packages with tags. Regular mail is seen often from the United Kingdom and Ireland to the United States. Occasionally one may come across a special delivery, express mail, or insured letter, but those are very rare. The most interesting covers that I have collected are both airmail and registered.

Special regulations applied to mail sent during the war particularly those countries requiring most mail to be censored. In many cases mail was interrupted or suspended due to the war conditions. The Middle East saw its share of mail being suspended due to the ebb and flow of the war. Much of North Africa was controlled by Italy and Germany in the early part of the war. This caused mail to be sent via India, Hong Kong and then to Hawaii and the United States. With the advent of Japan joining the Axis powers, air mail was suspended until the liberation of North Africa and a safe route across central Africa was provided.

The first cover shown is an air mail cover from Baghdad, Iraq. The letter was written in English and indicates that the cover was sent via Trans-Pacific Clipper Ship. The back of the envelope is shown with the postage and cancellations from Baghdad of February 2, 1941. As the United States was still neutral during this time, I assume the letter was safely sent on its way East to Hawaii and then to the mainland.



The second cover is more helpful as it is a registered and air mail. This cover was mailed from Jerusalem, Palestine on February 21, 1941. The back of the cover has a very clear March 18, 1941 Honolulu cancel, and then made it to New York, March 22, 1941. This cover obviously made its way across Asia and then the Pacific Ocean.



The next two covers from Palestine show the change in direction. The first cover appears to have been sent earlier, August 19, 1940. The Transatlantic Air Service is indicated, but no other indication of how the letter made it to St. Louis. No indication of transit on the back of this cover.



The last cover shown was sent to the same address as the second cover earlier. As this cover is also registered, the back of the cover is most helpful. The cancellation is Jerusalem, September 29, 1943, and arrived in Miami, October 29, 1943. A day later the letter arrived in New York, but seems to have taken until November 6, 1943 to have been delivered. With the defeat of the German and Italian forces in North Africa by early 1943 and the invasion of Sicily in July, the Eastern air route to the Middle East was more secured.



Regards, Bill



### ABOUT ATA

We are the world's largest organization dedicated to topical and thematic collecting. We focus on the adventure and the fun of collecting and how it enhances the experiences of life

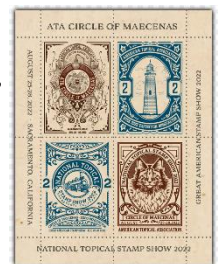
### ATA HISTORY

For over 70 years, the ATA has promoted and supported topical stamp collectors with resources, timely articles, handbooks and so much more.

Membership in the American Topical Association offers many resources and advantages to collectors of topical (also called thematic) stamps and postal history. Explore the list below or visit our membership page...

- a. Award-Winning Magazine, *Topical Time*
- b. [Checklists](#) from ATA's dATABase of topical stamps
- c. Connection to other topical collectors
- d. Members-only discounts and offers
- e. [BYB - the ATA newsletter](#)
- f. and much more...

The American Topical Society has created a special non-postal souvenir sheet to recognize members of the ATA who choose to contribute \$25 to the ATA's *Circle of Maecenas*. Gaius Maecenas was a patron and benefactor of the arts during the reign of the Roman emperor Augustus Caesar. The sheet is available now by mail or at the Great American Stamp Show later this year in Sacramento.



<https://americantopical.org>



## 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 to 2002. If you are looking for specific blocks, I may be able to help. Please send an email, to [waoconnor@aol.com](mailto:waoconnor@aol.com), or call/leave a message, at 760-723-7372. Want lists can also be sent to Bill O'Connor, 3803 Foxglove Lane, Fallbrook, CA 92028-8764

**For Sale:** 1893 Columbian Expo stamps (missing 242-245) with 241 having a small tear, postal envelope squares U348-U351, Expo ticket, and a Wells Fargo franked envelope U349. 1992 souvenir sheets reprinting the original stamps for United States, Italy, Portugal and Spain. All have been mounted on White Ace Topical pages for Columbus. 1992 souvenir pages # 92-12 thru 92-17. I estimated the CV to be \$800, sale price is 40% or \$320 with shipping. If you have any questions my email is [oceanbert2003@yahoo.com](mailto:oceanbert2003@yahoo.com). Click the link at right to view Bert's Offering: [Columbians](#)

**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:** 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:** Wanted: top dollar paid for fancy/interesting U.S. Columbian cancels (Scott Nos. 230-245). Contact Bob McArthur [rncarthur@cox.net](mailto:rncarthur@cox.net) or 1-858-486-9932.

**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 a meeting. Will trade or buy. See member **M. Marti** PSC # 410.

**Wanted:** Used/New Scott's Specialized Color Guide for United States Stamps, Spiral-bound with color chips. Will trade or buy. See member **D. Klauber** PSC #454

## Stamp News 2022:

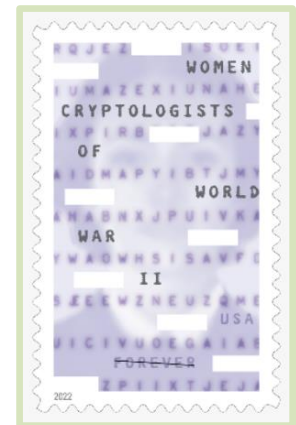


The U.S. Postal Service has announced several new stamps to be issued in 2022. The following describes the announcement.

“The new 2022 stamps are miniature works of art, designed to be educational and appeal to collectors and pen pals around the world,” said USPS Stamp Services Director William Gicker. “As always, the program offers a variety of subjects celebrating American culture and history. The vivid colors and unique designs of this year’s selections will add a special touch of beauty to your envelopes.” The following is a partial list of the 2022 stamp program. These designs are subject to change.

### **Women Cryptologists of World War II**

This stamp honors all the women cryptologists of World War II. One of the conflict’s best-kept secrets, their service played an inestimable role in the Allied victory. The stamp art features an image from a World War II-era recruitment poster for the U.S. Navy’s Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service, whose members were known as WAVES. The image has an overlay of characters from the “Purple” encrypted code, which was used by Japan. In the pane selvage, seemingly random letters can be deciphered to reveal some key words. The reverse side of the pane discloses the cipher needed to read the words. Antonio Alcalá was the art director and designer for the stamp and pane. Single (58¢) forever commemorative stamp, pane of 20.



### **Charles M. Schulz.**

New stamps salute the centennial of cartoonist Charles M. Schulz (1922–2000) whose “Peanuts” characters are some of the best known and most beloved in all of American culture. For five decades, Schulz alone wrote and drew nearly 18,000 strips, the last one published the day after he died. Each character



reflects Schulz’s rich imagination and great humanity. His resonant stories found humor in life’s painful realities including rejection, insecurity and unrequited love. In a celebratory mode, characters from “Peanuts” adorn 10 designs on this pane of 20 stamps and form a frame around a 1987 photograph of Schulz. Art director Greg Breeding designed the stamps from Schulz’s artwork and an existing photograph by Douglas Kirkland. Ten (58¢) forever commemorative stamps, pane of 20; Charlie Brown, Lucy van Pelt, Franklin, Sally Brown, Pig-Pen, Linus van Pelt, Snoopy and Woodstock, Schroeder.

### **James Webb Space.**

Celebrate NASA’s remarkable James Webb Space Telescope, the largest and most complex telescope ever deployed in space—capable of peering directly into the early cosmos and studying every phase of cosmic history.



Launched on Dec. 25, 2021, Webb now orbits the Sun about a million miles away from Earth. The image on the stamp is an artist’s digitally created depiction of the telescope against a dazzling starscape. The selva photograph of a star and distant space was taken by Webb early in its mission, brilliantly confirming the perfect alignment of the telescope’s 18 mirror segments. Art director Derry Noyes designed the stamp using existing art by James Vaughan and an image provided by NASA/Space Telescope Science Institute. Single (58¢) forever commemorative stamp, pane of 20.



### Snowy Beauty

These stamps celebrate the warmth and cheer that flowers and berries bring to our natural landscapes, even after a surprise snow. In these hand-sketched and painted designs, the artist uses light, shadow and luminous color to evoke the beauty of 10 species: camellia, winter aconite, crocus, hellebore, winterberry, pansy, plum blossom, grape hyacinth, daffodil and ranunculus. Derry Noyes designed the stamps with original oil paintings by Gregory Manchess. The Snowy Beauty stamps will be released in Guilford, IN, without a first-day-of-issue ceremony this fall. Ten (58¢) forever definitive stamps, double-sided pane of 20; camellia, winter aconite, crocus, hellebore, winterberry, pansy, plum blossom, grape hyacinth, daffodil, ranunculus; Guilford, IN 47022.



**Fall?, Christmas: Virgin and Child.** This Christmas stamp features *Virgin and Child*, an oil-on-panel painting from the first half of the 16th century by a Florentine artist known as the Master of the Scandicci Lamentation.

Depicting the tenderness of a mother and child, interpretations of the Virgin Mary with the Christ Child take innumerable forms in the Christian art of the Italian Renaissance. Imbued with a sense of dignity and grace, this stamp offers a traditional touch for cards and letters in a season of celebration, reflection and family. This painting is in the collection of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. Art director Greg Breeding designed the stamp. Single (58¢) forever special stamp, double-sided pane of 20.



**Fall, Hanukkah.** The Postal Service continues its tradition of celebrating the joyous Jewish holiday of Hanukkah with a stamp design that features an original wall-hanging. The fiber art was hand-dyed, appliquéd and quilted to form a colorful abstract image of a hanukiah, the nine-branch candelabra used only at Hanukkah.

Jeanette Kuvin Oren was the stamp designer and artist. Ethel Kessler was the art director. Single (58¢) forever special stamp, pane of 20.



### **Holiday Elves**

The Postal Service evokes the holiday spirit with four new se-tenant stamps featuring a colorful digital illustration of elves preparing toys on a winding conveyor belt in a snow-laden forest.

Like many beloved Christmas traditions—including Santa Claus himself—elves did not become a well-established part of the holidays in America until the 19th century. In the 20th century, as elves became firmly rooted in American Christmas lore, they eventually took center stage in beloved holiday television specials, films and books. Don Clark was the artist and stamp designer. Antonio Alcalá was the art director. Four (58¢) forever special stamps, double-sided pane of 20.



**Fall?, Kwanzaa.** This year the Postal Service issues its ninth stamp in celebration of Kwanzaa, a holiday with origins in ancient and modern first-harvest festivities from across the African continent.

Kwanzaa incorporates and reimagines many communal traditions as a contemporary celebration and reaffirmation of African American culture. The stamp design depicts a girl and a boy dressed in robes akin to spiritual garments, with a kinara (candleholder) and seven lit candles (mishumaa saba) in front of them. The kinara is the focal point around which friends and family gather and place meaningful objects. Art director Antonio Alcalá designed the stamp with original artwork by Erin Robinson. Single (58¢) forever special stamp, pane of 20.



### **Postal Products**

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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