



Perseids Meteor Shower  
July 17 2025

# POWAY STAMP CLUB

## NEWSLETTER

*San Diego County's Best Stamp Collecting Club*

APS #112097

August 13<sup>th</sup> 2025

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### Club's Mission Statement

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

### Contact Us

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

### Club E-mail

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

### PSC Website

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

## CLUB MEETINGS

### August General Meetings

**August 13<sup>th</sup>**  
**Presentation**

Unfortunately, there will be no in-person presentation at this meeting. Consequently, the Club has selected an APS film to show titled

“Canal Zone Gems”

This video will discuss the postal history of the canal zone from 1903 - 1927 with an emphasis on errors and overprints.

**August 27<sup>th</sup>**  
**Large Voice Sale**

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

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



### 2025 Club Board Members

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

### 2025 Club Volunteers

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

### 2025 Club Representatives

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

## CLUB EVENTS

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

August	13	APS Movie Night
	27	Member's Voice Sale
September	10	TBD – Presentation
	24	Large Voice Sale
October	8	TBD – Presentation
	22	<b>Ugly Stamp Contest</b>
November	12	Large Voice Sale
	26	<b>No Meeting</b>
December	9	<b>Holiday Party</b>
	23	<b>No Meeting</b>

## CLUB NOTES

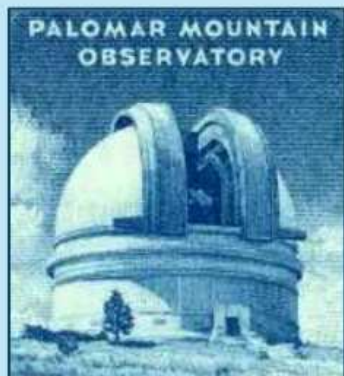
### Club Meetings

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

### Membership

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

American Philatelic Society



San Diego Chapter 2025

### Meetings

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

Philatelic Library  
12675 Danielson Court #413  
Poway, CA 92064

### APS

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

**Please join the APS!**

### Participation

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

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

**Please contribute!**

### Club Website

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

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

**Take a look!**

## Next Bid Board

Our next Bid Board will be September 13<sup>th</sup> through the 27<sup>th</sup> and submissions will have to be into Trice by September 7<sup>th</sup>. Make sure that you visit the website and place your bids. For more information and Bid Board rules visit the Club's website at [PowayStampClub.com](http://PowayStampClub.com).

## Club Newsletter

**We Need You!**



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

E-mail:

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

## Member Spotlight!

By David Klauber



**The Poway Stamp Club Newsletter highlights its newest members in each issue. Today's spotlight is on our newest members.**

We have **2 new members** since our last newsletter. This brings our total paid membership to 166. We look forward to meeting with our new members at PSC meetings.

### **#619 Carol Smith**

Carol Smith discovered the PSC Online through our website and attended one of our bi-weekly meetings. She is a beginner stamp collector, and we look forward to seeing her again at our ongoing Wednesday meetings. We warmly welcome Carol to the club.



**#620 David Atkins of Chula Vista, California**

Art Berg sponsored David for membership. David collects U.S. pre-1950 stamps. He visited the library and joined us at one of our scheduled club meetings. Let's all support David in growing his U.S. collection and warmly welcome him to the club.

**This brings our total paid membership to 166. We look forward to meeting with our new members at PSC meetings.**

## Great American Stamp Show



**August 14-17, 2025, in Schaumburg Illinois**

### **Pre-Register for GASS '25**

Avoid standing in line! Fill out the Pre-Registration form. This provides you with a pre-made name badge at the Registration Desk so you can head right onto the show floor after picking it up.

Online Pre-Registration will close on July 31st. This allows for badge preparation and transportation to the show the week prior.

### **WHEN:**

August 14-17, 2025

Thurs. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. and Sun. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

### **LOCATION:**

Renaissance Schaumburg Convention Center  
1551 North Thoreau Dr., Schaumburg, IL 60173

### **COST:**

Admission is FREE!



## Orville Wright's 154th Birthday, August 19, 2025

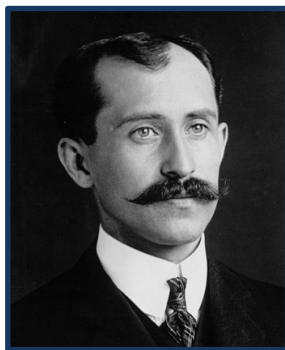


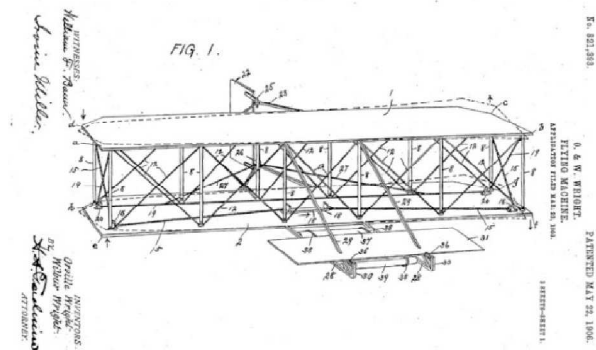
Photo of Orville Wright (left) and image from the first controlled flight of an aircraft at Kittyhawk December 17, 1903, with Orville at the controls (right).

The brothers' breakthrough invention was their creation of a three-axis control system, which enabled the pilot to steer the aircraft effectively and to maintain its equilibrium. Their system of aircraft controls made fixed-wing powered flight possible and remains standard on airplanes of all kinds. Their first U.S. patent did not claim a flying machine, but rather a system of aerodynamic control that manipulated a flying machine's surfaces. From the beginning of their aeronautical work, Wilbur and Orville focused on developing a reliable method of pilot control as the key to solving "the flying problem". This approach differed significantly from other experimenters of the time who put more emphasis on developing powerful engines. Using a small home-built wind tunnel, the Wright brothers also collected more accurate data, enabling them to design more efficient wings and propellers. (Wikipedia).

Scott No. C45, Wright Brothers flight 1903, issued in 1948.



Scott# 3783 issued in 2003.



U.S. 821,393 Patent to the Wright Brothers filed March 23, 1903 for a Flying machine.

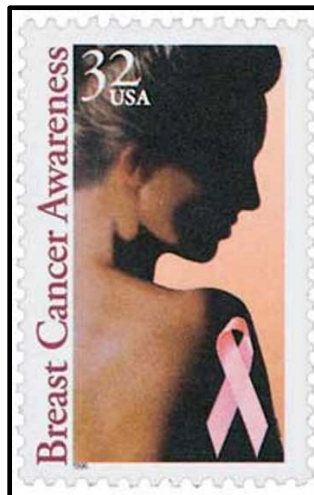
## Breast Cancer Research Day August 18, 2025

**Breast Cancer Research Day** is an effort to raise awareness and reduce the stigma of breast cancer through education about screening, symptoms, and treatment. Supporters hope that greater knowledge will lead to earlier detection of breast cancer, which is associated with higher long-term survival rates, and that money raised for breast cancer will produce a reliable, permanent cure.

The pink ribbon is the most prominent symbol of breast cancer awareness, and in many countries, the month of October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Some national breast cancer organizations receive substantial financial support from corporate sponsorships.



Breast Cancer Ribbon monument in Louisville Kentucky.



Scott Nos. 3081 and B1, Breast Cancer Awareness, issued 1996 and 1998 respectively.

## Perseids Meteor Shower

### August 9-14, 2025

The shower is visible from mid-July each year, with the peak in activity between 9 and 14 August, depending on the particular location of the stream. During the peak, the rate of meteors reaches 60 or more per hour. They can be seen all across the sky. However, because of the shower's radiant in the constellation of Perseus, the Perseids are primarily visible in the Northern Hemisphere.



As with many meteor showers, the visible rate is greatest in the pre-dawn hours, since more meteoroids are scooped up by the side of the Earth moving forward into the stream, corresponding to local times between midnight and noon, as can be seen in the image above. While many meteors arrive between dawn and noon, they are usually not visible due to daylight. Some can also be seen before midnight, often grazing the Earth's atmosphere to produce long bright trails and sometimes fireballs. Most Perseids burn up in the atmosphere at heights above 80 kilometers (50 mi). (Wikipedia)

## San Diego Post Office Commemorates 250th Anniversaries of Army, Navy, and Marine Corps



Image of the flyer announcing the celebration and a member of the Poway Stamp Club, Shane Dietrich, attending the event.

The event was held on Thursday, July 10, 11 am - 1 pm at the Midway Post Office, 2701 Midway Dr. in San Diego. “It is an honor to serve as Postmaster of a city with such a rich history and strong connection to our military service members and veterans,” said San Diego Postmaster Tanya Toedt Fitzharris. “On behalf of the employees throughout San Diego County, we thank you for more than two centuries of service to our country and our region.”

These stamps honor the enduring legacy and unwavering commitment of the men and women who have served and continue to serve. Each branch plays a crucial role in safeguarding American interests, standing as symbols of strength and resilience, upholding core values such as loyalty, duty, honor, and courage.

The Armed Forces stamps are three individual stamp panes featuring the respective symbols of the Army, Navy, and Marine Corps against a white background. Each stamp, designed by Antonio Alcalá, an art director for USPS.



Others attending the event included Poway Stamp Club members Aurelia Correa (member #604) and Sharon Nagaran (member #500)



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## In the News

### APS Names Executive Director

Kirk Gillis to be Eighth Executive Director of the Society



The American Philatelic Society announced today the hiring of Kirk Gillis to be the eighth Executive Director of the Society. A seasoned leader with over two decades of experience in strategic growth across the public, private, and nonprofit sectors, Kirk brings a dynamic track record of innovation and impact. Most recently, he served as Deputy Associate Director and Chief Sales and Marketing Officer for the U.S. Mint, where he led brand strategy, product development, e-commerce, and customer service for the numismatic and bullion programs. Under his leadership, the Mint's numismatic business grew by 50 percent over four years. Gillis assumed the leadership role on July 14, 2025.



**American  
Philatelic  
Society**

## At The SD Philatelic Library

# The World's First Postage Stamp

by Neil Schneider

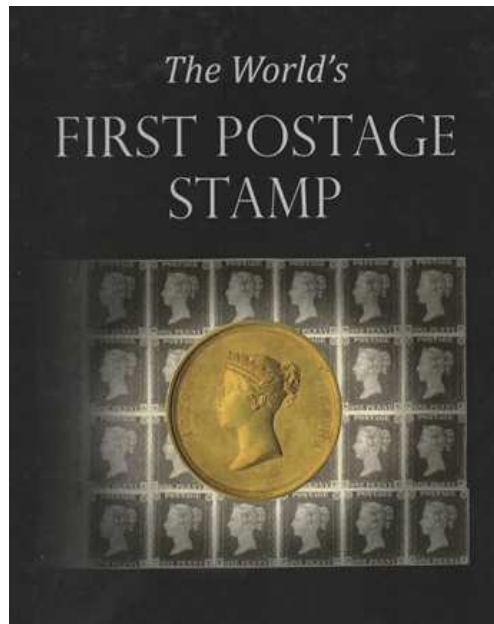


Image of the cover of Alan Holvoake's book "The World's First Postage Stamp".

The book is based upon Alan Holvoake's Award-Winning Collection of Penny Blacks. The stamps were originally printed in sheets of 240, resulting in multiple errors, which are of interest to collectors. Since this was the first attempt at creating the postage stamp, new technology had to be invented, including gumming.

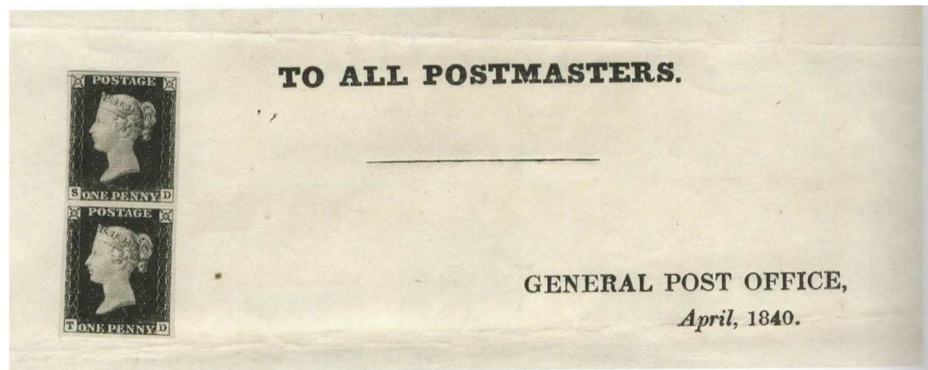
The first Industrial Revolution was based upon agriculture and base material expansion (e.g., coal, iron and steel, and cotton and textiles). The second came as a result of industrial and economic progress involving the development of steam-powered ships and railways. At this time, the Post Office relied upon a system that required postage to be paid by the recipients upon delivery, who then could choose whether to pay or not. The Post Office had to suffer the financial consequences of this but was unable to do anything about it. The printing of the world's first postage stamp was an incredible achievement but one that nearly did not happen.

The limitations imposed by the available printing and processing knowledge were being pushed from the outset by the demand to mass produce sheets of stamps consisting of 240 exact designs which finally had to be gummed. To do this in black proved difficult enough, but to do so in blue with an acceptable color consistency was a printing 'world's first'. The other major factor was the need to keep to the time constraints imposed by the promised delivery schedule, which did not allow for unforeseen technical problems and delays. This "must have" time limitation resulted in a high level of frustration and pressure, probably causing even more mistakes to be made through attempting to keep this promised production schedule.

Communication was a feature strongly needed by the second industrial revolution. The Penny Postage Bill passed August 17, 1839. The Lords of Treasury issued an invitation for ideas August 13. Rolland Hill provided a description: “... *a bit of paper large enough to bear the stamp and covered at the back with glutinous was which the user might, by applying a little moisture, attach to the back of the letter*”. The Chancellor of the Exchequer authorized the production of a design on December 16, 1839. This was based on the Wyon medal of 1837 from which the die was engraved. A Treasury Minute was issued on December 26<sup>th</sup> that four different forms of stamps should be prepared: (1) stamped covers; (2) stamped envelopes; (3) adhesive stamps; (4) stamps to be stuck on paper of any description. The British Postal Museum & Archive holds the original proof sheet of the One Penny Black before the insertion of the corner letters and marginal inscriptions.

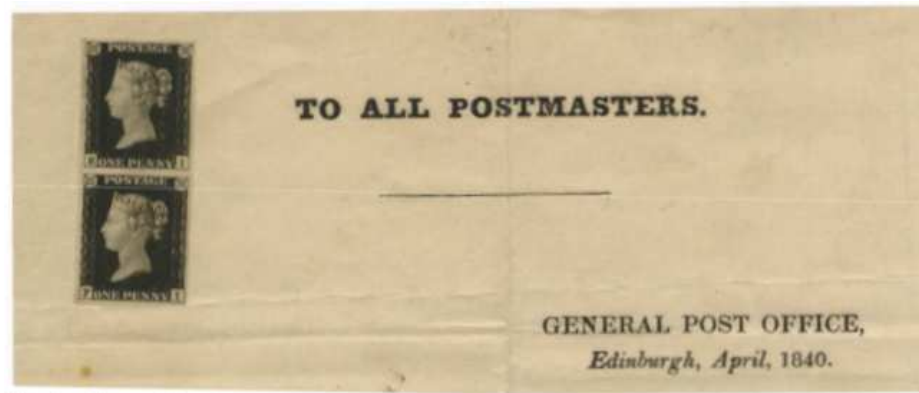
The dies and plates were made of steel and were casehardened before use. The worn impressions from Plate 1 resulted from plate wear, demonstrating this plate had not been properly hardened. A long discussion follows showing images that demonstrate the wear.

The One Penny Black was brought into postal use from May 6, 1840. The April 1840 postal notices were issued to all postmasters from London by Colonel Maberly, Secretary of the Post Office in England, and from Edinburgh by Sir Edward Lees, Secretary of the Post Office in Scotland. These notices detailed the instructions for usage and cancellation of the 1d and 2d stamps, both were intended to be on sale from May 1, 1840. Each notice had a vertical pair of unused Plate 1a Penny Black stamps attached to the top left corner.



An image of the Postmasters notice from London, England with a vertical pair of Penny Black stamps in the upper left-hand corner.

The deadline set for the notification and launch of the stamp was very short and caused many problems with, not just the issuing of these postal notices, but the issuing and distribution of the stamps themselves. The two Pence Blue stamps were not available for the first April postal notice circulation due to late printing. The printing plate was completed May 1, 1840, and came into full production on May 4. The first small batch of 18 sheets was finally delivered on May 5, and so a second postal notice was issued May 7, which was distributed with pairs of 2d and ‘VR’ 1d. The VR official stamp was first printed in April 1840 but was never issued. It was intended for government and public offices, which had previously had access to prepaid stationery and free postage. The idea of the official stamp was, however, abandoned.



An image of the Postmasters notice from Scotland with a vertical pair of Penny Black stamps in the upper left-hand corner.

The majority of the book is a printing of the author's exhibit including descriptions of each frame. This is a great book to see the progression of the production of The World's First Postage Stamp. I enjoyed reading and seeing all the color plates.

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## Editor's Corner

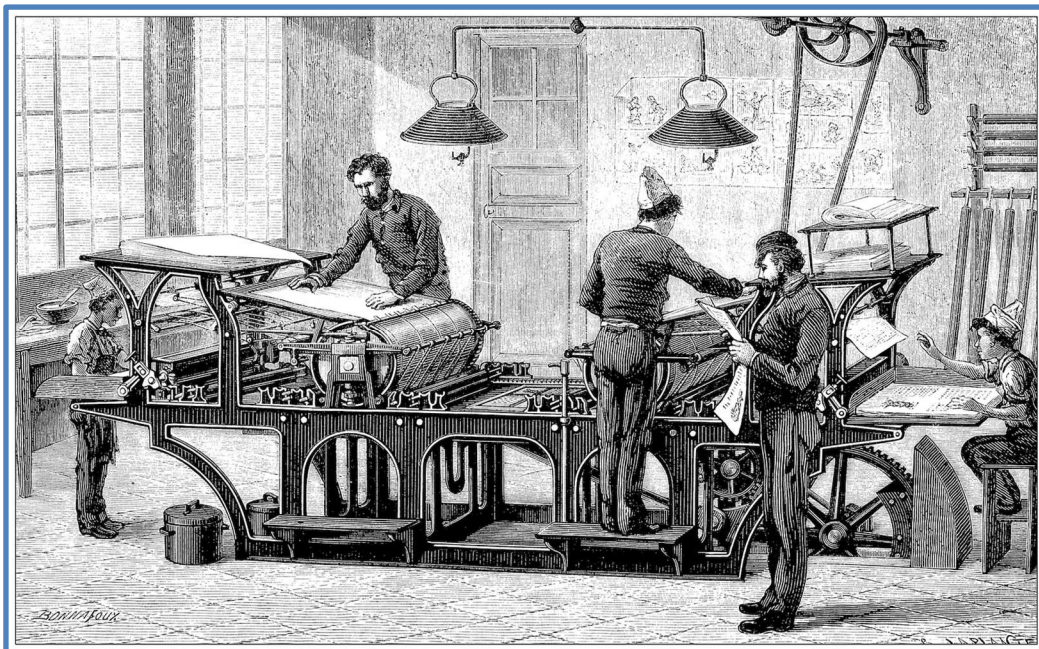


Image obtained from <https://www.gettyimages.com/search/2/image?phrase=antique+printing+press>.

To Our Readers,

The Poway Stamp Club is always looking for new writers for its newsletter. If you have never written an article before or contribute regularly to a journal, the Club would like you to consider submitting a manuscript on your favorite topic in philately. Please forward your article to me.

David Waller,  
Editor-in-Chief

## Member's Articles

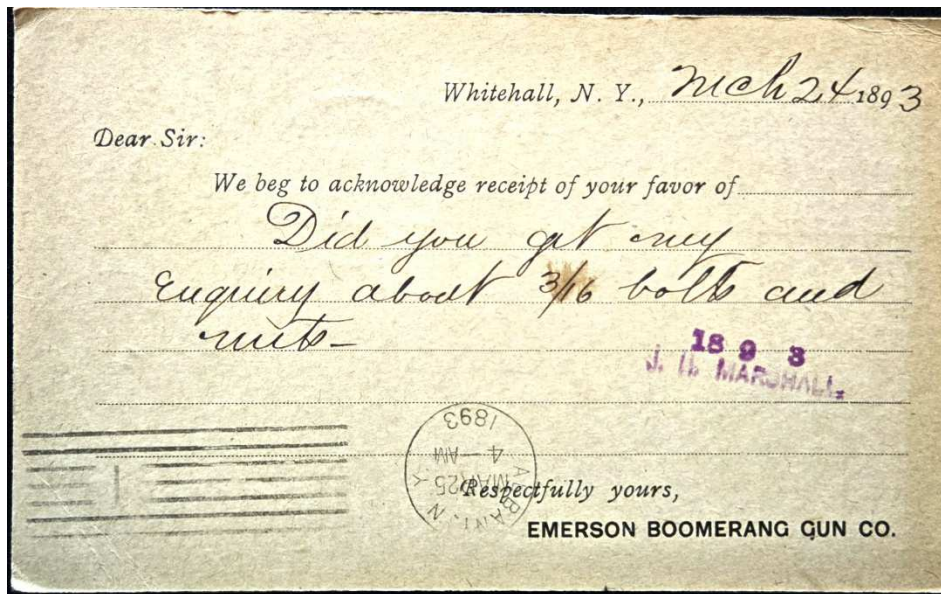
### Every Cover Tells a Story

by Jim Grundy



I continuously look through my covers and postcards for interesting subject matter to write about, but this month's article is about something I could never have imagined.

The toned, business-related postcard doesn't look special at first glance. It was sent from Whitehall to Port Chest, New York, asking if they had received their inquiry about 3/16-inch bolts and nuts. At the lower right corner of the card, you will see the name of the Emerson Boomerang Gun Company. I don't know if you have ever tried to throw a boomerang. I have and found it impossible to do. To design and build a gun that could "shoot" a boomerang is beyond my imagination. I had to find the story behind the boomerang gun.



**Figure 1:** A business-related postcard from the Emerson Boomerang Gun Company in Whitehall sent to Port Chest, New York, asking the recipient if they had received their inquiry about 3/16-inch bolts and nuts.

impossible to do. To design and build a gun that could "shoot" a boomerang is beyond my imagination. I had to find the story behind the boomerang gun.

The boomerang has always been associated with the Aboriginal people of Australia, and they gave it its name. However, examples of "throwing sticks" have been found in ancient locations in Eastern Europe, India, and the Southwestern United States. King Tut had his collection of boomerangs buried with him. There was even a 50,000-year-old picture of a person throwing a boomerang, carved in a rock found in Australia. There are three types of boomerangs: hunting,

sport, and entertainment. Hunting and sport (competition) boomerangs are generally not designed to return to the thrower. The entertainment versions are made in all shapes, sizes, and materials. The Guinness World Record for a boomerang throw is 1402 feet set by David Schummy on March 15th, 2005.

Enough about boomerangs, let's find out about the inventor of the Emerson Boomerang Gun. Through newspaper articles and a patent search, I found out that the Boomerang Gun was invented by Charles Harris Emerson. Charles was born on October 12, 1843, in Orono, Maine. He was the sixth of seven children born to Deborah and Myrick Emerson. The history of the Emerson Family is hard to find. The family must have had some influence since Yale University kept an archive of the family papers starting from the year 1848. These documents suggest that Charles and his three brothers, John, Edwin, and Joseph, were all involved with mining. Charles enlisted in the Union Army in 1862 and served there until the end of the Civil War. After being discharged from the Army, he entered college and received a degree in Mining Engineering. With his brothers and alone he traveled in the western United States and Mexico looking for mining possibilities. He was a partner in a gold, silver, and copper mining company in Colorado. Charles eventually gave up his mining interests and moved to Burlington, Maine.

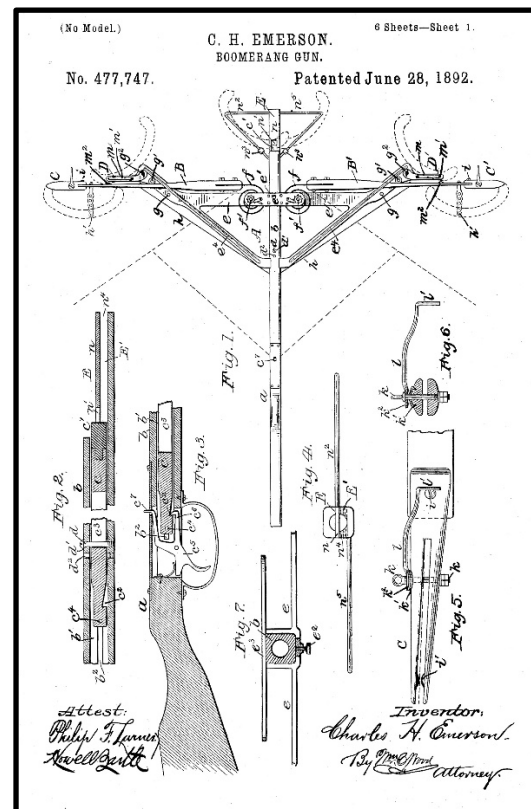


Figure 2: Advertising for the Emerson Boomerang Gun and patent US 477,747 to Emerson's Boomerang Gun.

There, he started a factory that manufactured products made of wood. In addition to making toboggans, Charles experimented with understanding how a boomerang is able to fly in a circle. He eventually perfected his boomerang design, sold his business, and moved to Whitehall, New York. In Whitehall, the dream of the boomerang gun started to take shape.

Charles Emerson wanted to produce the boomerang gun to fill a demand that he felt the public had for a new game or a new form of outdoor amusement. Charles had his design for the boomerang. Next, he had to devise a gun that would throw the boomerang. His final design looked like a crossbow, except the spring-activated bows folded back into the body of the gun. At the end of each bow, there was a clamp that held the boomerang. When the trigger was pulled, the bow would swing back out of the body of the gun and back to its starting position while throwing the boomerang in a side-armed motion. Once the boomerang gun was completed, Emerson and several local businessmen formed The Emerson Boomerang Company. On June 28, 1892, Emerson was granted two patents, one for his gun and the other to the boomerangs it launched. He started ordering parts to build his gun. The postal card in this article asks about purchasing 3/16th-inch nuts and bolts. An article about businesses in Burlington, Vermont noted that in March of 1893, The Drake and Smith Company received an order for 100,000(!) boomerangs from The Emerson Boomerang Company.

In 1893, Charles Emerson started his efforts to sell his boomerang gun. A January 31, 1893, article in The New York Times describes Charles Emerson's demonstration of his boomerang gun in front of the New York Academy of Science at Columbia University. The article states that Emerson's boomerang gun demonstration "was met with a hearty round of applause". He also

took out advertisements in newspapers that showed a picture of a man aiming the boomerang gun, a description of the gun, and a selling price of two dollars.

After these advertisements, I can find no mention of the Emerson Boomerang Gun or the Emerson Boomerang Gun Company. This could have been caused by the company going out of business. Several things, such as production problems, low or no demand for a boomerang gun, or the two-dollar price (which is sixty-six dollars in 2025 money) being too much to pay, could have caused this to happen. It's hard to say. In addition to his company, Charles Emerson also seemed to disappear from view. The Yale Emerson Family Archive mentions letters written between him and his son Joseph concerning mining operations in Colorado between 1907 and 1921. The Portland newspaper "Argus" mentions that Charles attended the 1938 anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg at Gettysburg. The last mention of Charles Harris Emerson was in the July 5, 1942, New York Times. In the Obituary Column for that day, it stated that Charles Harris Emerson died on July 4<sup>th</sup> and was to be buried in Portland, Maine.

## China's First Postage Stamps – The Large Dragons of 1878

by David Klauber



### Introduction

In 1878, the Qing Dynasty (1644–1911) introduced China's first postage stamps, affectionately known as the "Large Dragons." It was a proud milestone in Chinese postal history, reflecting the dynasty's enthusiastic effort to modernize communication during an exciting time of increasing

global links. These stamps, featuring a majestic dragon, the emblem of the Qing Dynasty, weren't just for mailing; they also served as proud symbols of imperial strength and authority.



**Large Dragons**

This article examines the fascinating history, design, production, and enduring impact of the Large Dragons, situating them within the rich narrative of late 19th-century China.

### **Historical Context**

By the late 19th century, the Qing Dynasty faced internal and external pressures. The Opium Wars and unequal treaties compelled China to open treaty ports and participate in global trade networks. Consequently, a modern postal system became vital for managing the increasing international correspondence that traditional Chinese courier systems couldn't handle efficiently.

The Imperial Maritime Customs Service, led by Sir Robert Hart, spearheaded the modernization of postal services. In 1878, it introduced China's first adhesive postage stamps, aligning with international standards and marking a step toward modernization amid political and economic challenges.

### **Design and Symbolism**

The Large Dragons issued on August 15, 1878, had three denominations: 1 candarin (green), 3 candarins (red), and 5 candarins (yellow). The central motif was a coiled dragon, symbolizing imperial power, wisdom, and divine authority in Chinese culture, linked to Qing's Manchu rulers. The dragon reinforced the dynasty's legitimacy while adapting traditional iconography to a modern medium.

The stamps' design was both elegant and practical, showcasing a beautiful dragon surrounded by cloud motifs, which pay homage to traditional Chinese art. They were set in a neat rectangular frame. Plus, bilingual inscriptions in Chinese and English, featuring the word "China" and the denomination in candarins, a currency unit equal to 1/100 of a tael, which made them accessible to both local and international collectors. With dimensions of around 25 x 30 mm, these stamps earned the nickname "Large Dragons" to set them apart from the smaller dragon-themed issues that came later.

## Production and Printing

The Large Dragons were printed in Shanghai using lithography, suitable for the intricate design. The Imperial Maritime Customs Service oversaw production, likely with foreign input, possibly British or French, given its international staff. The stamps were printed on thin, translucent paper with gummed backing, a novelty in China. The initial limited print run reflected the experimental postal reform. Sheets were perforated for easy separation, but variations in paper, ink, and perforation alignment created many collectible varieties, captivating philatelists.

## Usage and Distribution

The Large Dragons primarily used for international mail sent through the Customs Post in treaty ports, such as Shanghai, Tianjin, and Canton (Guangzhou). For local mail, traditional systems were still in use, which meant the stamps didn't circulate widely at first. The different denominations matched postal rates: 1 candarin for local mail, 3 candarins for domestic letters, and 5 candarins for international ones. These stamps stayed in use until the early 1880s, when new designs were introduced to replace them. Surviving covers with Large Dragons are rare, mostly unused or canceled singles. Their limited distribution and China's developing postal system add to their scarcity, making them highly valuable to collectors.

## Legacy and Philatelic Significance

The Large Dragons are revered in philately as China's first postage stamps and among the earliest dragon-themed stamps globally. They symbolize China's entry into the international postal community and the Qing Dynasty's efforts to modernize during a period of decline. The dragon motif, deeply rooted in Chinese cultural identity, makes the stamps enduring emblems of national heritage. Large Dragons are prized by collectors for rarity, history, and beauty. Variations like "wide margin" and "narrow margin" add complexity to the study. Collecting Large Dragons can be expensive, but much like U.S. stamps 1-4, they are still an attainable goal.

Scott #	Denom.	Description	Used	Mint
1	1 candarin	Green	\$725.00	\$725.00
2	3 candarin	Brown Red	\$400.00	\$1100.00
3	5 candarin	Orange	\$600.00	\$1450.00

**Scott Values for China Dragons #1-3**

The stamps also encapsulate a transitional moment in Chinese history, blending traditional imperial symbolism with modern administrative reforms. The Qing Dynasty's collapse in 1911 ended the dragon's role as an imperial emblem, but the Large Dragons remain a testament to the dynasty's final efforts to engage with the global world.

In conclusion, the 1878 Large Dragon stamps are more than philatelic artifacts; they mark a key moment in China's modernization and the Qing Dynasty's adaptation to global pressures. The dragon motif, rooted in tradition, contrasts with the Western-inspired postal system, reflecting a nation at a crossroads. As functional objects, they enabled communication; as relics, they tell a story of reform, resilience, and imperial identity. The large dragons remain cherished symbols, preserving the legacy of the Qing dynasty.

## References

- Dougan, R. (1981). The Large Dragons: China's First Postage Stamps, 1878–1883. Philatelic Foundation.
- Hart, R. (1878–1908). Inspector General's Reports. Imperial Maritime Customs Service.
- Ma, R. (1998). History of Chinese Postage Stamps. Shanghai People's Publishing House.

# U.S. Postage Stamp Types

by David B. Waller



When I first started collecting stamps, I thought a stamp was a stamp. However, I soon realized after inspecting them more closely that, while postage stamps are produced in many countries, there are also many different types of stamps. Some of these are what we used every day, some look as though they are commemorating something, and others look official. So, what are the basic type of postage stamps that one might see in their United States collection?

## Definitive or Regular Issue Stamps

Definitive stamps serve as the workhorses of a postal system, providing everyday postage for regular mail and a variety of postal rates (*i.e.*, letters, postcards and packages). Unlike commemorative stamps, which are issued for special occasions or to honor figures and for a limited time, definitive stamps are available for extended periods (*i.e.*, often for several years) and are printed in large quantities to meet ongoing demand. They represent consistent and reliable postage for various mailing needs. These include coil stamps, booklet pane stamps and may be issued fully perforated or imperforated. The early issue definitive stamps often were 22mm by 27mm or 20mm x 23mm (Figure 1) and showed images of past presidents (*e.g.*, Washington, Lincoln, Jefferson, and Jackson to name a few), diplomats (*e.g.*, Franklin, Stanton, Clay, and Webster to name a few), later issues showed buildings or statues (*e.g.*, Arlington Amphitheater, Lincoln Memorial, U.S. Capitol and the head of the Freedom Statue atop the Capitol building).



**Figure 1:** a selection of early issue definitive stamps from left to right, 3-cent G. Washington Scott #10, 3-cent G. Washington Scott #502, 1-cent B. Franklin Scott #264 and 10-cent T. Jefferson Scott #209. All are in the Author's collection.

## Commemorative Stamps

Commemorative stamps are issued to mark significant events, individuals, or milestones of national importance, for their artistic or historical value and as collector's items. They are generally released in limited quantities for a specific period of time. Their unique designs and limited availability make them attractive to stamp collectors, contributing to their value and preservation. Early commemorative stamps, like the Columbian Exposition series, were also used as a marketing tool to promote events or products. While it is difficult to give specific dimensions for every early U.S. commemorative stamp, a general size range is 22mm by 30 mm (*e.g.*, Pan-American Issues) and 25mm by 40 mm (*e.g.*, Columbian Exposition Issues, Figure 2).

The early U.S. commemorative stamps highlighted events such as the Columbian Exposition of 1893 having a variety of denominations commemorating Columbus' discovery of the "New World", the Trans-Mississippi Exposition of 1898 showing images of Jacques Marquette, farming, Indian hunting buffalo, John Fremont, troops guarding a wagon train, emigration by covered wagon, mining, cattle, and the Mississippi River, the Pan-American issue of 1901 commemorating lake navigation, train transportation, the electric automobile, the bridge at Niagara Falls, canal locks and ocean navigation, the Louisiana Purchase issue of 1904, and the Jamestown Exposition of 1907 to name a few.



**Figure 2:** a selection of early issue commemorative stamps from left to right: \$3 Columbian Exposition issue Scott #243, 8-cent Pan-American Exposition issue Scott #298, 5-cent Jamestown Exposition issue Scott #330 and 50-cent Trans-Mississippi Exposition Issue Scott #291. All were or are in the Author's collection.

## Airmail Stamps

Airmail stamps are used to pay for the additional cost of transporting mail by air, which is usually faster than by surface transport like ships or trains. They were originally created to cover the premium airmail rates for domestic and international mail. The early Airmail stamps often showed images of aircraft (*i.e.*, biplanes, single fixed-wing planes, or zeppelins, Figure 3) or symbols (*i.e.*, U.S. airmail emblem, winged globe or eagle holding shield). The U.S. Postal Service eventually transitioned to mostly transporting all international mail by air and domestic airmail is no longer a separate service. United States airmail stamps are now primarily used for international mail with airmail services.



**Figure 3:** a selection of early issue airmail stamps from left to right: 5-cent Twin Motored Transport Plane Scott #C32, \$1.30 Graf Zeppelin Flight Scott #C14 and 50-cent Twin Motored Transport Plane Scott #C31. All are in the Author's collection.

## Special Delivery and Express Mail Stamps

Special Delivery stamps were used to add a premium service to regular postage, ensuring immediate delivery of mail within a certain radius of a post office that offered the service. These stamps guaranteed faster delivery than standard mail, often within a day or less. The service essentially gave letters special attention from postal clerks, aiming for delivery within a short timeframe, often within 20 minutes. While the service was initially limited to post offices in larger communities, it later expanded to all U.S. post offices. It's important to note that while the service aimed at immediate delivery, it did not guarantee delivery by a specific date. Special delivery service was introduced in 1885 and was initially available from 7 am to midnight. It was later changed to 7 pm. The service was eventually replaced by Express Mail, which offered a similar level of speed and reliability.



**Figure 4:** a selection of early issue special delivery stamps from left to right: 10-cent bicycle delivery Scott #E11; 10-cent motorcycle delivery Scott # E1;5 and special handling stamps Scott #QE4. All are in the Author's collection.

## Registry and Certified Mail Stamps

Postal registration and certified mail stamps (*i.e.*, Scott #s F1 and FA1 respectively, Figure 5) were used to pay for the special service of registered or certified mail that provided extra security and a record of delivery. These stamps ensured the letter or package received special handling and required the recipient's signature upon delivery. In essence, a registry and certified stamp serves as a marker of official recognition, authentication, payment confirmation, or a specific service provided within a particular system.



**Figure 5:** registry and certified mail stamps from left to right: 10-cent registration stamp Scott #F1 and 15-cent certification stamp Scott # FA1. Both are in the Author's collection.

## Official Stamps

Official stamps are used by government offices and officials to send mail free of charge or at a reduced rate. They are also used for marking documents as “official” or to indicate approval or status, as well as for a variety of business purposes. Some official stamps are designated for penalty mail, a system where government agencies can send mail without requiring postage. Official stamps can also be used on official stationery, such as envelopes and cards, to denote their official status.



**Figure 6:** a selection of early issue official stamps from right to left: 1-cent B. Franklin Navy Department Scott #O35 (Ebay item no. 176750052901) offered by GeorgesStamps & More; 2-cent A. Jackson Agricultural Department Scott #O2 (Ebay item no. 187293897082) offered by Deqistamps; 90-cent O. Perry Justice Department (Ebat item no 405920430356) offered by FilatcoStamps; and 3-cent Official Scott #O49 offered by lakeforreststamps & Coin.

## Postage Due

Postage due stamps are used by postal services to indicate that an item being mailed is underpaid. They are not pre-paid postage stamps like regular postage stamps. Postage due stamps are used to collect extra postage when a letter or package is sent with insufficient postage. The recipient is charged the postage due amount, and a postage due stamp is affixed to the item to show

the amount owed. The mail carrier or postal service collect the postage due amount from the recipient. Postage due stamps were first authorized in the United States in 1879 and were discontinued in 1985. While postage due stamps are no longer issued, the concept of postage due still exists. Mail that is insufficiently prepaid is delivered "postage due," and the recipient may have to pay the extra postage.



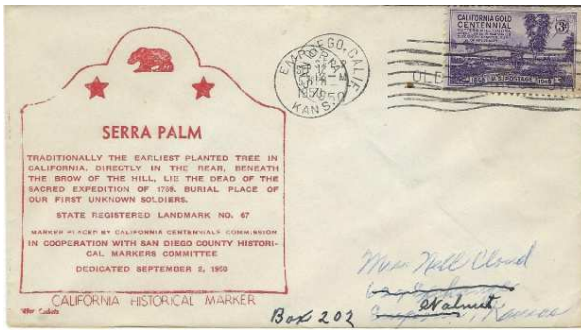
**Figure 7:** Postage due stamps 50-cent postage due stamp Scott #J76 and 50-cent postage due stamp Scott #J99. Both are in the Author's collection.

## California Historical Markers Highlighted in the 1950s

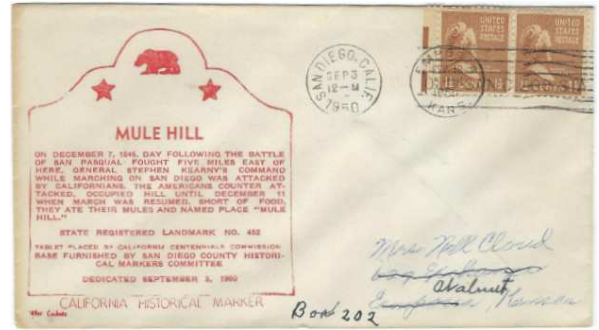
by Bill O'Connor



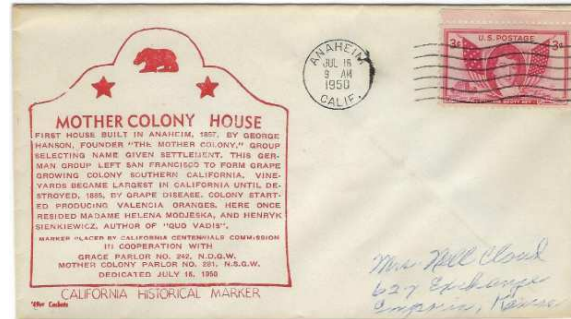
Thanks to the many donations to the Poway Stamp Club and the San Diego County Philatelic Library, I have been fortunate to acquire a number of covers relating to early California. These



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commemorating covers from the 1950s provide some interesting information about some early periods of our history. I have selected three covers, two from San Diego County, and one from Orange County. Each cover elicits part of our history with the first cover presented, going back to 1769.

### 1. Serra Palm, San Diego County

This is the location of a burial site of some of the members of the group accompanying the Portola Expedition of 1769. The original site was at Presidio Park, on the southeast corner of Taylor Street and Presidio Drive. The reference to the palm trees being the first in California is not accurate. It should be noted that the El Camino Real began at this location.

### 2. Mule Hill, San Diego County

Mule Hill is very close to Poway and Rancho Bernardo and is associated with the Mexican American War of 1846. General Kearny was in command of 1700 troops of which some participated in the Battle of San Pasqual. After a short skirmish, the American forces left the field of battle and occupied "Mule Hill". The Californian forces of Mexico left to focus on defending San Diego, which allowed the American forces to eventually follow south. Kearny's forces were forced to kill their mules for food, thereby leaving the name to continue to the present.

### 3. Mother Colony House

We move north to Anaheim, Orange County, to see the first house built by a group of German settlers in 1857. It is interesting to read about a colony founded by German immigrants that produced the largest number of vineyards in California up to 1885. A grape rot disease destroyed the colony in 1885, but like most determined immigrants, the colony survived by becoming a major grower of Valencia oranges.

If the readership has some additional stories about our area, I am sure room can be made in the Club's newsletter for your story.

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## Member Classifieds

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

### For Sale:

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

### Wanted:

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

### Bargain Lists:

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



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## San Diego County Philatelic Library Events

### Yard Sales

October 17th Members 6:00 - 9:00 PM

October 18th Public 9:00 - 12:00 PM

### Auctions

November 5th Auction viewing 9:00-11:00AM, Auction starts at 11:00AM

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## Stamp News 2025

### New Stamps for 2025

#### **Sponge Bob Square Pants Stamps**

On Saturday, August 16th at 11:00 a.m. central time the U.S. Postal Service will hold the first day ceremony for the Luna Moth, non-machineable surcharge, stamp during GASS sponsored by *Linn's Stamp News*. This ceremony will be held on the second floor of the conference center at the Renaissance Schaumburg Convention Center.



### Luna Moth Stamp

The stamp shows an image of a pale green Luna Moth with darker edges and eyespots on all four wings. Art director Derry Noyes designed the stamp with an existing image by Joseph Scheer. The Luna Moth stamps are being issued in panes of 20 stamps. The words “Non-Machineable Surcharge” on the base of the stamp indicate its usage value. This stamp will issue August 16, 2025 in Schaumburg, Illinois.



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



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

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