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Costa Mesa, California

DECEMBER 2017

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By Ronald Blanks
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1151 BOYS TOWN HAS PHILATELIC CENTER

By Jeff Stage
The Rev. Edward J. Flanagan started soliciting donations via mass mailings and charity stamps, cinderellas to collectors, not soon after he founded Boys Town in 1917. Today, Boys Town continues its connection to philately with a stamp museum, sales of donated material, and the display of a unique ball made up of old postage stamps.

1170 BRITISH EMPIRE

By Noel Davenhill
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By Mercer Bristow

Many collectors enjoy the hunt as much as the find. A sharp eye and sometimes a magnifier are needed to find minute differences that separate stamps that sometimes appear to be the same.

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THE AMERICAN PHILATELIST

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EDITOR Martin Kent Miller, ext. 221
martin@stamps.org • aparticle@stamps.org

EDITORIAL ASSOCIATES

Jeff Stage, ext. 222 • jstage@stamps.org

Doris Wilson, ext. 223 • doris@stamps.org

ADVERTISING MANAGER Helen Bruno, ext. 224
hlbruno@stamps.org • adsales@stamps.org

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Scott English, ext. 219
scott@stamps.org

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER Ken Martin, ext. 218
kpmartin@stamps.org

GENERAL INFORMATION apsinfo@stamps.org

ADDRESS CHANGES requests@stamps.org, ext. 201

EDUCATION/YOUTH Cathy Brachbill, ext. 239
cbrachbill@stamps.org

EXPERTIZING/QUICK ID Mercer Bristow, ext. 205
mercer@stamps.org

FINANCE Rick Banks, ext. 216
rbanks@stamps.org

LIBRARY/INFO. SERVICES Tara Murray, ext. 246
tmurray@stamps.org

MEMBERSHIP Judy Johnson, ext. 210
judy@stamps.org

SALES UNIT Wendy Masorti, ext. 270
stampstore@stamps.org

SHOWS/EXHIBITIONS Kathleen Edwards, ext. 217
stampshow@stamps.org

SHOW TIME LISTINGS
showtime@stamps.org

SPECIAL PROJECTS Thomas W. Horn, ext. 227
twhorn@stamps.org

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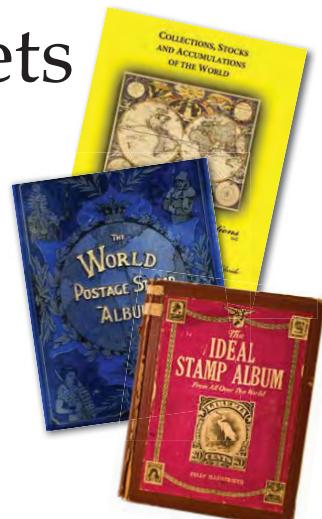


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Wintertime is Stamp Time

When Holidays Wane and Bad Weather Forces Us Inside,
the World is at Our Fingertips



This is the December issue. This means the holiday season is upon us again signaling an all too short respite from the hectic pace of modern life that seems to consume so much of our daily lives.

Even our World Series of Philately takes a hiatus from a busy schedule of 30 or more shows each year. In fact, there's an eight-week break between the last show in 2017 – Florex in Orlando, Florida running December 1 to 3 – and the first show in 2018, Southeastern Stamp Expo in Atlanta, Georgia, set for January 26 to 28.

December also means increasingly cold weather. This provides ample excuse for pursuing indoor activities. And, more



indoor free time can only mean one thing – more time to work on our stamp collections. This includes mounting recent acquisitions, disposing of duplicates by selling or trading, perusing the many online auctions and catalogs, and catching up on the growing pile of unread philatelic magazines beside your favorite easy chair.

So, stay home, retreat to your private fortress of solitude – the stamp room – and travel the world in your mind while inspecting those amazing relics of yesteryear which, having traveled from the far ends of the earth, now reside atop the table or desk in your own home.

Is this a great hobby, or what?

www.StampStore.org

The image shows a laptop screen displaying the StampStore.org website. The website features a grid of stamp listings. A large red ribbon banner with the words "Happy Holidays" is draped across the center of the screen, partially covering the laptop keyboard. The background of the image includes a close-up of a red Christmas ornament and some pine branches.

United States 1384 (StampID: 411033589)
Posted Date: 1/26/2011
Description: 1969 Winchester Press 1st Cachet E Moses Signed Unaddr
Condition: Used
Hinge Type: Not Provided

United States 1384 (StampID: 500196760)
Alt. Catalog Name: Brookman Alt. Catalog #: 1384
Posted Date: 1/26/2011
Description: christmas 1969, artemaster color cachet, address label
Condition: On Cover
Catalog Value: \$2.00

United States 1414 (StampID: 500196769)
Alt. Catalog Name: Brookman Alt. Catalog #: 1414
Posted Date: 5/30/2013
Description: christmas, madonna & child, artemaster, address label
Condition: On Cover
Catalog Value: \$2.00

United States 1414/1418C (StampID: 500217508)
Posted Date: 8/8/2013
Description: 1970 christmas issue, contains both regular and precancel issue
Condition: Unused
Hinge Type: NH
Catalog Value: \$4.90

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THE PHILATELIC EXPERIENCE



BY MARTIN KENT MILLER editor
martin@stamps.org

The Philatelic Experience

Embracing Change in the Hobby We Love

Philately combines for me a deep appreciation of history, a fascination with printing and an abiding love of art. It binds together the seemingly varied interests that capture my attention and fuel my drive. Unfortunately, the demands of our modern life often dictate so much of what we do, how we spend our money and what occupies our thoughts. But time has taught me, and I expect many of you, that life is experienced, not simply lived out. This realization leaves me humbled over the opportunity afforded me as the editor of *The American Philatelist*.

In my short time here, I have met a few of you and spoken or corresponded with several more members. Besides reminding me that I have a philatelist's dream job, the conversations I've had offer excellent suggestions for articles, relate fascinating personal histories and often offer some amusing anecdote that reinforces the value of collecting. I also find that these conversations invariably include some discussion of the challenges set before the hobby and the fear that interest in collecting stamps is dying; maybe it is and maybe, to a degree, it is our fault.

Now before you get your hackles up, hear me out. Any interest, style or hobby confronts the pressure of two significant hindrances: time and change. And the more you have of the first challenge, the greater the degree of the second. Many of us have collected for decades, a sizable number have collected for a half-century or even more; it is hard to embrace changes in something we love so dearly and yet the sheer measure of time compels changes in the culture around us. No matter how hard we resist, our society transforms with the exchange of generations. The fault that I mentioned is not a lack of devotion to philately, but a neglect in adapting to the changes that impact the hobby. We ourselves, without sacrificing what we enjoy, must embrace perspectives that will make collecting young again.

The cover depicted on this page is, for me, evidence of the experience. The experience of discovery and exploration, that feeling we embraced as young collectors excited by the newness of a country or an issue for which we had searched—and then finally found. The exhilaration of uncovering, at the bottom of a bargain bin, a cover that commemorated a childhood memory only to discover a greater experience through the authenticity of its contents. You see, what separates us from the collectors of tomorrow is not the love of exploration or a lessened

desire for what is authentic. Where we differ is in the evidence of the experience. While we may long for a GEM-100 carefully mounted in the perfect album, our children and grandchildren desire to share their experience in media that is largely strange to us.

And so, to close, I grant you this: no, the hobby is not dead or dying and no one is at fault for the changes at hand. Change is inevitable and change will bring some discomfort and some delight. The challenge to us is to see the hobby as a transforming experience with new modes of discovery all while understanding that the stamp, the cover or card is still the evidence of that great experience. The solution for us, and for philately at large, is to embrace (not resist) the new with an appreciation of how successive generations engage their experiences. To you fellow members, I commit to continue this scholarly journal while growing it into an experience readily embraced by all.


 Editor,
The American Philatelist

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STAMP THEFT COMMITTEE
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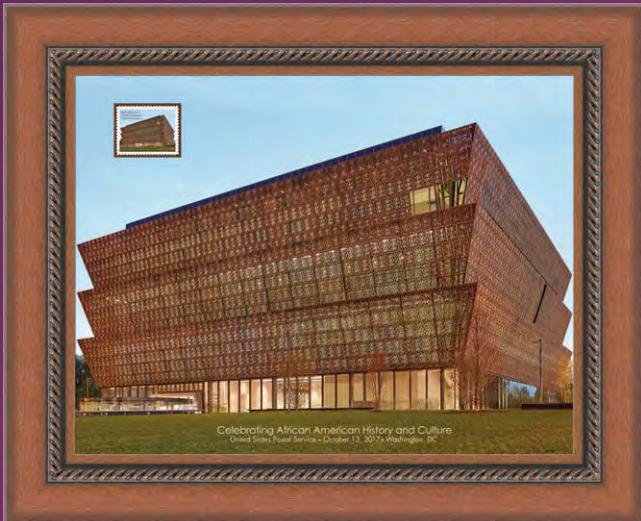
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

German Translation Error

With reference to the article "An Unusual Registered Item" (September, Page 861), I just wanted to comment on the translation of that article. You translation stated that "Everywhere there are the flags in the old realm of colors of black, white, and red with the swastika!"

However, the national flag of Germany never had the swastika in it as the postcard states. It specifically states that "Everywhere there are the flags of the old realm of colors of black, white and red and flags with the swastika."

Just thought that it should be correctly translated.

Gunther Monteadora

Fayetteville, North Carolina

Concern Over Dealer Prices

I agree with Walter Garrett concerning dealers prices. I have reached a point in my collection where it is nearly impossible to continue to purchase stamps that I need to complete my collection. I know the dealer must make a profit to stay in business but many prices appear to be so far out of reach that one must be wealthy to purchase needed stamps.

I did find one dealer on the east coast that has allowed me to buy a stamp with a discount and payover time - other dealers should follow suit.

Richard Aronson

Newton Center, Massachusetts

Sadly, Saudi Philatelic Expert Has Passed

November's edition of *The American Philatelist* arrived today in my mail and I was pleased to see that Gus Riachi's new book on the stamps of Nejd was reviewed. It's currently at the top of my "saving up for" list and, from what I've seen, is a must-have item.

You quote from the forward by John M. Wilson and describe him thus: "Wilson is an expert in Saudi philately".

I'm afraid that has to be changed to "was" as, I understand, Jack died in the early part of this year in El Paso, Texas, where he retired following a lifetime working in the oil business.

I was fortunate to know him well when I worked on a contract for British aerospace in Saudi Arabia from early 1976 until late 1982. It was Jack who awakened my interest in Sau-



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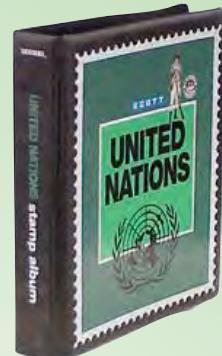
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di philately and I'm happy to say that continues, more than 40 years later. I was a member of the Arabian Philatelic Association in Dhahran during those years and I am now a member of the Arabian Philatelic Association International. Incidentally, it was in Dhahran that I was introduced to membership of the APS. I joined in January (I think) 1979. So next year will be my 38th year of continuous membership!

Jack Wilson was one of the great towering figures of Saudi philately, particularly in the stamps of the Hejaz. His 1982 book, *The Hejaz: A History in Stamps*, is still the volume to which I refer more than any other. Published by Lance Limoges in State College, Pennsylvania, it is long out of print, but I see copies for sale from time to time and the prices are going up.

As I am now a pensioner, I fear that \$129.95 plus shipping is going to take a while to collect. But I will get there, despite all the other calls on my income. I do hope your excellent review doesn't encourage too many readers to order a copy.

Please keep up the good work in *The AP*. It is always good to read, even if the area concerned is not part of my collecting interests.

Richard A Fagence
Berkshire, Great Britain

High Status Given to APS Membership

I buy a few hundred worldwide collections a year, and recently came across an interesting one. It was an 1899 Scott International that was quite beat up with only a few stamps left in it. When I looked inside the cover, I found this notation: "Property of Lt. Comdr. W.H. Muster, U.S. Coast Guard". It also listed his APS number.

Lieutenant commander is quite a high ranking officer, and I was wondering if you or any of our members had any further information about him. The great thing also was that he wrote down his APS number. I've

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been a member of the APS since 1981 and I'm always interested in the history of our society.

John V. Plett

Bellingham, WA

Editor's Note: The history of the American Philatelic Society and its members is, in itself, a fascinating study. Motivated by John's letter, we searched the archives and found W. H. Muster's application from June of 1920. The application originated from South Baltimore, Maryland and, interestingly, was submitted by Captain W. H. Muster. While we may never be certain, it is likely that Muster acquired the album prior to applying for membership and

simply added his APS number after being admitted. He was admitted to the Society on September 1, 1920. One of the interesting realizations from this account is the high regard that was placed on membership in the APS. Maybe one of our members will have a further connection to Captain W. H. Muster.

President's Cuff is the Problem

Today I received the November issue of *The American Philatelist*. I read most of the columns and found that the President Roosevelt's sleeve is still being a problem. The original photo shows what was going on as the president was

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working on his stamp collection.

If you look below his ring you will see part of his shirt cuff. The artist put it in, but without the actual image nearby, the stamp does look like the president has an extra finger. It isn't and it wasn't meant to be.

Janet Klug
Pleasant Plain, Ohio



Monaco's 1947 FDR airmail stamp that infamously shows the late president with six fingers on his left hand, Scott C16.

Editor's Note: The cuff indeed may be the problem, or not, but the article in the November issue might be considered a vindication of the artist. The original artist's sketch shown in the article (Page 1045) clearly shows FDR with only five fingers. Most people who take a close look at the stamp (Page 1043, *shown above*) would conclude the president has six fingers. The stamp shows a pinky finger in the proper proportion to where it should be, four more fingers, and the implication of a hidden curled thumb. What exactly happened between the artist's sketch and the final product will likely never be known.

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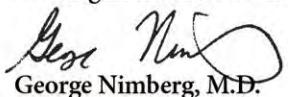
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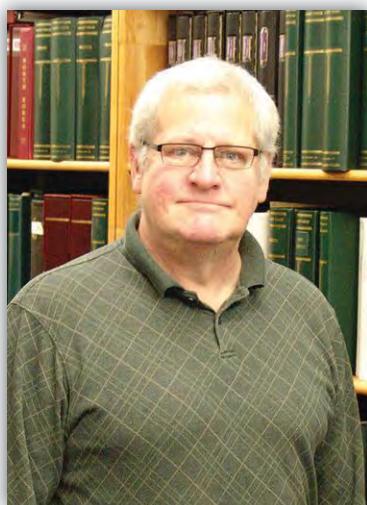


APS Bids Farewell to Two Talented Directors

**Expertizer Mercer Bristow and Librarian Tara Murray
Leave APS at End of Year**

Within the stamp collecting community, change has a tendency to move at a more glacial pace than my experience in the world of politics. The result is a greater sense of community, familiarity and connection. That applies to our team in Bellefonte, who've remained loyal to the American Philatelic Society and its members. I shared a photo with the staff recently of the APS staff from 1980 and eight of the people in that photo are still here today! That sort of commitment is rare these days.

The Greek philosopher Heraclitus is credited with saying, "Change is the only constant in life." We all know that well and we are able to live for today, some even prepare for tomorrow, but very few plan for the day after tomorrow. So, even though we know change is constant, we will sadly be saying farewell to two great members of the APS family: Mercer Bristow, Director of the Expertizing Department, and Tara Murray, Director of Information Services.



Mercer Bristow's philatelic expertise has been shared with thousands of APS members over the years.

when he joined the APS in 1981. For nearly all of his time, he served as our Director of the APS Expertizing Department (APEX). In that time, Mercer has overseen the delivery of thousands of opinions on stamps, introduced a Quick ID program and our online certificate catalog, and built a Reference Collection as an important tool in identifying fakes and frauds.

Many people may not know, but Mercer had a creative outlet in acting. For years, he would entertain local residents in the State College Community Theater productions. He



Change is the only constant in life.
-Heraclitus

also appeared in his fair share of student films for students at nearby Penn State. According to Mercer, he was usually cast as a "grumpy old man." With that background, I designated Mercer as our "morale officer" for the staff traveling to StampShow 2015 in Grand Rapids, Michigan. When I announced it at the General Membership meeting, there was a fair share of chuckling from APS members. Needless to say, no matter how many times Mercer played a grumpy old man, at his heart, he was APS through and through.

After 36 years, Mercer is stepping into retirement, which will open up his calendar for acting again and travel, his other love. Though he won't be here every day, we'll likely still benefit from his knowledge as an expert for years to come. Taking over for Mercer will be Tom Horn. Tom has been with the APS, most recently as Director of Circuit Sales and for the last year as Director of Special Projects.

It's hard to properly thank someone who has given so much of his time on behalf of the membership, but we are grateful for all that you've done.

From Books to Bricks and So Much More

In 2010, we managed to steal Tara Murray away from Penn State University to serve as the Director of Information Services and Librarian. For those who have used the library, you've probably met Tara and her awesome staff. Tara received her undergraduate degree in German studies from Bard College and a Masters in library and information science from the University of Pittsburgh. On Decem-



Tara Murray directed the American Philatelic Library during its unprecedented growth into a new space at the American Philatelic Center.

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ber 22, Tara will leave us to rejoin Penn State as the librarian for the German and Slavic Languages and Linguistics Library.

Since coming to the APS, Tara has been a force for changes, both inside our headquarters and our digital footprint. She's led our efforts to digitize *The American Philatelist* all the way back to 1887 and we are building our library. She also has extended that to journals of other societies. Tara also grew the David Straight Philatelic Union Catalog to 13 philatelic libraries around the world, giving APS members access to even more books.



Scott Tiffney will take over as the Director of Information Services and Librarian for the American Philatelic Library.

Her most impressive accomplishment was overseeing construction of the new library in Bellefonte while maintaining top notch member services for more than a year. We publicly opened the library in October 2016 with public officials from the local, state and federal level – showing that this was not just a big deal for philately, but also our home here in Bellefonte.

On a personal note, Tara has been an incredible leader within the APS. Not only has she done great work in

making our library the best philatelic library in the world, but she has worked with our leadership to bring value to all APS member services. Within the library, she has recruited an outstanding team and has given them the opportunity to shine. As a result of her leadership, we were able to find our next leader already here. When Tara departs, Scott Tiffney, currently our Research Assistant, will take over as Director of Information Services/Librarian.

The hallmark of any good leader is that they leave their post with things better than how they inherited them and developed a good succession plan. On both points, Tara exceeded expectations. Thank you, Tara, for all you've done for the APS and APRL and we know there are more great things to come!

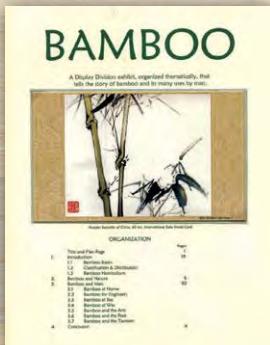
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Please take a few moments to read the form and support one of our great programs. If you donate before the end of the year, you will be able to include this in your charitable contributions for 2017. We receive donations from \$25 to \$5,000 to support all of our increased missions and hope you can join your fellow members in making a meaningful contribution. Thank you for all your support and we look forward to serving you and the hobby in great new ways in 2018.

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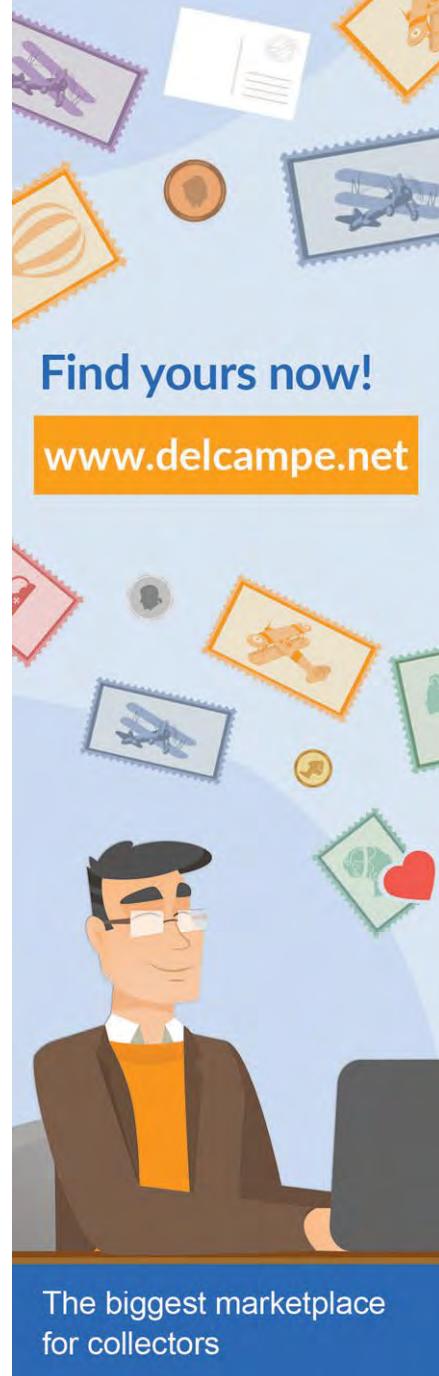
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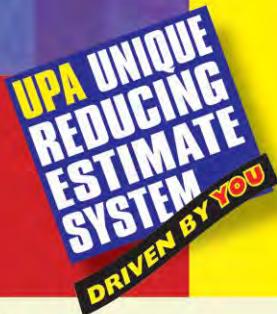
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Dear Colleague,

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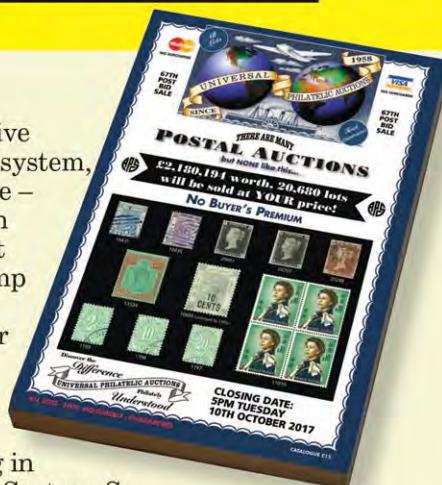
How can you help? Simply by participating regularly in our auctions permits us to give back, producing the most expensive and the best post-free auction catalogues you may ever receive whilst staying in business. Your continued support is powering our new Loyalty Post-Free System. So, all that I would respectfully ask and encourage you to do – is join the 2,199 different Collectors and Dealers from 54 different countries worldwide, who participated in my last auction U P A #66, creating new philatelic world records of participation and in some cases of realisations – whilst an astonishing 90% of bidders were successful... and those lots that remained unsold carried forward at **ever decreasing estimate and reserve** thereby creating the nucleus of this auction with a ‘sprinkling’ of more than 8,000 new lots of absolutely extraordinary NEW material... whereby, ultimately collectors like You determine values, not catalogues, nor Dealers...

My wife and I, and members of our super Team, wish you Happy Hunting and great Philatelic Fun. With thanks for Your continued support. Please do tell your Philatelic Friends. They'll receive the best Philatelic Thank You for joining us and you'll be rewarded too!



Andrew McGavin, Philatelic Author & Expert,
Managing Director, Universal Philatelic Auctions UPA,

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The Similitudes of Selling

Many Piggybacked on the Uniqueness of the Postage Stamp

Long before it became a mantra for Wall Street, author Robert Louis Stevenson stated that “everyone lives by selling something.” Marketers of various sorts have known this forever, and have utilized whatever media best suited their purposes at any given time. As I’ve mentioned before, the importance and personal nature of the posts have always resonated with those attempting to sell, and this was particularly true during the waning years of the 19th century, while postage stamps were still a bit of a novelty. This month we’ll examine a few unusual items that relied on stamp similitudes to help relay their messages.



Figure 1. The “stamp” on this cover is very similar to a 1¢ Franklin Large Bank Note.

I have a dual weakness for similitudes of the Large Bank Note issues of the 1870s-80s, as well as any with “clever” addresses. Although I know very little about the background of the first cover [Figure 1] (nor how it was distributed), it delivers both in spades! The “stamp” is a similitude of the 1-cent Franklin Large Bank Note, with the “cancel” reading (inverted) “Civil Service 1887,” and the endorsement at lower left, “Complimentary.” The proper rate for this,

had it been real mail, would have been 1 cent. The address reads “Ifyouare Notdesirous Ofan, Education, Willyoukindly, Handthis Tosomeone, Whois?” The contents, of course, would have been some sort of solicitation for some sort of educational program to prepare one for civil service and other exams. Interestingly enough, someone took the time to pen the notation “Open by mistake by if not of Whois” [sic].

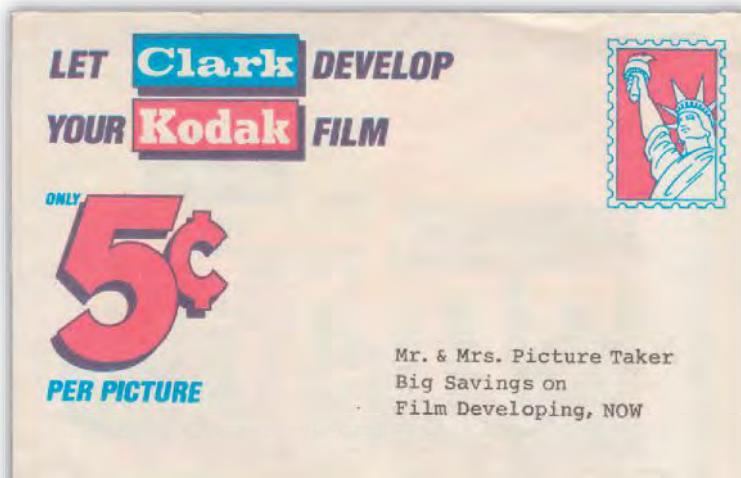
It’s been my experience that a number of companies who have created near-identical similitudes also happen to be printing firms. Another item [Figure 2] is one of these. Addressed to “Messrs. Economy – Do=well & Co., 2 Any



Figure 2. An almost exact replica of the 2¢ Bank Note appears on this 1887 item.

Office, New York,” the message is in the medium (or, in this case, the address). The firm of Lowe & Co., printers, was located at 210 Fulton St., as noted in both the return address and at the bottom of the near-perfect similitude of a 2-cent green Washington Bank Note. From the few examples located of products produced by Lowe & Co., I was able to divine that it was a fairly high-quality printer, specializing in pageant programs, invitations and such, between 1881 and

Figure 3. These film-developing promotions feature imaginary stamps as an attention-getting device.





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Lot 8.451 | JAPAN
start: 9,400 \$ | realized: 18,100 \$*



Lot 7.997 | INDIA
start: 90 \$ | realized: 4,600 \$*



Lot 12.991A
BRITISH-GUYANA
start: 17,600 \$
realized: 23,200 \$*



Lot 6.253 | CHINA
start: 9,400 \$ | realized: 30,400 \$*



Lot 18.900 | ROMANIA
start: 17,500 \$ | realized: 43,500 \$*



Lot 13.540 | HAWAII
start: 210 \$ | realized: 3,200 \$*

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1887 or so (the firm dissolved in 1887). This example had to have been created near the end of the firm's life, as the stamp it mimics (Scott 213) was released in 1887. The printer's location (210 Fulton St.) is now part of New York's financial district. It is next to St. Paul's Chapel on the site of the modern-day Millennium Hilton, near Ground Zero.

Skipping forward a century, we'll next examine a couple of items that utilized stamp-like images to simply attract attention. Those items [Figure 3] were addressed to "Mr. & Mrs. Picture Taker, Big Savings On, Film Developing, NOW." One is a printed image of a Statue of Liberty "stamp"; the other bears a pair of smiling child "stamps." These were frequently inserted in packets of developed photographs, urging users to utilize a mail-in service for developing photographs, including several special offers for double prints and the like. Again, half the battle is simply getting your potential client to open your piece of advertising.

The next cover [Figure 4], one of my personal favorites, would likely have been delivered to a number of postal patrons throughout Cleveland. It contains a four-page invitation to the 1891 Cleveland Letter Carriers' Mutual Benefit Association Ball, which was held February 5 of that year. The illustrated cover features a letter carrier of the day, the duplex-style "cancel" bears the city, date and time of the ball, and the "stamp" (again, a similitude of the Bank Note style), bears the portrait of W.W. Armstrong, the city's postmaster, with the inscription, "Our Postmaster." Armstrong began his career as a journalist, but was appointed postmaster of Tiffin, Ohio, in 1857, by President James Buchanan. In 1862, he was elected secretary of state of Ohio, but then purchased the Cleveland Plain Dealer in the late 1860s, juggling posts in politics and journalism until being appointed postmaster of Cleveland in 1887, serving through 1891.

Staying on a postal theme, the 1902 item shown [Figure 5] is cleverly constructed to attract the attention of postmasters of small offices. The "stamp" ironically shows two adjacent straight edges and bears a two-color logo of the company of origin (Corbin), which we know from the "cancel" is from New Britain, Conn. The printed address is simply "Fourth Class Postmaster, United States – America. When unfolded, the solicitation details some of the products carried by Corbin Cabinet Lock Co., including office furniture, money order windows, lock boxes and even rubber stamps!

During the 1893 Columbian Exposition and shortly after, "everything Columbus" seemed to appear throughout the advertising world. One artifact of this is a "postal card" "mailed" by the Silver Moon Art Press of St. Paul, Minnesota [Figure 6]. While we don't know much about the business itself, we do know (from the reverse) that the company was announcing a move from 99 East Third, to 301 Robert St. The card itself is a fetching similitude of a postal card with an imprinted Co-

Figure 4. In 1891, the Cleveland Letter Carriers' Ball featured a marvelous similitude item.

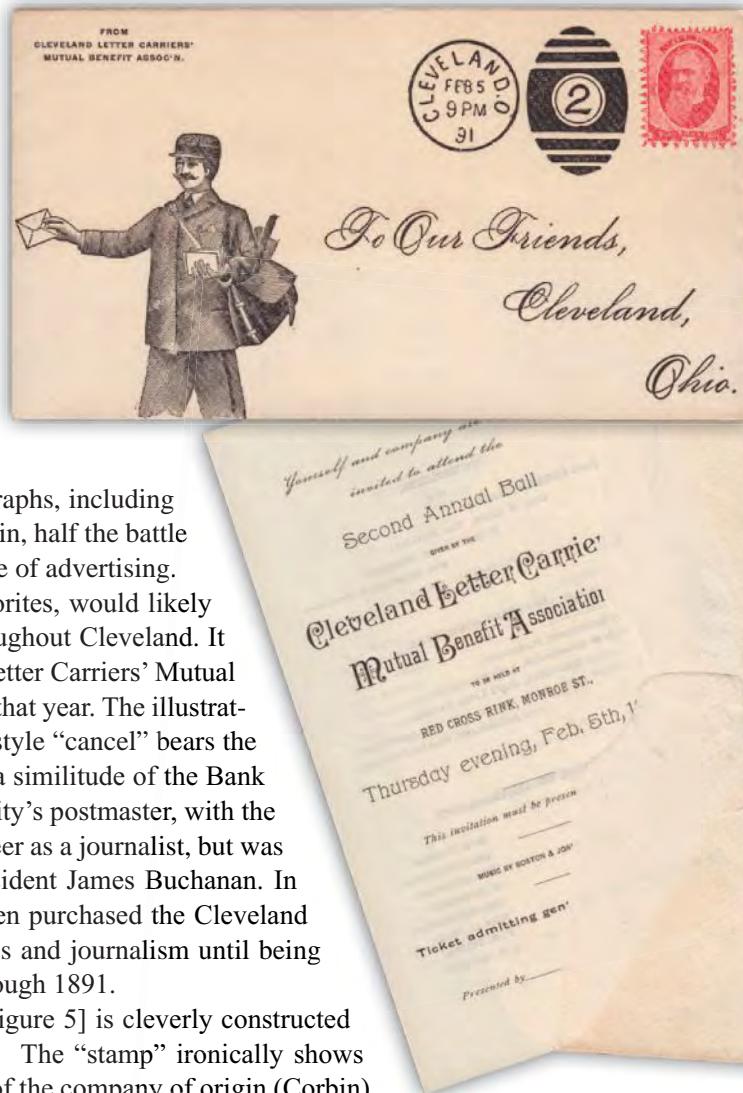
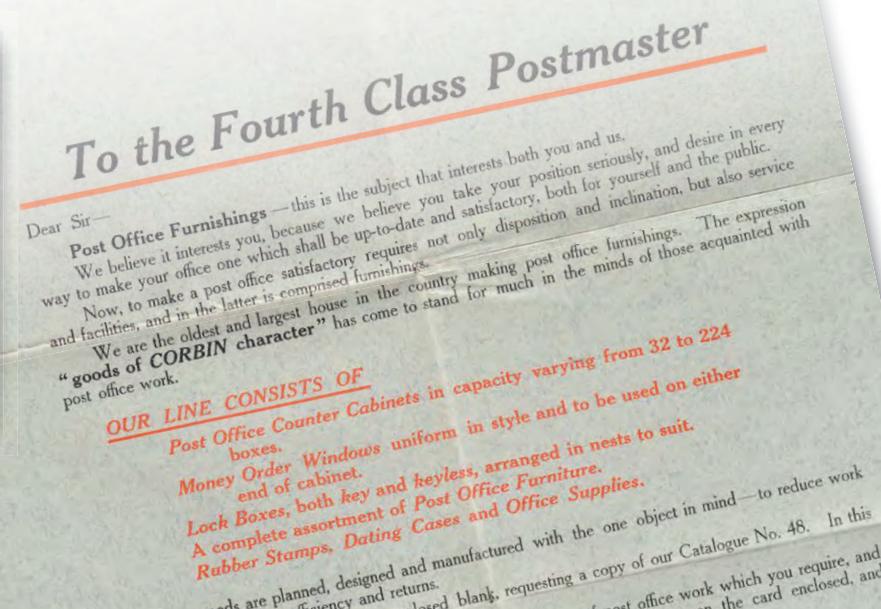


Figure 5. A folded office furniture promotion to Fourth Class post offices utilized a "stamp" with the company logo and the interior of the item.



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Figure 6. An 1894 relocation notification sent by an art printer to a client combined both postal and Columbian elements to attract attention.

lumbus "stamp" (both printed in grayish-blue). Overprinted on this is an exact replica of a St. Paul machine cancel, dated Nov. 25, 1894. The killer bars have been left open, so as not to obscure Columbus' face. Although the card bears a specific address (likely that of a client), it would not have been mailable, so I'm not sure how it was distributed.

The next piece [Figure 7] actually is an Australian item, but warrants mention here, as it is a very clever advertising piece from 1901. The outside (shown unfolded), mimics a perforated, folded letter card with a canceled "One Penny" stamp featuring a horse. The "address" is advertising a theatrical production written by Frank Adair, titled *The Favourite*. When opened, a full-blown illustrated promotional piece appears, giving us information that *The Favourite* is a sporting drama that obviously, by the visuals, deals with horse racing. The particulars of the play have been lost to the mists of time, but what a clever promotion.

The final cover shown [Figure 8] is not an advertising piece, but it was certainly a promotion! It is a cacheted

1948 "first-day" birth announcement for Robert Neal DeVoss, newborn son of Maj. & Mrs. James T. DeVoss of Arlington, Virginia (featured in the cachet). Longtime APS members remember DeVoss as Col. Jim DeVoss, who served as executive director of the APS from 1953 to 1981. The stamp shows infant Robert, canceled by a "First Day of Issue" marking, with the dial reading "WALTER REED GEN. HOSP., WASHINGTON, D.C. APR. 19, 9:55 AM, 1948."

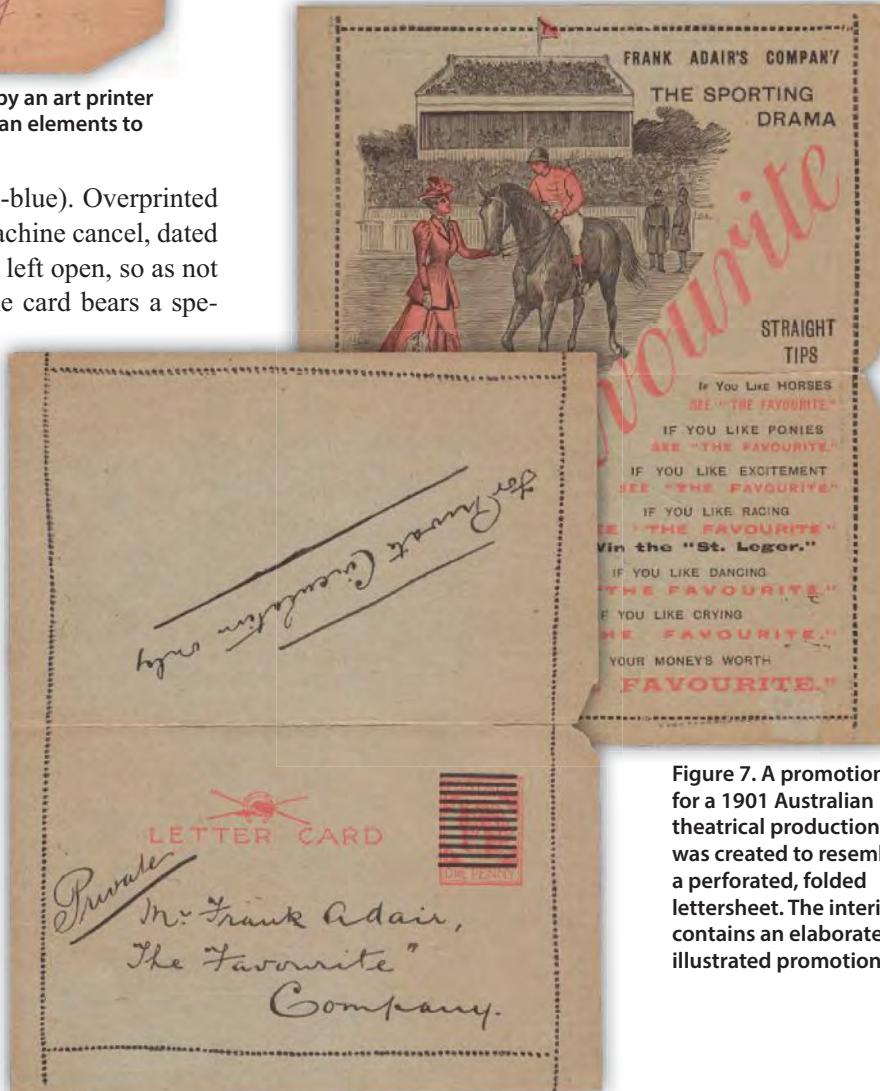


Figure 7. A promotion for a 1901 Australian theatrical production was created to resemble a perforated, folded lettersheet. The interior contains an elaborately illustrated promotion.



Thousands of examples of 19th- through 21st-century marketing pieces that utilize stamp similitudes are out there for the diligent searcher. Likewise, the stories are available to the diligent researcher. One could even specialize in the types of goods and services promoted, whether it's theatrical productions, postal-related events and products or even office supplies and printing. They certainly add a pleasant level of challenge.

Figure 8. This "First-Day" cover announces the birth of Robert Neal DeVoss, son of future APS Director James T. DeVoss.



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BRITISH COLLECTIONS

002 AITUTAKI — 525 stamps plus 44 souvenir sheets all F/VF on Scott pages 1972-1999. Highlights include mint 37-47, 82-95, 215-246D, 322-341, 510, B44-50. 2016 Scott \$1200. NET \$395

005 AUSTRALIA — Mostly used collection of 650 stamps in a Gibbons Australia album from 1913-1983 dominated by low to medium values with a few better. Duplicates uncounted and are a gift. Mostly Fine or better. 2017 Scott \$1750. NET \$375

006 AUSTRALIA — Mint & used collection from 1913-1991 mostly in mounts in a Scott specialty album. Around 1235 stamps in generally F/VF condition. Highlights include mint #6, 7, 8, 10, 39, 48, 56, 101, 365-379; used #11, 43, 44, 55, 127, J3, J23-28, J43, etc. 2017 Scott \$11,930. NET \$2695

007 AUSTRALIA — Mint & over 90% used collection from 1913-1984 on quadrille pages in a binder. Approximately 730 stamps in generally F/VF condition. Highlights include mint #41, used #7, 11, 12, 37, 73a, 147-149, 151, etc. 2017 Scott \$2740. NET \$550

008 AUSTRALIA AND TERRITORIES — Strong 99% used collection of around 1300 stamps in a Scott specialty album from 1913-1993 in generally F/VF condition. Highlights

include used #7, 18, 54, 55, 130-132, 197-199, 365-379, CO1, etc. 2015 Scott \$4150. NET \$950

011 BAHAMAS — A strong mint & used collection from 1859-1986 on Scott specialty pages, nearly all mint from 1875 forward. Duplicates not counted but included as a gift. About 95% mint w/around 600 stamps in generally F/VF condition. Highlights include mint #21, 27-32, 37-43, 49-56, 70-84, MR1-4; used #4, 5, 26, etc. 2017 Scott \$8495. NET \$2795

012 BAHAMAS — Mint (85%) and used collection from 1862-1966 in mounts on Scott specialty pages. Around 245 stamps in generally F/VF condition. Highlights include mint #23, 33-36, 42, 49-56, 58-62, 84, 85-89, 100-113, 132-147, 158-173, Mr1-4, used #9, 20, 21, 31, 82, 83, etc. 2017 Scott \$3150. NET \$995

013 BAHAMAS — 850 stamps plus 43 souvenir sheets. All F/VF mint on Scott pages covering 1941-1987. Highlights include #132-147, 148-149, 204-218, 313-330, 317a-330a, 426-443, 464-479, 464a-473a, 604-618A, 625-628, 630-633, 634-635, 604c-616c, 605b-618b, 849-864, 864c, etc. 2017 Scott \$3193. NET \$895

014 BAHRAIN — Highly desirable mint collection of over 200 stamps from 1933-1974 in mounts on Scott specialty pages in F/VF condition. Highlights includes mint #1-14, 20-37, 38-51, 52-61A, 72-80, 130-140 NH, 141-152, etc. 2015 Scott \$2172. NET \$895

015 BARBADOS — Mint collection from 1892-1965 mostly in mounts on Minkus pages in a touch mixed, but mainly F/VF condition. Highlights include #70-80, 81-9, 90-101, 102-8, 116-126, 127-139, 140-151, 152-164, etc. 2017 Scott \$2222. NET \$795

018 BERMUDA — An extremely strong collection of some 180 F-VF mint and used stamps to 1960 on Scott specialty pages. A very large number of mint highlights including #6, 14, 49-50, 51-3, 55-69, 71-9, 95, 105-14, 126a, 134, 143-62, and used 3, 15, 20. 2016 Scott \$3510. NET \$950

019 BERMUDA — Mint and used collection of some 170 stamps to 1970 in generally F/VF condition on Minkus pages. Most of the value is in material in the \$20-\$120 range. Includes mint 143-162, 175-91, 238-54. 2015 Scott \$624. NET \$185

023 BRITISH COLUMBIA & VANCOUVER ISLAND — Highly desirable mint collection of only 4 stamps consisting of #8, 9, 10 with cert and 12 in F/VF condition. Very difficult to obtain! 2017 Scott \$3275. NET \$1795

026 BRITISH GUIANA & GUYANA — Powerful mint & used collection of 835 stamps on album pages from 1850s-1986. Loaded from 1862 forward. Guyana (over 400 stamps) is NH except for souvenir sheets. Mint highlights: #92, 145, 152-56, 191-201, 205-09, 210-22, 230-41, 253-67, Guyana #668-70, etc. used #10, 31, 45-49, 50-54, 58-62 70, 72-80, 91, etc. Many duplicates present are a gift not included in count. Early issues in somewhat mixed condition as usual. Lots of F/VF condition stamps. 2017 Scott \$6350. NET \$2195

027 BRITISH HONDURAS — Desirable collection of around 1000 mint (99%) from 1866 to mid-1980s in a stockbook. Condition is at least F/VF and includes #1 used, mint #4, 8, 15, 23, 28-32, 38-46, etc. Good topical material and the earlies are in exceptional condition with 99.9% NH from 1963 forward. 2017 Scott \$3450. NET \$1350

028 BRITISH INDIAN OCEAN TERRITORY — Around 140 all MNH stamps in mounts form 1968-1986 on Minkus pages. Includes #1-15, 16-33. Lots of full topical sets, etc. 2017 Scott \$480. NET \$325

029 BURMA — Highly desirable mint collection from 1937-1949 on Scott pages in F/VF condition. Highlights include #18A-33, 51-65, 70-84, O27, etc. 2017 Scott \$678. NET \$350

030 CANADA — Mint collection from 1859-1993 in mounts in a Scott specialized album. 1946 onwards mostly NH. Around 1510 stamps in generally F/VF condition. Highlights include #35, 36, 41, 42, 43, 50, 52 NH, 56, 57, 60, 70, 71, 72, 77 NH, 98 NH, 100, 101, 135 NH, 104-123, 125-130, 158, 176, 195-201, 217-227, E1, E2, J1-5 MR6, etc. 2017 Scott \$12,575. NET \$3395

031 CANADA — 99.9% complete MNH collection from 1951-2014 in two Scott specialty albums. All stamps are VF and post office fresh! NET \$1395

032 CANADA — High quality mint collection from 1868-1951 in mounts on Scott specialty pages in F/VF condition with the vast majority being NH! Lots of highlights such as #30, 35NH, 36NH, 42NH, 43, 44, 46NH!! 56NH, 57NH, 58, 59NH, 60, 67NH, 68NH, 69NH, 70, 71NH, 72, 73, 79NH, 80, 82, 84, 85-6NH, 92, 93, 95, 98NH, 99NH, 100NH, 101NH, 102NH, 111NH, 116, 117NH, 119NH, 120NH, 122NH, 123-4NH, 130NH, 131-4NH 139-40NH,

149-159 (149-158 NH), 162-177 (162-176 NH), 178-183NH, 217-227NH, 241-5NH, 249-262NH, etc. Collections such as this are rarely available! 2017 Scott \$22,532. NET \$5495

033 CANADA — Mint & used collection from 1862-1989 in mounts in a Scott specialty album. Duplicates not counted but included as a gift. Around 1170 stamps in a bit mixed, but generally F/VF condition. Highlights include mint #56, 57, 71, 72, 74-84, 92, 96-103, used #4, 16, 20, 17, 23, 26, 46, 73, etc. 2017 Scott \$11,720. NET \$2295

034 CANADA & PROVINCES — Desirable powerful collection of around 900 generally F/VF in a Minkus album from 1859-mid 1970s. Appears 50/50 mint/used to 1932 and then all mint thereafter. Lots of highlights including mint #55, 56, 57, 58, 60, 71, 72, 85 NH, 86 NH, 96-103, 116, 149-159, E1 and used 22, 28, 29a, 29b, N. Brunswick used #10, Newfoundland mint #123, etc. 2017 Scott \$12,410. NET \$2695

035 CANADIAN PROVINCES — Mint collection from 1860-1947 in mounts on Scott pages. Around 225 stamps in generally F/VF condition. Highlights include New Brunswick 6, 9, 11; Newfoundland 11A, 18 NH, 28 NH, 31, 32A, 41, 42, 46, 57, 59, 60 NH, 111 NH, 115-126, 145-159, 183-199, 212-225; Nova Scotia 13 NH; Prince Edward Isl. 8, 10, 11-16, etc. 2017 Scott \$4380. NET \$1295

037 CANADIAN PROVINCES-NOVA SCOTIA — Mint and used collection of 10 generally Fine stamps neatly arranged on a Vario stockpage. Includes used #1, 2, 5, and 8-13 mostly mint. 2016 Scott \$2803. NET \$850

039 CAYMAN ISLANDS — Mint collection of some 85 F/VF stamps to 1955 on Scott specialty pages. Almost all the value is in expensive mint VF sets such as 69-80! 85-96, 100-111, 135-148, 2016 Scott \$1251. NET \$475

040 CAYMAN ISLANDS — Mint high quality collection of around 150 stamps from 1900-1966 mostly in mounts in F/VF condition on Minkus pages. Highlights include #3-7, 8-12, 13-16, 18, 19, 20 w/cert, 21-8, 29-30, 32-44, 45-7, 50-63, 64-8, 69-80, 85-96, 135-149, 153-167, MR3 signed, etc. 2017 Scott \$6669. NET \$3595

043 CYPRUS — Mint & used collection from 1880-1955 on Minkus and quadrille pages. Around 80 stamps in generally F/VF condition. Highlights include mint #125-135, 136-139, 155, 159, 168-182, used #11, 13, etc. 2016 Scott \$655. NET \$250

045 DOMINICA — 95% mint and 5% used collection from 1874-1982 of several hundred stamps on Scott specialty pages in F-VF condition. Highlights include used #3 and mint #34, 49, 54, 56-63, 122-136, 142-158, etc. 2015 Scott \$1955. NET \$595

046 FALKLAND ISLANDS — Highly desirable mint collection of 125 stamps from 1921-1974 on Scott specialty pages in F/VF condition. Highlights include #41-48, 54-62, 65-73, 77-80 NH, 107-120, 12-127 NH, 128-142, 166-179 NH, 210-222 NH, 1L19-1L33, etc. 2016 Scott \$2368. NET \$995

047 FALKLAND ISLANDS — Mint collection from 1878-1984 on pages in mainly F-VF condition. Highlights include mint #20-1, 22-9, 37, 38, 41-8, 62, 63, 73, 84-96, 100, 1L19-33, 128-142, 166-179, etc. Also includes some uncanceled duplicates as a gift! 2015 Scott \$4633. NET \$1395

048 FIJI — Highest quality mint collection of around 200 stamps from 1891-1972 mostly in mounts on Minkus pages in F/VF condition. Highlights include 59-69, 70-8, 91, 91a, 93-106, 117-131B, J12-19, etc. 2017 Scott \$2793. NET \$1650

049 GAMBIA — Mint high quality collection that is nearly complete from 1898-1963 mostly in mounts on Minkus pages in F/VF condition. Highlights include #20-7, 28-39, 41-64, 65-6, 70-86, 87-96, 102-120, 121-4, 132-143, 153-167, etc. 2017 Scott \$2082. NET \$1195

052 GILBERT & ELICE ISLANDS — Around 325 all mint 99% complete (missing 1 stamp) in mounts on Minkus

Continued on next page →

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pages running 1911 to the first set of Kiribati. All appear F/VF and include #5, 31, J1-8, etc. 2017 Scott \$1028. **NET \$425**

054 GREAT BRITAIN – Scott specialty album with a powerful collection of around 800 stamps from 1840-1978. Condition is slightly mixed in earlies, but generally F/VF. All used to 1935, then 90% mint. Lots of very useful duplication not counted, included as gift. Great highlights such as #1, 26, 28, 42, 71, 81, 85, 87, 94, 96, 103, 105, 126, 139, 140, 142, 173, 06. Mint 309-312, etc. Phosphor tagged stamp varieties and booklets. 2017 Scott \$9630. **NET \$2095**

055 GREAT BRITAIN – 99% complete mint collection from 1924-2000 in a Scott specialty album in generally VF condition and 90% NH. Highlights include #187-200, 203-4NH, 210-220, 205a NH, 206a NH, 207a NH, 251, 286-9NH, 292-308, 309-312NH, 317-333, nearly complete postage dues (only missing one) that also includes much NH such as J17, J39-44, J45-54, etc. A very high quality collection! 2017 Scott \$6192. **NET \$2295**

056 GREAT BRITAIN – Mint and used collection from 1840-1969 in a Schaubek hingeless album. Approximately 430 stamps in generally F/VF condition. Highlights include mint #49, 137, 138a, 251 NH, 292-308, 317-333, used #1, 37, 51a, 52, 65, 85, 94-95, 103, 104, 105, 107, 108, 109, 111-122, 124, J45-54, etc. 2017 Scott \$10,255. **NET \$1995**

058 GREAT BRITAIN & OFFICES ABROAD – Mint and used collection from 1840-1987 in mounts in a Scott specialty album. 1948 onwards mostly mint. Approximately 1,445 stamps in generally F/VF condition. Highlights include mint #27, 29, 43a, 49 and 251 MNH. Used #1, 24, 25, 28a, 40, 49-56, 57, 65, 69, 71, 109, 141, 175, etc. 2017 Scott \$28,790. **NET \$5500**

059 GREAT BRITAIN OFFICES & AREAS – Scott album with around 1200 stamps running from 1840-1985. Condition is the usual somewhat mixed in earlies, but generally F/VF and appears about 85% used, along with significant uncounted duplication. Many highlights including used #1, 28, 42, 53, 57, 69, 70, 139, 139a, 140, 142, etc. 2016 Scott \$11,030. **NET \$2195**

062 GRENADA – Mint and used collection from 1861-1967 in mounts on Scott specialty pages. 1934 on is mostly mint. Approximately 150 stamps in generally F/VF condition. Highlights include mint #6, 23a, 131-142, 151-163, 171-183, used #1, 2, 5B, 5D, 26, etc. 2017 Scott \$1105. **NET \$325**

063 GRENADA – Mint & used collection from 1875-1987 in mounts in a Scott specialty album. 1975 on is mostly mint. Around 855 stamps in generally F/VF condition. Highlights include Mint #131-142, 146, 151-163, 183, 294-309, 1002-1020, 1211-1214, C3-19, used #16, etc. 2017 Scott \$1085. **NET \$350**

065 HONG KONG – Highly desirable collection of around 125 stamps from 1935-1977 on Scott specialty pages in generally VF condition. Highlights include #147-150, 168-173, 178-9, 185-98, 203-217, 225-8, 231-3, 249-50, 253-4, 275-8, 326, 327, etc. 2017 Scott \$2479. **NET \$1195**

066 HONG KONG – Around 75 mint and used stamps on Scott pages in F/VF condition. Highlights include mint #147-150, 161, 179 and used #145, 146, etc. 2017 Scott \$1070. **NET \$395**

067 INDIA – Strong mostly used collection from 1854-1960 of around 400 F/VF stamps on Scott specialty pages. Nice range of early classics, then highly complete 1882-1960 including used 80-99, 150-67, 206, C1-4, etc. 2016 Scott \$1565. **NET \$450**

069 INDIA & STATES – Mint and mostly used collection from 1855-1978 on Scott quadrille pages. Approximately 655 stamps in generally F/VF condition. Highlights include mint #19, M34-43, Chamba 45, Jind 121, Patiala 92, 93, used #15a, 50-52, 129-134, C51, Gwalior 19, 39, Chamba 97, etc. 2015 Scott \$2410. **NET \$750**

070 ISLE OF MAN – MNH collection from 1976-1999 in two Lindner stock books. Approximately 755 stamps in VF condition. Highlights include mint #493aBK, 531-553c, J17-29, etc. 2015 Scott \$1150. **NET \$525**

071 IRAQ – Mint & mostly used collection from 1923-1968 on album pages. Around 365 stamps in F/VF condition. 2017 Scott \$330. **NET \$100**

074 JERSEY – All mint 99% NH collection from 1958-1999 in a stockbook. Appears complete w/around 1000 VF stamps including WWII Occupations. 2017 Scott \$979. **NET \$450**

075 JERSEY – Mint NH collection of around 860 stamps from 1977-1987 in mounts on Scott specialty pages in VF condition. Highlights include mint #246-268, 477-506, 786d-789d, J1-J6, etc. 2015 Scott \$1135. **NET \$350**

078 MALAYAN STATES – Highly desirable mint collection of around 325 stamps from 1936-1952 on Gibbons pages in F/V

VF condition. Highlights include Johore #130-150, Kedah #46-54, 61-81, Penang #3-22, Perak #97, Trengganu #67, J1-4, Straits Settlements, #238-252, etc. 2015 Scott \$3117. **NET \$1495**

079 MALAYAN STATES – KELANTAN, MALACCA, PENANG, & SINGAPORE – Highly desirable mint collection of 88 stamps from 1937-1952 in mounts on album pages in mainly VF condition. Highlights include Kelantan #29-43, Malacca #3-17, Penang #3-22 and Singapore #1-20 and 1a-20a. 2016 Scott \$1398. **NET \$695**

080 MALAYAN STATES – Starter collection of around 450 stamps from 1886-1971 on Scott specialty pages in generally F/VF condition. Will give one a start in a very popular area. 2015 Scott \$1022. **NET \$325**

082 MALAYAN STATES-PERAK – Mint collection of 72 stamps from 1935-1957 in mount on Minkus pages in F/VF condition. Highlights include #84-98, 105-125, etc. 2017 Scott \$786. **NET \$495**

084 MALAYAN STATES-SELANGOR – 67 different mint stamps from 1935-1961 on Minkus pages in F/VF condition. Highlights include #45-59, 80-100, etc. 2017 Scott \$347. **NET \$225**

085 MALAYSIA & STATES – Mint collection from 1963-1977 on Scott specialty pages. Around 350 stamps in F/VF condition. Highlights include mint #20-27, 66-72, J4a-J8a, etc. 2017 Scott \$560. **NET \$225**

086 MALTA – Mint and used collection from 1885-1981 on Minkus & Quadrille pages. About 85% mint. Approximately 440 stamps in generally F/VF condition. Highlights include mint #184-187, 208-222, 224, 246-262, etc. 2016 Scott \$580. **NET \$175**

088 MONTSERRAT – MNH collection in mounts on Minkus pages with around 630 generally VF stamps from 1973-1993. 2017 Scott \$1135. **NET \$595**

089 NEWFOUNDLAND – Mint & used collection from 1865-1947 in mounts on Harris pages. Around 190 stamps in generally F/VF condition. Highlights include mint #28, 31, 52, 78-85, 104-114, 115-126, 145-159, used #27, 43, 49, 49a, etc. 2017 Scott \$3455. **NET \$1095**

090 NEWFOUNDLAND – Very strong mint collection of some 230 stamps on Scott specialty pages. Earlies are in somewhat mixed condition; thereafter mostly VF. Loads of highlights including 1, 13a, 22-3, 27, 32-32A, 47, 61-74, 87-97, 98-103, (without 101), 104-14, 125-126, 131-44, 145-59, 163-71, 212-25, etc. 2015 Scott \$5325. **NET \$1595**

091 NEW ZEALAND – Mint and used collection of some 200 stamps in a bit mixed, but generally F/VF condition on quadrille pages on which the highly knowledgeable collector noted the catalog number by the stamps. Highlights are used #51-6, 60, 65-7, 82, 120 and mint #O76-86, P1-3. 2015 Scott \$2665. **NET \$575**

092 NEW ZEALAND – Mint and used collection from 1862-1990 in mounts in a Scott specialty album with around 1095 stamps in mixed Fine condition. Highlights include mint #82, 229-241, AR58, used #11, 14, 16, 17, 22, 37, 44, 51-56, AR43, etc. 2017 Scott \$9250. **NET \$1495**

093 NEW ZEALAND – Mint and mostly used collection from 1864-1995 on quadrille pages in a binder. Approximately 1300 stamps in generally F/VF condition. Highlights include mint #74, 101, 118a, used #41, 56, 119, 147, 192, 197, 198, 288-301, etc. 2017 Scott \$2525. **NET \$495**

108 SEYCHELLES – Mint collection of a few hundred stamps from 1890-1980 on Scott specialty pages in generally F/VF condition. Includes loads of better mint sets such as 125-48, 157-71, 173-90, 198-212, 257-71, 2013 Scott \$1122. **NET \$375**

109 SIERRA LEONE – Collection of some 140 mint and used F/VF stamps on Scott specialty pages to 1961. Highlights mint #1, 6, 20-1, 25, used #8. 2016 Scott \$903. **NET \$295**

110 SIERRA LEONE – MNH collection from 1971-2004 in mounts on homemade pages in six binders in VF condition. 2015 Scott \$6405. **NET \$1795**

111 SINGAPORE – Around 925 mint stamps from 1949-1999 on Scott pages in VF condition. The collection is around 95% complete. Highlights include mint #28-42 (40 used), 62-69, 95a, 101-106, 143, 188a, 221a, etc. 2016 Scott \$2227. **NET \$850**

112 SOLOMON ISLANDS – Mint and used collection of over 110 stamps from 1907-1965 on Scott specialty pages in

generally F/VF condition. Highlights include mint #39, 40, etc. 2015 Scott \$521. **NET \$160**

113 SOLOMON ISLANDS – Around 730 mint stamps (and 1 used) from 1946-1999 on Scott pages in VF condition. 2016 Scott \$1045. **NET \$350**

114 SOUTH AFRICA – Mint and mostly used collection of several hundred stamps from 1910-1995 on homemade pages in a bit mixed but generally F-VF condition. Highlights include mint #68-71, B1-4, B5-8, B9-11, J30-3, J34-8, etc. Also includes uncounted duplicates as a gift. 2015 Scott \$1087. **NET \$195**

116 STRAITS SETTLEMENTS – Mint and used collection from 1867-1948 in mounts on Scott specialty pages. About 160 stamps in generally F-VF condition. Highlights include mint #13, 38, 44, 119, 120, 133, used #17, 57, 117, 147, etc. 2017 Scott \$1323. **NET \$395**

118 STRAITS SETTLEMENTS – Mint and used collection of 120 stamps from 1867-1948 on Scott specialty pages in F-VF condition. Highlights include mint #117, 119, 121, 123, and used #8, 18, etc. 2014 Scott \$1029. **NET \$295**

120 TONGA – Desirable all mint collection almost all in mounts of some 1400 VF stamps from 1897-1998 in a full Minkus album. Highlights include #38-52, 63-69, CO1, CO6, etc. Very nice! Includes much NH in the later material. 2017 Scott \$4405. **NET \$1895**

121 TRISTAN DA CUNHA – Around 250 desirable all mint in mounts on Minkus pages from 1952-1996. Appears 95% complete and VF throughout. Includes 1-12, 14-27, etc. Includes much NH in the later material. 2017 Scott \$887. **NET \$395**

122 TANGANYIKA – 87 mint stamps from 1922-1965 in F/VF condition on Scott pages. Highlights include 45-56 NH, official stamps complete O1-28, etc. 2016 Scott \$350. **NET \$150**

WORLDWIDE COLLECTIONS

125 AFARS & ISSAS – Scott pages with around 165 mint F/VF stamps from 1967-1977, including C82-85 and all the engraved colorful sets that make this area so popular. 2017 Scott \$860. **NET \$375**

127 ALAND YEAR PACKS – Complete run of postal service issued year packs from 1993-1996 in PO fresh condition. **NET \$225**

129 ALGERIA – Desirable mint collection of around 650 F/VF on Scott specialty pages from 1924-1976. Semis complete to 1971, includes B1-B13, B14-26, B28-31. In far better condition than normally seen and very near to completion. 2017 Scott \$1435. **NET \$650**

130 ANDORRA-FRENCH & SPANISH – Very desirable all mint collection of around 650 generally VF stamps from 1928/1931-1991 with some gaps in the later material. The earlies are here though. Includes French #52, 54, 55, 57, J1-8, J12, J13, J15, etc. Almost all in mounts. 2017 Scott \$3440. **NET \$1495**.

131 ANGOLA – Mint and used collection from 1870-1979 in a Minkus album with additional quadrille pages. Around 630 stamps in mixed, but generally F/VF condition. Highlights include mint #341a, NH, used #116, 158, etc. 2017 Scott \$1400. **NET \$350**

134 AUSTRIA – Mint and used collection of 1500 stamps in Minkus album from 1850-1982 in generally F/VF condition. Mint dominates from 1936 forward, used dominates prior to 1936. Mint highlights: #B245-51, B260-63, C51-59; Austrian Occ. of Italy N20-33; Bosnia 46-61, 86-104, etc. Some modern is NH. Duplicates, loose and a few others are a gift not included in cat value. 2017 Scott \$1660. **NET \$350**

135 AUSTRIA – Mint and used collection from 1950-1989 in a Scott specialty album. Approximately 1395 stamps in generally F/VF condition. Highlights include mint #405-423, 499, 599-603, B245-251, B260-263, B269-271, B273-276, used #12, 46, 65, C29, 59, Offices in Turkish Empire 71, J12, etc. 2017 Scott \$3620. **NET \$750**

136 AUSTRIA – Strong mint and used F/VF collection of many hundreds from 1850-1971 in a Scott specialty album. This comprehensive collection has loads of expensive issues a few being used #2-5, 8, 12-16, mint #143, 167, B1-76, used B87-109, B132-51, B269-71, C12-31, mint C32-46, used C54-60, The BOB has considerable strength. 2016 Scott \$5046. **NET \$1150**

137 AUSTRIA-DOLFFUSS – #380 used sound F/VF stamp. One of the major "keys" to a solid Austrian collection. 2017 Scott \$725. **NET \$425**

139 BERLIN – Very strong collection of many hundreds of almost all mint virtually complete from 1951 and complete

NH from 1954. Earlies are well represented with first set (Black overprints) NH, UPU set mint and used. Quite a few of the better early sets mint, some being NH. Inexpensive at **NET \$495**

140 BELGIUM — Mint and mostly used collection from 1849-2011 on album pages in a two binder set. Approximately 3270 stamps in generally F/VF condition. Highlights include mint #90, B30, B515-520, B538-543, B544-546, B662a; used #2, 3, 9, 12, 17, 18-22, 23, 26b, 45-48, 121, Q1-6, Q53, etc. 2017 Scott \$6310. **NET \$1195**

141 BELGIUM — Mint and used collection from 1858-1966 in a Scott specialty album. Approximately 1565 stamps in generally F/VF condition. Highlights include mint #172-184, B17-24, B28-30, B437-441, B460, B480-484, B532-537, B555-557, N579-585, V12, J54-61, used #12, 40-44, B482a, etc. 2017 Scott Catalog \$3910. **NET \$795**

142 BELGIUM — Mini scarce collection of semi-postals in very nice F/VF condition on Scott pages. This small but juicy collection is comprised of B69-77, B78-83, B93-8, B123-4, B132-143 (cat. \$992) and used B144-50. 2015 Scott \$3939. **NET \$1195**

143 BHUTAN — 99.9% complete mint and 99% NH collection from 1955-1994 with around 1700 stamps in VF condition. MNH highlights include #105-105E, 115-115R, 117-117V, 152-152F, 252-269, etc. It really doesn't get better than this! 2017 Scott \$5720. **NET \$2995**

144 BOLIVIA — Scott album with around 950 generally F/VF stamps from 1866-1980s. Appears 90% used to 1942 and all mint thereafter. We saw mint 5, 7, 43-450. Better condition than normally seen. 2017 Scott \$2325. **NET \$525**

146 BRAZIL — Strong mint and used F/VF collection of several hundred stamps on quadrille album pages from 1843-1948. Highlights include used 2-3, 7-10, 26-8, 39-40, 52-60, 61-7, 68-78, and mint 172-3, 364-74, 446-9, C53. 2016 Scott \$3561. **NET \$795**

147 BULGARIA — Mint & used collection from 1879-1988 in a Minkus album. Around 2335 stamps in generally F/VF condition. Highlights include mint #33, 253-258, 259-264, C1-4, C12-14, C19-30; used #4, 10, 34-36, J2, etc. 2017 Scott \$3460. **NET \$795**

148 BRAZIL — Collection of some 550 mint and used stamps from 1844-1940 with a high level of completion on ancient messy album pages on which the very advanced collector placed the Scott cat number by each stamp. Condition of the pre-1900 material is mixed, thereafter F/VF. Highlights mint #25, 53-6, 61-6, 73-4, 97, C26-7, O29. Used includes #7-10, 27-8, etc. 2016 Scott \$5012. **NET \$1095**

149 CAMBODIA — Desirable 95% complete all mint collection of around 390 generally F/VF on Minkus pages 1951-1972, some in mounts. Includes #1-17, 231a, C38, C39, C42, C44, C45, etc. 2017 Scott \$1150. **NET \$450**

150 CAMEROUN — Desirable 95% mint collection of around 440 generally F/VF on Minkus pages from 1916-1979. Includes mint 351 with missing 'E' in overprint, 607, 608, C38a, C38b, C40a. 2017 Scott \$947. **NET \$325**

152 CAPE VERDE — Mint and used collection from 1877-1973 of around 400 stamps in mounts on album pages in generally F/VF condition. Highlights include mint #144-159, 183T, 183U, 183V, 215-233, 252-4, 257-265, 277-286, etc. 2017 Scott \$1582. **NET \$495**

160 CILICIA — All mint collection of very desirable material from 1919-1920 in F/VF condition. Around 95 stamps in mounts, includes mint #19-21, 45, 55 NH, 60 NH, 61 NH, 85 NH signed! J1-J46. Among the nicest Cilicia collections we have seen. 2017 Scott \$1531. **NET \$795**

161 COSTA RICA — Wide ranging collection of around 1450 generally F/VF in a GK stockbook from 1863-1996. Appears 75% mint to 1930 and all mint thereafter. Includes mint #13, 94, C46-54, C57-66 NH, Guancaste selection, etc. 2017 Scott \$2570. **NET \$750**

162 COSTA RICA — Strong mint & used collection from 1863-1992 in a Scott specialty album. Duplicates not counted and included as a gift. Around 1185 stamps in generally F/VF condition. Highlights include mint #14, 15, 53, 66, 94, 94b, C11-13, C46-54; used #34, 68, Guancaste 24, 28, etc. 2017 Scott \$6105. **NET \$1495**

163 CROATIA — Mint & used collection from 1941-1945 on Scott specialty pages. About 70% mint, around 200 stamps in generally F/VF condition. Highlights include mint #B1-2, B12, B31, etc. 2017 Scott \$495. **NET \$175**

164 CUBA — Mint & used collection from 1855-1964 on Scott specialty pages. About 75% mint, duplicates not counted and included as a gift. Around 500 stamps in generally F/VF condition. Highlights include mint #50, 69, 117, 125, 126, 138, 423-430, 458-461, etc. 2017 Scott \$1540. **NET \$450**

167 CUBA — Interesting collection of around 950 stamps in a Scott specialty album in generally F/VF condition from 1855-1962. Appears 90% used to 1948 and 90% mint thereafter.

Highlights include mint #662a, C75-8, E1 and used #7, 15, 62, 120, etc. 2017 Scott \$5365. **NET \$1395**

168 CYRENAICA — Highly desirable mint collection from 1923-1934 in mounts on Scott pages. Around 130 stamps in F/VF condition. Highlights include #1-4, 5-10, 35-42, 59-64 NH, B25-28, C6-11, C12-17 NH, CB1-10 NH, etc. 2017 Scott \$1525. **NET \$895**

170 DAHOMEY — 440 F/VF mint and used stamps on Scott pages covering 1941-1975. Nice starter collection for this country. 2016 Scott \$750. **NET \$225**

173 DENMARK — Mint and used collection from 1947-1993 on blank Lighthouse pages in a Lighthouse binder. Mostly MNH, duplicates not counted and included as gifts. Approximately 660 stamps in VF condition. Highlights include mint #700-720a, 793-815, etc. 2017 Scott \$1015. **NET \$225**

174 DENMARK — Large collection of over 1100 stamps in 3-ring binder running from 1851-1997, 95% used in generally F/VF condition. Highlights include used #3, 14, 15, 17, 37, 41d, 68, 80, C1, C2, C3, O23, 2017 Scott \$3760. **NET \$850**

175 DENMARK — Mint and nearly all used collection from 1854-2010 on stockpages. Approximately 580 stamps in generally F/VF condition. Highlights include mint #13, 188, used #2, 12, 34, 35, 80, 82, 135, 152, P18, etc. 2016 Scott \$2710. **NET \$495**

178 ECUADOR — Collection on Minkus pages from 1872-1980s of around 1400 generally F/VF stamps. Appears mostly used to 1940, 95% mint 1940-1970, then used thereafter. We saw mint C30 and Galapagos L1-LC3, etc. 2017 Scott \$1525. **NET \$325**

179 ECUADOR & AREAS — Scott pages with around 1350 generally F/VF stamps from 1865-1970. Appears 65% used to about 1940, then 99% mint thereafter. Many highlights including mint 282, C8-15, C181 with interesting double overprint in two colors, used #6, 8, 74, 75, 160-165, etc. Also all seven Galapagos. Better condition than normally seen. 2017 Scott \$2970. **NET \$695**

180 EGYPT — Mint & used collection from 1866-1972 on Scott pages. Around 810 stamps in generally F/VF condition. Duplicates not counted and included as a gift. Highlights include mint #8, 105-107, 108-113, etc. 2016 Scott \$1110. **NET \$295**

182 ERITREA — Minkus pages with around 150 generally F/VF condition from 1892-1941. Appears 90% mint and includes mint 99-101, used 47, etc. 2017 Scott \$1030. **NET \$395**

183 ESTONIA — Highly desirable mint (75%) and used collection from 1918-1939 on ancient Schaubek pages in F/VF condition. Highlights include mint B9-10 and used B11-12 signed, C6, etc. 2017 Scott \$1367. **NET \$650**

184 ETHIOPIA — 1125 stamps F/VF all mint, only 5 used, plus one souvenir sheet. On Scott pages from 1945-1999. Highlights include mint #278-280, 672-689, 789-806, 1175-1177, 1234-1237, 1279-1297, C21-22. Condition is F/VF. 2017 Scott \$1797. **NET \$750**

185 EUROPA — An unusual remarkable used and virtually complete collection from 1956-2006 in 5 binders. In over 40 years of buying stamps, we have never seen a complete used collection. It would take a collector many years to put this together! **NET \$1295**

186 FINLAND YEAR PACKS — Postal service issued year packs complete from 1994-2004. Even includes the booklets. **NET \$395**

188 FRANCE — Mint (85%) and used collection in mounts from 1849-2002 in 2 volume Scott specialty albums; from 1931 onwards mainly mint. Around 3300 stamps in generally F/VF condition. Highlights include mint #22, 30, 38, 77, 156-184, B6, B43, B249-254, B285-290, B294-299, C34-36, N4, N7, used #12, 19, 20, 42, 54, etc. Includes much NH in the later material. 2017 Scott \$10,075. **NET \$2495**

190 FRANCE — Desirable all mint collection in a Minkus album from 1903-1976 in F/VF condition. Around 1600 stamps including B5, B6, B20-23, B34, B35-37, B66-67, C23-27, C29-32. 2017 Scott \$4694. **NET \$1195**

191 FRANCE — Mint and used collection from 1854-1950 in a Davo hingeless album. Approximately 865 stamps in mostly F/VF condition. Highlights include mint #300a, 302, 304 NH, 624, B34, B37, B86-B89A, B153-B157, C26, J92, used #13, 47, 348, B30, B43, B66-67, J35, etc. 2016 Scott \$4015. **NET \$850**

192 FRANCE — Mint and used collection from 1849-1978 on Scott quadrille pages in 2 binders. Approximately 1960 stamps in mixed, but generally F/VF condition. Highlights include mint #95, 100, J66, N27, N42, N43-N58, used #3, 44, 66, 83, 348, J20, J22, etc. Priced to go from our home to yours! 2015 Scott \$5763. **NET \$795**

193 FRANCE — Valuable collection of around 1250 stamps, mint (70%) and used (30%), from 1870-1958 on Scott specialty pages in a touch mixed but generally F-VF condition. Extensive highlights include used #3, 11, 12, 13, 24, 28, 31, 40, 41, 42, 52, 66, 74, 83, 89, 94, 107, 108, 126, 132, 251A, 253,

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254A, 348, C27, J50, P3, P5, unused #38, J3, mint #50, 93, 624, B5, B7, B18, B32, B249-54, B258-63, B267-72, B276-81, B285-90, B294-99, C22, etc. 2014 Scott \$6909. **NET \$1295**

195 FRENCH ANDORRA — Mint collection from 1931-1972 on Scott specialty pages. Around 220 stamps in generally F/VF condition. Highlights include #73, 85-104, 114-123, 124-142, C1, C2-4, etc. 2017 Scott \$1280. **NET \$475**

200 FRENCH MOROCCO — Nice mint and used collection of 775 stamps on Scott type blank pages from 1891-1955 with some unused. Mint highlights #21, 22 unused, 88, 89, B10-12, B13-20, CB1-10, CB11-20, J7, J8 Q1-11, etc. used #50, 70, J9, etc. Duplicates, some imperf varieties, others are a gift and not included in the cat value. Condition is mostly F/VF. 2017 Scott \$2600. **NET \$850**

201 FRENCH POLYNESIA — 95% complete mint collection from 1958-1991 in two Lindner hingeless albums. Highlights include #233-240, C24-7, C33, C37, C52-3, C54, C63-7, etc. 2015 Scott \$4303. **NET \$1295**

202 FRENCH SOUTHERN ANTARCTIC — Highly desirable collection of over 350 mint stamps on Scott pages from 1956-1999 in F/VF condition. Highlights include #2/7, 23-24, 28, 31, 32, 36, 37-44, 45, 46-51, 52-3, C3, C5, C11, C17, C15-16, C19-23, etc. 2017 Scott \$2997. **NET \$1095**

204 GABON — Attractive 95% mint collection of around 420 F/VF on Minkus pages 1907-1990s. Nothing to knock your socks off, but the few used have some nice cancels and the collection is in better condition than normally seen. 2017 Scott \$760. **NET \$275**

205 GERMANY — Two volume stockbook collection with around 1800 all mint from 1949-1999. Includes #670-685, some post-war locals, etc. Much NH in the later material. 2017 Scott \$3510. **NET \$995**

208 GERMANY — A well filled mint (30%) and used (70%) collection on Scott pages from 1949-1955 in F-VF condition (includes DDR and Berlin). Highlights include used #668, B310-313, B314-315, B318-319, B320-3, 9N35-41, 9N61-3, 9NB8-11, etc. 2014 Scott \$4614. **NET \$595**

209 GERMANY — Powerful used collection from 1872-2014 in 2 stock books. Approximately 5200 stamps in generally F/VF condition. Highlights include used #1, 10, 14, 15a, 25, 28, 65a, 309, 310-316, 664a, B23-27, B49-57, B294-295, C20-26, C42, C45, O1-13, 3N20, 9N18, 9N19, 9N20, 9N21-9N34, 9NB1-9NB3, etc. 2017 Scott \$25,280. **NET \$3995**

210 GERMANY BERLIN — Complete mint collection from 1948-1990 in a Davo hingeless album in F/VF condition.

Continued on next page →

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Highlights include #9N1-20, 9N21-34, 9N35-41, 9N47-60, 9NB3, 9NB3a, etc. Includes much NH in the later material. **NET \$850**

211 GERMANY BERLIN — Very scarce sound used Bear sheet #9NB3a. 2013 Scott \$2100. **NET \$895**

212 GERMANY DDR — Desirable all mint collection of around 2800 F/VF in two stockbooks from 1949 to reunification in 1990. Includes Mao set, all the souvenir sheets, 122-136, B21a NH, etc. Looks complete. 2017 Scott \$2520. **NET \$750**

214 GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC AND SOVIET ZONE — Mint and used collection from 1945-1992 in a Minkus album. About 90% MNH. Duplicates not counted and included as gifts. Approximately 2495 stamps in generally F/VF condition. Highlights include mint #85-88, 122-136, 226a, 264a, 634; used #82-4, etc. 2017 Scott \$3440. **NET \$795**

216 GERMANY-FEDERAL REPUBLIC — Mint and used collection from 1949-1968 on Minkus pages. About 65% mint with about 90% NH. Approximately 450 stamps in F/VF condition. Highlights include #665-666 NH, 669 NH, 686 MNH, 698-701 NH, B314-315 NH, B318-319 NH, B320-323 NH, B327-330 NH and used 670-685, etc. 2016 Scott \$1590. **NET \$395**

219B GERMAN OCCUPATION - LITHUANIA - ISSUE FOR THE SOUTHERN VILNA AREA (PAIRS!) — Exceptionally rare collection of MNH pairs of non-Scott listed issues consisting of Michel #10-18 (17 and 18 are signed!), 10K (Inverted, signed), 13K (Inverted, signed) and 17K (Inverted, signed- stamp LH). Condition is F/VF. 2016 Michel: 13,400 Euros (\$14,393 U.S. Dollars). **NET \$6995**

221 GERMAN STATES - SCHLESWIG HOLSTEIN - THURN AND TAXIS — Collection of 20 mostly used stamps and Thurn and Taxis collection of some 50 stamps on quadrille pages on which the knowledgeable collector noted the catalog numbers next to the stamps. In a bit mixed, but generally Fine condition. Highlights: Schleswig Holstein Mint 1, used 2 (guaranteed) and full of items in the \$25-\$100 range (total cat \$8180). Thurn and Taxis 1-2, 11-13, 14-15, 19-20, etc. (total cat \$1730). Cat for both: \$9910. Some duplication which is not catalogued. **NET \$1795**

223 GERMAN STATES - WURTTEMBERG — Highly complete mint and used collection from 1851-1920 on Scott specialty pages in a bit mixed, but generally F/VF condition though overall much better than normally seen! Regular issues are nearly all used and Officials are mint and used. Includes very hard to come by material such as mint #53 signed and used #6, 7a, 7-12, 13-18, 19-22, 29, 30, 34-40, 41-6, 094-108, etc. Only lacks a few issues for completion! 2016 Scott \$13,297. **NET \$2995**

224 GERMANY — Powerful all mint collection from 1872-1971 in a Scott specialty album in F/VF condition. Lots of highlights such as #52-61, 62, 63, 77, 351-362, 366-384, 401-414, 702-721, B33a-d NH, B49-57, B59-67, B68 Ostropa, B141-3 NH, C20-6, C27-34, C35-7, C38-9, C43-5, C46-56, etc. 2016 Scott \$7767. **NET \$1895**

225 GERMANY — Mint & used collection from 1872-2003 in a Scott specialty album. Approximately 2865 stamps in generally F/VF condition. Duplicates not counted and included as a gift. Highlights include mint #1, 28, 100c, 664a MNH, B19a, B106, used #8, 10, 25, 36a, 210, 176, 228, 267, 277, 302, 311, 319, 557-577, B55, C15-19, C45, O1-13, O41, 044, O46, etc. 2016 Scott \$15,390. **NET \$1995**

229 GREECE — Mint and used collection from 1862-1967 on album pages. Approximately 890 stamps in generally F/VF condition. Highlights include mint #16b, 24, 25a, 85, 111a, 175, 568-573, 617, J27, used #23, 29, 32, 129b, 183, 538, C8-14, etc. 2017 Scott \$10,470. **NET \$2350**

235 HUNGARY — Mint & used collection from 1871-1989 mostly in mounts in a Minkus album. Duplicates not counted but included as a gift. Around 3190 stamps in generally F/VF condition. Highlights include mint #15, 16a, 82, 95a, 1N7, used #1, 1a, 2, 4, 4a, 467, etc. 2017 Scott \$4845. **NET \$1095**

236 HUNGARY — 98% mint collection from 1900-1975 in a Minkus album with around 1700 stamps in F/VF condition. Highlights: #528, B94, B97, B108, B109, C1, C2, C24, C25, C95, C95 imperf, etc. 2017 Scott \$2230. **NET \$550**

237 ICELAND — Around 500 mint and used stamps from 1876-1966 on Scott specialty and blank pages in generally F/VF condition. Highlights include mint #51, 68, 75, 86-91, 124, 195-8, 209-211, 217-228, 229-231, 274-7, 289-296, 305, C8, C9-11, C27-9 and used #12, 14, 27, 59, 86-91, etc. 2017 Scott \$4998. **NET \$1150**

238 ICELAND — Several hundred mint (85%) and used stamps from 1876-2013 in nearly all F-VF condition. Highlights

include mint #213-216, 232-5, 273, 274-7, 280-296, B5, C4-8, O31-8, etc. 2014 Scott \$4162. **NET \$795**

240 ICELAND — Mint and used collection from 1876-1971 on Scott specialty pages. About 95% mint. Approximately 395 stamps in F/VF condition. Highlights include mint #51, 74, 75, 76, 102, 122, 123, 138, 165, 181, 203-208, 217-228, 232-235, 273, 289-296, C2, C9-11, O45, etc. 2017 Scott \$4025. **NET \$995**

243 IRAN — A mint VF collection in 33 glassines from 1073-1345 and a couple of better BOB issues. Includes 1074-6 NH, 1103-4 NH, 1130-1 NH, B16 NH, B28-30 and C79-82 H. Some uncounted duplication. 2015 Scott \$732. **NET \$210**

246 ITALIAN STATES - ROMAN STATES — Eight mint and used stamps on a Minkus page in mixed condition with the usual poor to modest margins. Includes #1-6 mint or used. 2015 Scott \$1048. Due to condition: **NET \$140**

247 ITALIAN STATES - TUSCANY — A collection of seven used stamps on an ancient Scott specialty page in mixed but generally Fine condition. Assembled decades ago by a highly knowledgeable collector, includes used #4-8, 18-19, 2017 Scott \$1925. **NET \$375**

250 ITALY — Mint and used collection from 1862-1959 on album pages. Approximately 1000 stamps in generally FVF condition. Highlights include mint #20, 48, 60, 62, 81, 477, 488, Rhodes CB1-4; Offices Abroad General Issue 12-17; Used #22, 37-44, 64a, 122, 140-142, 364, 400-409, 489-492, 518, J2, O8; Rhodes 22, J1-J9, Q1-Q11, etc. 2017 Scott \$10,115. **NET \$1895**

251 ITALY — Scarce and valuable airmail singles and sets on dealer stock cards. Condition is VF. Comprises C34, C42-7, C62-5 and C73-8. 2015 Scott \$6082. **NET \$1595**

252 ITALY-AEGEAN ISLANDS — Very desirable 95% mint collection on Minkus pages of around 300 generally F/VF stamps 1813-1932. Covers general issues and 15 issuing entities including many highlights. Complete Castellorizo, Mint Lisso#10, Rhodes 15-23, Scarpa#9, Saseno #1, 7, 8, Simi #7; Garibaldi general issues #1, 2, 31-35, C28-31, used Rhodes Q1-Q11, Saseno#5, etc. Wow! 2017 Scott \$3816. **NET \$1595**

253 ITALY - AEGEAN ISLANDS GENERAL IS-SUE — Highly desirable mint (75%) and used (25%) collection of around 90 stamps from 1912-1940 in F-VF condition attractively displayed on stockpages with no duplication. Highlights include used #12-18 and mint #33, C15-19, C20-5, C26-7, C28-31, C32-8, CE1-2, CE3-4, etc. 2014 Scott \$2777. **NET \$895**

257 KOREA — Powerful almost all mint collection of 1770 stamps in mounts in a Scott specialty album from 1946-1998. NH highlights: #55-65, 106, 114-15, 116-17, 232-34, 265-67, 582-84, 617b-23b, etc. mint hinged: #78-9, 80-4, 85-6, 88-9, 96, 122-26, 203A-E, 235-39, etc. Huge amount of NH with hoard of complete sets, no souvenir sheets. Few duplicates are uncounted. Clean, valuable and generally VF. 2017 Scott \$5500. **NET \$1995**

258 KOREA — Highly desirable mint and used collection of around 1200 stamps from 1884-1985 in F-VF condition. Highlights include mint #286a, 417-426, 579a, C23-6, and used #20, 187, 203A-e, 227, etc. 2016 Scott \$4198. **NET \$995**

259 KOREA - SOUVENIR SHEETS — Highly desirable collection of over 400 mint and a few used souvenir sheets from 1959-1987 in a Minkus album in generally VF condition. The mint is 99.9% NH. MNH highlights: #293a, 296a, 298-301a, 355a, 663a, 728a, 797a, 802a, 844a. 2014 Scott \$3052. **NET \$895**

261 LAOS — Desirable all mint collection of around 430 stamps from 1951-1975 in generally F/VF condition. Has a couple of the souvenir sheets and the highlights #25, 26, C13, C20-21, etc. 2017 Scott \$855. **NET \$375**

263 LEBANON — Mint and used collection of 1725 stamps in generally F/VF condition on Scott pages from 1924-1989. Mint highlights #18-21, 45-8, 50-62, 90A, 220-24, B1-12, C1-4, C5-8, C21-24, C39-48, C82-7, C91-6, etc. C17-110, C153a, C437a, CB1-4, CB5-9, and used C145A-147B, etc. Duplicates and a few others are uncounted. 2017 Scott \$4150. **NET \$1295**

264 LIBYA — Mint collection from 1912-1985 in mounts on Minkus pages of around 550 stamps in F/VF condition. Mainly MNH from 1960 onwards. Highlights include mint #95-101 MNH, 217a, 461-463, B1-B3, C1-C2 MNH, C25 MNH, O1-O2, etc. 2016 Scott \$1805. **NET \$695**

265 LIBYA — Mint & used collection of 425 stamps on pre-printed album pages from 1912-1972. Mint highlights: #26, 295, B45, B48, C6, EY1, J21-2, Fezzan #2N12-23, Used: 52a, B17, E1, O1-8, etc. Several uncounted in cat value. Mostly F/VF 2017 Scott \$1350. **NET \$495**

266 LIECHTENSTEIN — Very desirable 99% mint collection of around 1250 F/VF stamps in a Minkus album from

1912-1999. Highlights include mint #1-3, 54-69, 82-89, 94-107, 114, 131, 247-258 NH, B7-10, C7-8, O1-8, etc. Includes much NH in the later material. Great collection! 2017 Scott \$6265. **NET \$1895**

268 LUXEMBOURG — Very nice over 90% complete mint and used collection on Scott specialty pages from 1852-1975 in mainly F/VF condition. Mostly used to 1895, then is 99% mint thereafter. Highlights include unused #9, O4, O10 and mint #10, 27, 43, 56, 75-93, 272-7, B65A-B65Q, O31, O41, O47, O64 signed!! O65-74, O80-98, and used #1-3, 6 pair, 8, 10, 12, 24 signed, 44, O7 signed, O9, O13, O16, O26, O29, O30, etc. Semis, airs and dues are complete mint! 2017 Scott \$14,754. **NET \$3195**

269 LUXEMBOURG — Mint & used collection from 1859-1984 on Scott quadrille pages in a binder. Approximately 1000 stamps in generally F/VF condition. Highlights include mint #4, 17, 29, B156-161, used #8, 10, 11, O75-79, etc. 2016 Scott \$2130. **NET \$425**

270 MADAGASCAR — Mint & used collection from 1891-1975 on Scott specialty pages. Around 275 stamps in generally F/VF condition. Highlights include unused #6 signed, used #15, 19, 22, etc. 2017 Scott \$960. **NET \$295**

271 MALI — Collection of around 340 99% mint on Minkus pages from 1959 to late 1970s in generally VF condition. 2017 Scott \$550. **NET \$225**

274 MEXICO — Used collection of 840 stamps in Scott album from 1856-1965. Highlights include #93-98, 687 and other scarce used. Some mixed condition. Many F/VF. 2017 Scott \$2700. **NET \$550**

275 MEXICO — Mint & used collection from 1856 to early 1980s in a Scott album in generally F/VF condition with around 1800 stamps. Highlights include mint #687, 824, 951, B2, C1, C27 and used #9, 81, 82, 284, etc. 2017 Scott \$6010. **NET \$1195**

276 MANCHUKUO — Highly desirable mint collection from 1932-1945 on Minkus pages. Around 145 stamps in F/VF condition. Highlights include mint #1-18, 19-22, 31, 32-35, 51, 59, 75-78, 83-100, etc. 2017 Scott \$1185. **NET \$795**

277 MARSHALL ISLANDS — Virtually complete MNH collection from 1984-1995 in mounts in a Scott specialty album. Around 540 stamps in VF condition. Highlights include mint #107-109, 168-184, 239-337, 441-466B, etc. 2017 Scott \$950. **NET \$325**

280 MONACO — Mint and used collection from 1885-1974 on Scott quadrille pages. Approximately 795 stamps in mixed condition. Highlights include mint #3, 328-332, B5, B9, B11, B17, B51-60, B61-75, C1, used #20, etc. 2015 Scott \$1970. **NET \$375**

285 NETHERLANDS — Over 95% used collection from 1864-1998 in a Scott specialty album in generally F-VF condition. Highlights include used #278-281, B1-3, B4-5, B25-32, B54-7, B214-218, C13-14, etc. 2015 Scott \$2490. **NET \$450**

286 NETHERLANDS ANTILLES — Davo album with around 460 all mint NH in mounts from 1991-2003 in VF condition. 2017 Scott \$990. **NET \$450**

287 NETHERLANDS INDIES — Mint & used collection from 1870-1949 on Scott specialty pages. Around 380 stamps in generally F/VF condition. Highlights include mint #56, used #21, etc. 2017 Scott \$520. **NET \$160**

288 NETHERLANDS INDIES — Scott pages with around 420 stamps including Occupation issues from 1869-1949 and 90% used with spots of mint in semis and dues, includes used #1, 2, 98, etc. 2015 Scott \$927. **NET \$225**

292 NORWAY — Minkus pages with around 1300 generally F/VF stamps from 1856-1999. The collection is 99% mint from 1949 onward and includes much NH. Lots of highlights including mint #340-346, 370-374, B1-3, used 2, 3, 28, 47a, 246, B24, etc. 2017 Scott \$3860. **NET \$850**

293 NORWAY — Collection of around 1050 stamps on Scott specialty pages from 1856-1995 in generally F/VF condition. Appears to be over 75% used and includes mint highlights #246, 340-342, B24 and used #2, 3, 13, 20, B2, etc. 2016 Scott \$3640. **NET \$750**

294 NORWAY — Mint and used collection of around 660 stamps from 1856-1977 on Scott specialty pages in generally F-VF condition. Highlights include mint #44, 111-114, 340-342, 350, 370-374, 416-430, B5-B8, B24, used #23, 26, 28, 45, 47a, 56a, 227, B54-B56, etc. 2015 Scott \$2097. **NET \$375**

295 PAKISTAN — Mint 95% complete collection from 1947-2012 in mounts in a Scott specialty album in F/VF condition. Includes much NH in the later material. Highlights include

#1-19, 24-43 NH, 47-54, O1-13, O35-43A, O92-93A, Bahawalpur #2-15, etc. 2017 Scott \$1903. **NET \$850**

296 PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY – Around 120 mint stamps from 1994 to 1999 on Scott pages in VF condition. The collection is around 85% complete. 2016 Scott \$194. **NET \$75**
298 POLAND – Mint and used collection from 1860-1969 in a three volume Kobylka album set. Duplicates not counted, included as gift. Approximately 2505 stamps in F/VF condition. Highlights include mint #59, 251, 341-343, B15-25, C26d, C34i, N30 N35; used #1, 81-92, 214, 412a, B11-14, B29, B31, etc. 2017 Scott \$6655. **NET \$1550**

301 REUNION – Very desirable collection of around 490 stamps on Scott specialty pages from 1885-1974 in generally F/VF condition. Appears to us 90% mint to 1930 and 100% mint thereafter. Includes used #5, mint #10 and 52. Semis and airs are superb with mint #B1, C1, C39-41. Splendid collection. 2017 Scott \$2945. **NET \$995**

302 ROMANIA – Mint & used collection of over 3800 stamps on Minkus pages in thick global binder from 1862-1985. Mint highlights: #398, 414, 417-19, B44-49, B292-303, B314-17, etc. Used: #53-9, 60-65, 68-72, 148-57, etc. Condition is generally F/VF. 2017 Scott \$5600. **NET \$1195**

303 ROMANIA – High quality mint collection from 1867-1992 in mounts in 2 Minkus albums with around 3500 stamps in F/VF condition. About 95% NH from 1951 onwards. Highlights include mint #14, 19-21, 22, 23, 52, 87, 204, 230-9, 396-9, B1-4, B5-8, B9-12, B40, B314-7, etc. 2017 Scott \$5640. **NET \$1695**

304 ROMANIA – Desirable wide ranging collection in 2 Lighthouse stockbooks of over 3000 F/VF from 1862-1975. Appears 60% mint with used sets and singles. Semis and airs are 95% mint. Highlights all over including mint #417-419 NH, 1082-1093, B292-303 (both paper types), B314-317, B40, B148, C10-12, C57, C186. Most of the souvenir sheets are present in multiple copies included as a gift. Nice collection 2017 Scott \$7040. **NET \$1695**

305 ROMANIA – Mint & used collection from 1858-1991 in mounts in a Minkus album. Around 2600 stamps in generally F/VF condition. Highlights include mint #11a, 12, 36, 59, 87, B1-4, used #6, 31a, 31b, 64, 171, etc. 2017 Scott \$5470. **NET \$1295**

306 RUSSIA – Mint & used collection from 1858-1973 on mixed Scott pages in a global binder. Around 3240 stamps in generally F/VF condition. Highlights include mint #5, 17 unused, 289, 712, 1449-1457, used #7, 9, 25a, 68f, C53-57, etc. 2017 Scott \$11,060. **NET \$2495**

307 RUSSIA AND AREAS – Large holding of over 3500 stamps on homemade pages from 1865-1966. 95% used in generally F/VF condition. We saw used 28a, mint 67, 80a, as well as interesting Batum, etc. Needs remounting to really shine. 2017 Scott \$3275. **NET \$750**

309 SAAR – Desirable collection all mint (we did not count or value the used and it is included as a gift) collection in mounts on Lindner pages from 1920-1957 in generally F/VF condition of about 400 stamps. Includes mint #16, 39, B23-B29, B30-36, C12, etc. 2017 Scott \$2370. **NET \$995**

310 ST. PIERRE & MIQUELON – Around 150 mint and used in a counter-sized stockbook from 1885-1963 in generally F/VF condition. Includes mint #3, 6, 160-164, 171 NH, etc. and some handsome cancels. Expensive mint and used duplication uncounted and included as a gift. 2017 Scott \$1180. **NET \$350**

311 SAN MARINO – All mint collection of around 725 F/VF from 1877-1971 in a Minkus album. Overall a bit sparse in the earlies, then well filled and in mounts after 1938. Includes #90-82, 172, etc. 2017 Scott \$895. **NET \$250**

312 SAN MARINO – Excellent quality mint and used classical collection from 1877-1926 on pages in which the highly knowledgeable collector noted in pencil the catalog number next to each stamp. Only 60 stamps, but many scarce. Highlights include mint #1-6, used #7a, 10, 13, 15, 17, 23, mint #24, J30. 2013 Scott \$1955. **NET \$550**

313 SAN MARINO – Powerful collection on Minkus pages of around 880 stamps from 1877-1967 in generally F/VF condition and running about 75% mint. Mint highlights include #139-142, 169-180, 291, 292, 293, 411, C70, C77, C81, J8, J17, J51, J58 NH!, Q34. Used highlights 10, 15, etc. 2015 Scott \$4998. **NET \$1050**

314 SAUDI ARABIA: HEJAZ – Impressive 98% mint collection in mounts on specialized pages from 1916-1925 in F/VF condition. Loads of highlights such as L14-19, L17e, L22-3, L27a, L41b, L51-3, L53a, L52b, L54a, L63-4, L71, L77, L114, L127, L130, L135-141, L142-8, L146a, L156-9, LJ17, LJ22-5, LJ22a-LJ25a, etc. 2017 Scott \$9745. **NET \$2695**

315 SAUDI ARABIA: NEJD, ADMINISTRATION OF HEJAZ – Very nice mint collection in mounts on specialized pages from 1925 with around 80 stamps in F/

VF condition. Highlights include #22-5, 26-9, 30-4, 33 signed, 36a, 37-8, 49-54, 64-8, etc. 2017 Scott \$4336. **NET \$1195**

316 SOVIET REPUBLICS – Mint & used from 1918-1932 on messy Scott specialty pages. About 95% mint. Around 200 stamps in generally F/VF condition. Highlights include Far East Republic mint #27, Mongolia 74, North Ingermanland 8-14, Ukraine 6, Batum used #1, etc. 2017 Scott \$615. **NET \$225**

317 SPAIN – Desirable collection of around 1300 F/VF in a Lighthouse stockbook from 1856-1972. Appears 2/3 mint to about 1955, than all mint, most NH thereafter. Nice highlights including mint #356, 671, 705 NH, 693a-704a NH, B18, B22, C58-61, C92-967 NH, C97! NH, etc. In better condition than normally seen. 2017 Scott \$2795. **NET \$795**

318 SPANISH ANDORRA – Highly desirable and highly complete mint collection of over 400 stamps from 1928-2013 in mounts in a Minkus album in F/VF condition. Highlights include #13-24, 13a-22a, 37-49 NH, 62 NH, etc. NH from 1963-2013. Nearly impossible to find! 2017 Scott \$2474. **NET \$1595**

319 SURINAM – Desirable mint & used collection of around 135 F/VF stamps on Minkus pages from 1873-1948. Includes mint #9, 12, 15 and NH C8-14. Collector selected much of the used with nicely struck cancels. 2017 Scott \$750. **NET \$295**

321 SURINAM – Collection on plain pages with around 175 90% used stamps from 1873-1948 in generally F/VF condition. Collector wrote Scott number and value by each stamp. We noticed mint #12, early semis, etc. 2017 Scott \$439. **NET \$100**

322 SWEDEN – Perhaps 600 mainly used stamps with a hint of mint on Scott specialty pages from 1855-1962 in generally F/VF condition. Highlights include #10, 11, 12, 18, 20, 21, 24, 27, 34, 37, 41, 44, 66, 70, 138, 194-6, 209, 216, 217, 220, 221, 224, 225, 248-262, C1-3, J4, J6 and mint B1-10, etc. 2016 Scott \$3098. **NET \$750**

324 SWEDEN – High quality collection of around 1250 generally F/VF condition stamps in Minkus album from 1858-1989. Appears 95% used to 1930 and 99% mint after 1966. We saw many mint NH better sets in 1930s and the collector selected many of the early used for their attractive cancels. Lots of highlights include mint #210 and several full booklets. Used #10, 11, 12, 27, 131, J11, O2, O11, etc. 2017 Scott \$3890. **NET \$895**

326 SWITZERLAND – Mint and used collection from 1862-1985 on Scott quadrille pages in a binder. Approximately 970 stamps in generally F/VF condition. Highlights include mint #50, used #47, 48, 52-59, 67, 70a, 84, 87b, 108a, 111a, 125, C15, J27a, etc. 2015 Scott \$5141. **NET \$895**

329 SWITZERLAND YEARBOOKS – A complete run of postal service issued MNH yearbooks from 1992-2010 in PO fresh condition. **NET \$795**

330 SYRIA – Highly desirable mint collection of many hundreds of stamps in mounts in a Minkus album in F/VF condition. Includes much NH in the later material. Highlights include #133-6, 166-9, 232-250, C10-13, C57-66, etc. 2017 Scott \$2492. **NET \$995**

331 SYRIA – Mint collection from 1919-1940 in mounts on Scott pages. Around 255 stamps in generally F/VF condition. Highlights include #230, 253-264, B1-12, C22-25, C67-71, etc. 2017 Scott \$615. **NET \$250**

332 THAILAND – Interesting collection of around 180 99% used on Minkus pages from 1883-1957. Condition is generally F/VF, but a bit mixed in the earlies. Includes used #3, 254, 7 of 8 of unissued 1925 fair overprint sets; and a page of blocks of four of turn of the century definitives. Great collection to remount. 2017 Scott \$610. **NET \$295**

336 TRIESTE ZONE A – Highly desirable mint collection of around 200 stamps from 1947-1954 in mounts on Minkus pages in F/VF condition. Highlights include #1-14, 15-17, E1-4, etc. 2015 Scott \$1451. **NET \$550**

337 TRIESTE ZONE A – Highly desirable MNH collection from 1947-1954 on Lindner hingeless leaves. Around 260 stamps in F/VF condition. Highlights include #1-17, 15-17, 18-29, 58-69, C1-6, C13-16, C20-26, J7-15, etc. 2017 Scott \$3630. **NET \$1895**

338 TRIESTE ZONES A & B – High quality collection in a Lighthouse stockbook. Zone A looks complete including mint #17, Q1-26 NH, J1-15 NH, E1-4 NH, airs, it's all there. Zone B is 98% complete missing only a handful of low values. The good stuff 1-3 NH strip, C17a NH, C21 NH, RAJ1, RAJ3, are all here. Some mint/used duplication is salted throughout and is uncounted and included as a gift. 472 stamps total. 2017 Scott \$7421. **NET \$2795**

339 TURKEY – Mint & used collection of 1800 stamps on album pages from 1863-1971 in generally F/VF condition. Large number of duplicates, mint Ubangi, unlisted items and others are a gift and not included in value. Mint highlights #138, 171,

179, 180, 284, 595, 1290-1423, J68-9, RA189-98, etc. Used J4, etc. 2017 Scott \$2700. **NET \$595**

340 TURKISH EMPIRE – Mint and used collection from 1865-1935 on album pages with around 335 stamps in generally F/VF condition. Highlights include mint #20, 28, 66, 97, 314b, 550, 647; used #38-44, 495, B24, B25, etc. 2016 Scott \$2,785. **NET \$595**

341 UNITED ARAB EMIRATES – Mint & used collection from 1973-1991 on album pages. Mostly used, with around 123 stamps in F/VF condition. Highlights include used #91-104, 313, etc. 2016 Scott \$545. **NET \$185**

345A UNITED STATES DUCK COLLECTION – 27 MNH F/VF stamps on dealer stock cards. Includes RW6, 8, 10, 12-19, 22-8, 30-8. 2017 Scott \$2575. **NET \$895**

345C UNITED STATES FEDERAL DUCKS – MNH collection from 1934-1981 that is complete except for RW40. Everything else is here! Post office fresh! 2017 Scott: \$5971. **NET \$2500**

345D UNITED STATES "FOREVER" POSTAGE – MNH full sheet and booklet accumulation that we can sell to you at less than what you would pay at the post office. We can sell you \$1000 face value lots for only 90% of face. We have several lots available!

347 UNITED STATES STATE DUCK STAMPS – Valuable NH mint collection from 1972-2002 in a Scott specialty album. Around 475 stamps in generally F/VF condition. Highlights include Arkansas #2, Florida 5, Illinois 1, 4, 5, 6, Iowa 3, 4, 8, North Dakota 32, South Carolina 3, Texas 3, Utah 12, etc. 2017 Scott \$8655. **NET \$2995**

348 UNITED STATES STATE DUCKS – MNH collection of over 450 stamps from the mid to late 1970s-early 1990s in a Scott specialty album in generally F/VF condition. Highlights include Arkansas #1-4, Delaware #1-4, Florida #1, Illinois #8, New Hampshire #2, 3, New Jersey #1, 2, North Carolina #1, South Carolina #1, 4, 5, etc. 2016 Scott \$7719. **NET \$1895**

350 URUGUAY – Mint and used collection from 1856-1981 in a Minkus album. Stamps are mostly in mounts. Condition on the earlies is a touch mixed, then F/VF thereafter. Highlights include mint #1, 2 unused, 3 unused, 17 unused, and used #1A, 3, 9, 9a, 12, etc. 2017 Scott \$5710. **NET \$1250**

351 VATICAN #35-40 – The very scarce Provincial set. Mint sound, OG lightly hinged. Each stamp signed Dienna and guaranteed OK. 2015 Scott \$1565. **NET \$995**

352 VATICAN CITY AIRMAILS – Small MNH group of airmails consisting of C9-15, C18-19, C20-1, C22-3 and C24-32. Condition is almost all F/VF. 2016 Scott \$770. **NET \$350**

353 VENEZUELA – Mint and used collection from 1879-1976 in a Scott specialty album. Duplicates not counted, included as a gift. Around 1785 stamps in generally F/VF condition. Highlights include mint #140, 350-6, 388, 527-35, 534-40, C293-301, C401-9, C410-18, C419-27, C428-36, used #72, etc. 2017 Scott \$3675. **NET \$875**

354 VENEZUELA – Mint (looks like 70%) and used collection of 550 stamps on Scott specialty pages from 1859-1970 in generally F/VF condition. Mint highlights include #388, 397-400, C47-63, C143-62, C164-180, C256-71, C293-301, C952-3 souvenir sheets, etc. Duplicates and a few others are a gift not included in catalog value. 2017 Scott \$1625. **NET \$395**

355 VENEZUELA AIRMAILS – High quality MNH collection of over 210 airmails from 1950-1960 in glassines in generally VF condition with no duplication. Highlights include C338-46, C383-91, C446-54, C455-63, C464-72, C473-81, C482-90, C491-9, etc. 2016 Scott \$882. **NET \$475**

356 VIETNAM – A 98% complete all mint collection of around 540 F/VF stamps on Scott pages from 1951-1975. Includes 1-13, 30-35, 402-405, 420a, 424a, etc. 2017 Scott \$1355. **NET \$575**

357 WALLIS & FUTUNA ISLANDS – Strong mint collection of 900 stamps on Scott pages from 1920-1993 with only one used stamp counted. Highlights include #1-28, 33-42, 43-84, 179-81, B1-5, C41, C42-5, J24-36, etc. Duplicates are a gift and not included in the cat value. Condition is generally F/VF. 2017 Scott \$3387. **NET \$1195**

359 YUGOSLAVIA – Mint (about 85%) & used collection from 1918-1973 in a Scott specialty album. Around 1600 stamps in F/VF condition. Highlights include mint #26, 378-384a, 393, 398-409, 435-446, 461-468, C55, N55-70. Slovenia 3L26a, etc. 2017 Scott \$3360. **NET \$795**

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INSIDE THE NATIONAL POSTAL MUSEUM

BY ELLIOT GRUBER, DIRECTOR

Prepping for a Milestone

New Director Will Help Museum Celebrate 25th Anniversary in 2018

Walking through the William H. Gross Stamp Gallery at the National Postal Museum I was awed by the vast scope of stamps on display. But what I especially took note of were the young children filling all of the seats around the stamp collecting table where they were carefully choosing half a dozen stamps to take home with them from the thousands scattered across the table. They weren't looking at the Inverted Jenny or other rare gems in our collection, but rather, they were playing with stamps, much the way we did when we were kids.

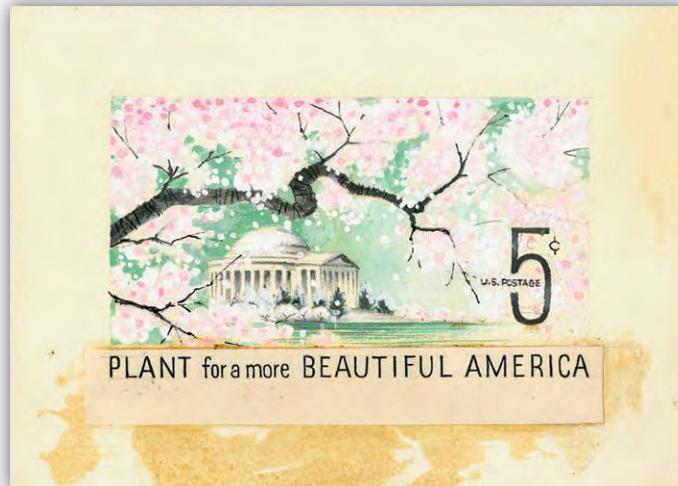
The National Postal Museum hosts nearly half a million visitors each year, the majority of them are families. In fact, staff members have told me more than once that people consider us the family-friendly Smithsonian.



Children enjoy both playing with stamps and creating them at the William H. Gross Gallery stamp table.

Next year, the museum will celebrate its 25th anniversary. As we reflect on our accomplishments over the past two-plus decades, it also provides us with a unique lens through which to consider the opportunities ahead. I believe it is also a time to challenge each other to become even more creative in expanding our reach – inside and outside of – the philatelic community; to form new partnerships – locally, nationally and internationally; and to strengthen our relationships with schools, Boy and Girl Scouts and other youth organizations so that we can grow the next generation of collectors. Our partnership with the American Philatelic Society, its executive director, Scott English, and the entire APS board, will be critical to our collective success.

As the new director of the National Postal Museum, I am also looking forward to building a close working relationship with each of you. And, as we continue to make plans for our



Approved artwork for the Plant for a More Beautiful America stamp as illustrated by Gyo Fujikawa. As a result of Lady Bird Johnson's continued advocacy of the beautification and conservation campaign, the Johnson Administration, through the U.S. Post Office Department, issued stamps supporting her efforts. Lady Bird played a role in selecting the final design, which was based on this work. The stamp was issued on October 5, 1966.

25th anniversary, I welcome your ideas and input in helping all of us at the museum build upon the success and hard work of Allen Kane and everyone else who has brought us so far.

Have an idea, suggestion? Please send us an email to NPM@si.edu and I will be sure that we respond.

And, please visit us soon. These are exciting times at the National Postal Museum. We have just recently opened "Beautiful Blooms," which you can view now until July 14, detailing developmental and final artwork from the Postmaster General's Collection. And mark your calendar for May 4 when we will open "Letters with Wings," a celebration of the centennial of America's airmail service.

I look forward to seeing you at one of the upcoming shows or at the National Postal Museum.



Elliot Gruber became director of the National Postal Museum in September.

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FATHER FLANAGAN'S BOYS TOWN TURNS 100

A Philatelic Reflection Includes Cancellations,
Charity Seals, Mass Mailings, and a Stamp

BY RONALD BLANKS



telic connections to this charitable family welfare institution includes the one direct United States postal tribute, a stamp first issued in 1986 on the centennial of the birth of its founder. And, thanks to decades of Boys Town fundraising efforts, two more avenues of related philatelic interests can be pursued.

The Reverend Edward J. Flanagan, popularly known as Father Flanagan, was born July 13, 1886 in Ireland and became a Roman Catholic priest. He moved to the United States in 1904 and was assigned his first parish in O'Neill, Nebraska, followed by his second parish in Omaha. There he opened the Workingman's Hotel in 1916, to support homeless and unemployed young men while they sought work.

Flanagan soon focused on the plight of younger boys, homeless and often wards of the court. On December 12, 1917, with the support of his archbishop who assigned nuns to assist, and a \$90 loan from a friend, Flanagan founded his first boys' home – which he called a "City of Little Men" – in an old Victorian mansion and boarding house on Dodge Street. The burgeoning number of boys needing help and education over time initially led to turning many away. Today, a small piece of limestone from the foundation is the only remnant of that first home, according to the

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the founding of Father Edward Flanagan's Boys Town in a suburb of Omaha, Nebraska. Our modest review of philatelic

Boys Town official history.

Eventually, with support from like-minded patrons, Flanagan located the boys' home and school at Overlook Farm, a farm just west of Omaha that he purchased in 1921. The land holdings later grew to 1,000 acres, with the working farm on more than 600 acres, and was renamed Boys Town. In 1934, Boys Town gained a post office and fire department, and in 1936 it was incorporated as a village. By 1950, two years after Flanagan's death in 1948, more than 900 boys lived there.

By the early 1970s, the institution's endowment and annual budget came under criticism. At least one reviewer attributed Boys Town's fundraising success to its "ingenious" direct mail campaigns. But a few complained that Boys Town's financial support was outsized in relation to its operational needs. With reforms and the changing nature of social welfare, the institution adapted its mission to youth welfare of girls and boys. Today, its mission includes family services and it continues much of its fundraising by mail.

Spreading Reminders via Charity Seals

The average resident with a U.S. mailing address – collector or non-collector – before 1936 would likely not encounter any mailing or philatelic connection to Flanagan's mission. Early direct solicitations for support would be limited to Catholic Church channels and greater Omaha-area civic circles. Then, in 1936, the institution distributed its first charity seal [Figure 1] to prospective donors.

Starting in 1949, Boys Town's mass mailings included winter- or Christmas-themed charity seals to help raise money. In 1951, the institution began inserting a second occasional series of larger seals in springtime mailings. The recipients, who in turn used the labels on greeting cards,



Figure 1. The first Boys Town charity seal from 1936. (Image courtesy of Boys Town Hall of History & Archive.)



Figure 2. A sampling of Boys Town charity seals, from years 1950, 1958 (top), and 1967 (bottom), along with a seal used on a 1971 cover (middle). (Image of cover courtesy of Boys Town Hall of History & Archive.)

spread a reminder of Boys Town to those beyond its mailing list. The mission earlier had received broad national awareness due to the 1938 theatrical release of the award-winning movie *Boys Town*, which included filming at the village and starred Spencer Tracy in the Academy Award-winning lead role and Mickey Rooney as one of the boys.

The seals joined the use of Christmas Seals (since 1907 in the U.S.) and other charity seals on mail. Boys Town sent out Christmas seals as recently as 2009, perhaps later. A seasonal appeal in a large envelope mailed out this fall had unlabeled stickers, but no traditional seals. The presence of Boys Town seals on covers expands the choices that cover collectors can seek as desirable examples of postal history.

Fundraising and Philately

Father Flanagan conducted some direct mail campaigns in the 1920s, according to Thomas

Lynch, community programs director at Boys Town. "The large mass mailing campaigns started in 1936 with the Homeless Boy heart-shaped seal," Lynch said. "In 1943, Father Flanagan adopted the Two Brothers image for the brand of Boys Town, and shifted his fundraising emphasis to the direct mail campaigns."

Minus a concerted effort to collect this material, it is interesting to see an occasional outer envelope or courtesy-reply envelope from Boys Town turn up in auction remainder lots and estate caches of covers. This is due to Boys Town's extensive use of stamps and a clever ad-copy technique between the 1950s and 1980s.

The earliest cover at hand [Figure 3] is postmarked June 24, 1944 and franked with a 3-cent Win the War stamp of 1942 (Scott 905). The penciled correction of Denver for "Wheatridge" adds interest as a possible mailing list mistake, and in fact a Wheat Ridge handstamp on reverse adds intrigue. (Since the street address is evidently correct and Wheat Ridge was still an operating post office in 1944, the service history is beyond this article's scope. We did take a stab: The "Look Up a ZIP Code" function on the USPS website, entering the street address and "Denver," corrected the post office spelling to "Wheat Ridge.")

The next-oldest cover in my holdings is franked with the 3-cent California Gold Centennial stamp of 1948 (Scott 954), and dated July 2, 1948 [Figure 4]. This cover, with its postmark two days shy of the Fourth of July holiday (and possibly the 1944 cover above, dated eight days shy) might not have been part of a bulk appeal mailing. Rather, it could have carried a donation receipt.

The third-oldest cover [Figure 5] has a 3-cent Will Rogers stamp of 1948 (Scott 975), dated December 10, 1949. Interestingly, it lacks any return address on front. Given its date and the shape of the envelope, it appears to be a holiday card mailing. The back flap shows the letter is from "Father Flanagan's Boys' Home" with a printed address of "Boystown" written as one word. Without contents, I speculate that this

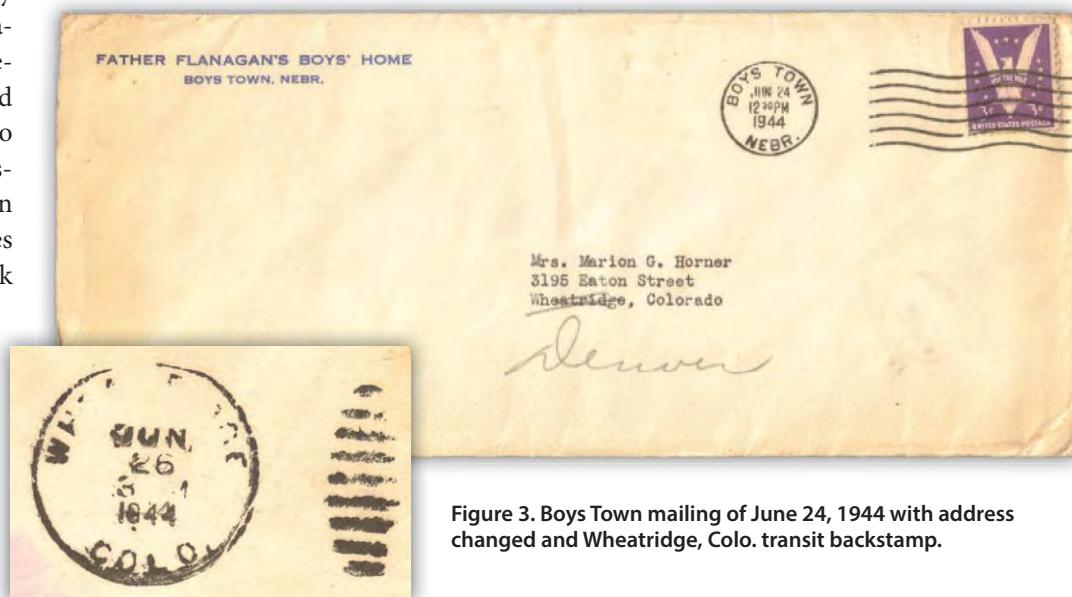


Figure 3. Boys Town mailing of June 24, 1944 with address changed and Wheatridge, Colo. transit backstamp.

was from a Christmas-time fundraising appeal. If so, it included some of the 1949 winter-themed seals, the first in an annual series of new designs following 1936's heart-shaped labels. This start of the annual issuance of new seals was not likely coincidence, as Flanagan's death on May 15, 1948 affected Boys Town's management.

Historian Lawrence Harold Larsen noted, "Under his leadership Boys Town ... struggled along for many years, narrowly overcoming recurrent financial adversities. An excellent publicist, Flanagan had little financial talent, although he tended to think in grandiose terms. Before his sudden death in 1948, while on a mission to Europe to study youth problems for the White House, he believed his dream of a 'city of little men' approached realization."

It wasn't long after Flanagan's death that a proposal was made for a stamp honoring the priest. According to Fred Boughner, writing in *Linn's Stamp Yearbook* 1986, Senator Kenneth S. Wherry (1892-1951), a Republican floor leader from Nebraska, suggested the "Boys Town founder as a 'most suitable subject for a stamp.' Wherry made no bones about the fact that Flanagan was, in his opinion, far more deserving of a stamp than most subjects [of the 28] that appeared on 1948 postage stamps. Postmaster General Jesse Donaldson took no firm action, however, except to place the priest on a 'suggested' postal list."

Besides inserting seals, Boys Town added another technique at times in fundraising mailings to encourage donations. Some courtesy reply envelopes were prestamped with a first-class stamp [Figure 6], so the prospective donor would have less cause to procrastinate in responding. Given my meager finds of this use (the two pictured) dating only to the mid-1950s, some questions arise. Did Boys Town add stamps to reply envelopes only in the 1950s, or how much earlier before, or how often later? When using pre-stamped reply envelopes, were they used for much of the mailing list, or only for a selection? I would love to hear from readers about this.

The two covers here show that an ordinary typewriter was used to type the addresses on the back, designed to show through a mailing envelope's window. Impact marks of some of the keys are seen through both sides of the reply envelope paper. This might indicate these accompanied hand-prepared donation receipts, or hand-prepared appeal mailings for a manageable portion of the mailing list.



Figure 4. Boys Town mailing dated July 2, 1948.

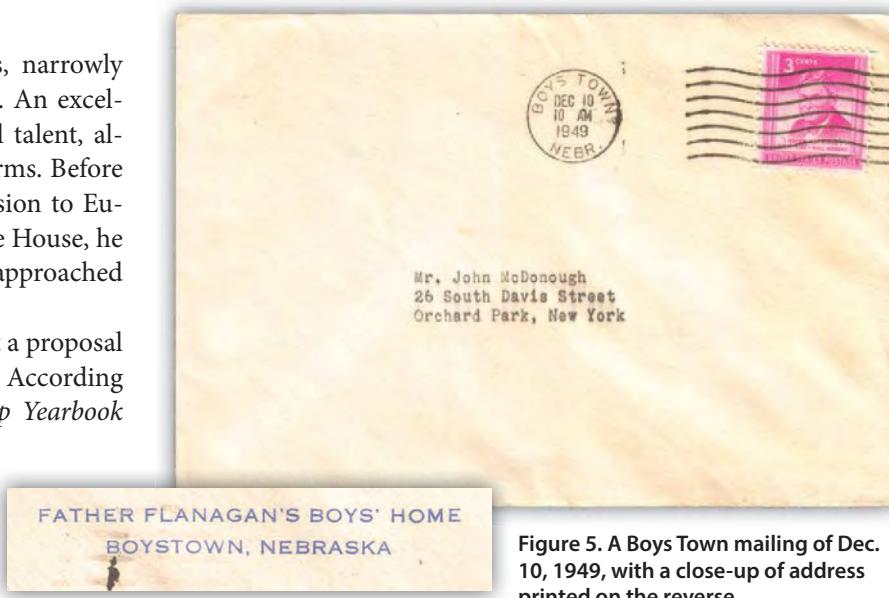


Figure 5. A Boys Town mailing of Dec. 10, 1949, with a close-up of address printed on the reverse.

The earlier two 1940s outer envelopes appear ordinary, even personal as intended to encourage opening. But a novel twist to later ones would set them firmly as a fixture in dealer "dollar" boxes of U.S. covers for sale. By 1958, Boys Town used envelopes with a distinct line of copy at the bottom: "Note: This commemorative stamp is a collector's item. No longer on sale in most post offices" [Figure 7].

Non-collectors could only guess at a value that the claim implied. So the clever message as a result instigated more envelopes relatively to be saved than perhaps any other non-profit mailer's envelopes. Undoubtedly, the increased retention rate of these Boys Town envelopes led directly to a higher rate of attention to the contents. This in turn led to a higher response rate which, however slight above average, was sufficient to be deemed successful and worth the effort.

If you've seen more than one example of these "collector's item" covers, you might have thought as I that they are all the same (besides the stamps affixed). Yet even with this technique I found a couple of variations of note. Some readers might have even more varied ones to share.

At least one window version was used [Figure 8a], with the address appearing from an insert. This example is post-

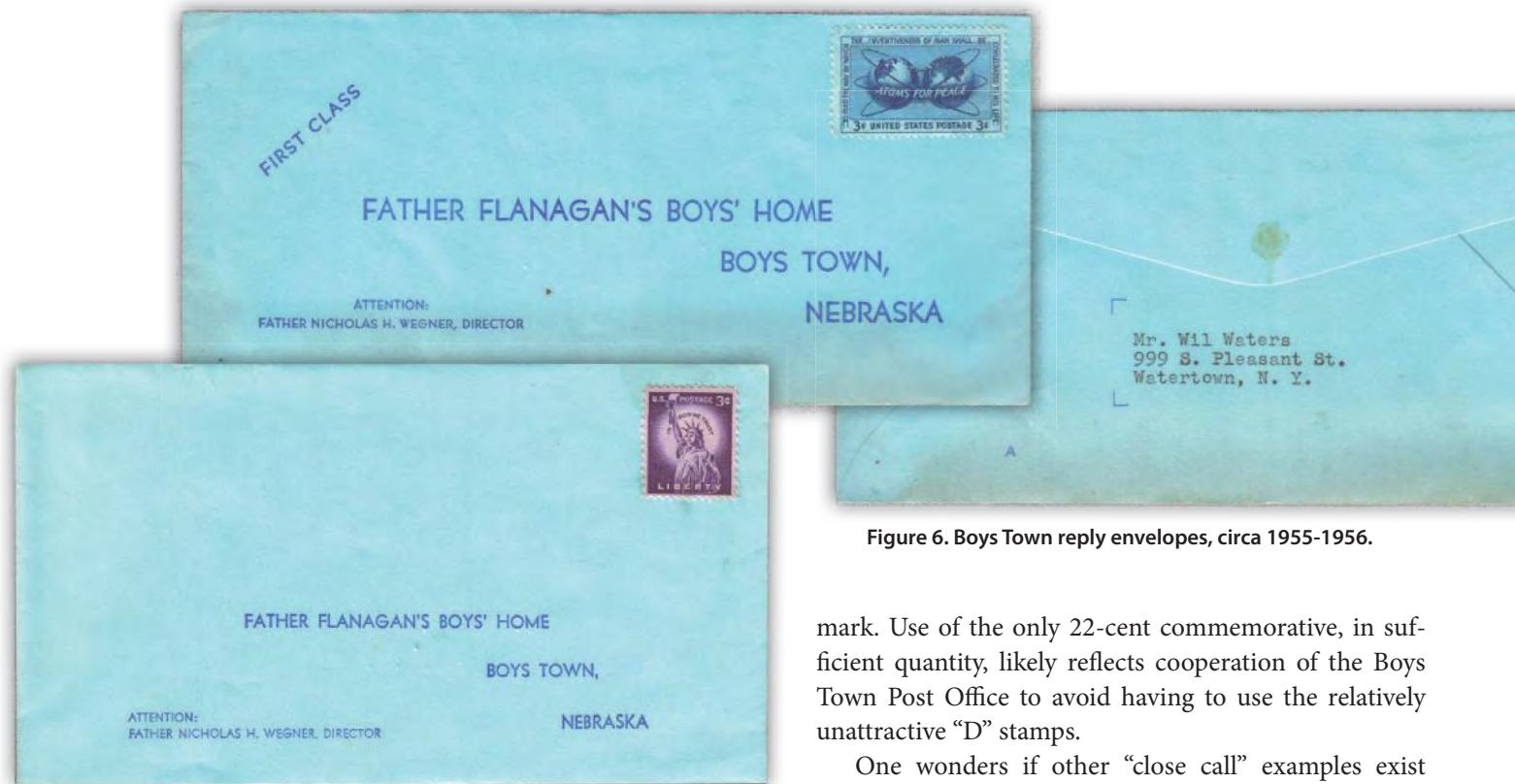


Figure 6. Boys Town reply envelopes, circa 1955-1956.

marked May 8, 1961, likely from the annual spring campaign.

As for another case, the ad copy is dedicated exclusively to the stamp affixed, and it is not a commemorative [Figure 8b, 8c]. This May 6, 1963 dated cover has the 5-cent Flag over White House stamp (Scott 1208), issued January 9, 1963. The ad copy uses "regular stamp" instead of "commemorative," and notes the stamp does not have the words "United States" nor "Postage." The hobby claim here is softened to, "It may become a collector's item."

The latest-postmark "collector's item" cover I have is dated March 1, 1985 [Figure 9]. The ad copy now omits the "no longer on sale" phrase, which is just as well given the 22-cents Jerome Kern commemorative (Scott 2110) issued January 23, 1985. That first day is just 36 days prior to mailing and the only 22-cent stamp available besides the contingency suite of "D" Domestic Mail regular stamps on sale nationwide February 2.

The first-class domestic letter rate rose from 20 to 22 cents on February 17, only 11 days before the post-

mark. Use of the only 22-cent commemorative, in sufficient quantity, likely reflects cooperation of the Boys Town Post Office to avoid having to use the relatively unattractive "D" stamps.

One wonders if other "close call" examples exist among surviving Boys Town covers. The 36-day lag is the quickest time for Boys Town to use a new commemorative that I know of, but it is not the quickest among the two dozen or so stamps in my "collector's item" covers cache. That honor, of 25 days, goes to a 1970s traditional holiday special stamp. It would be interesting to learn if a reader knows of a stamp's quicker use.

This sampling of Boys Town covers provide glimpses of the greater history of post-World War II U.S. postal operations. Seen among the other covers I have are changes in the two-letter abbreviation for Nebraska, the introduction of ZIP codes in addresses and postmarks and, of course, changes in first-class letter rates. Noticeable gaps in these glimpses offer questions that in the course of researching can lead a student to an exhibit-worthy compilation.



Figure 7. A clever notation across the bottom of this November 10, 1958 envelope might have led to more attention paid to the solicitation inside and likely to more of such covers being saved

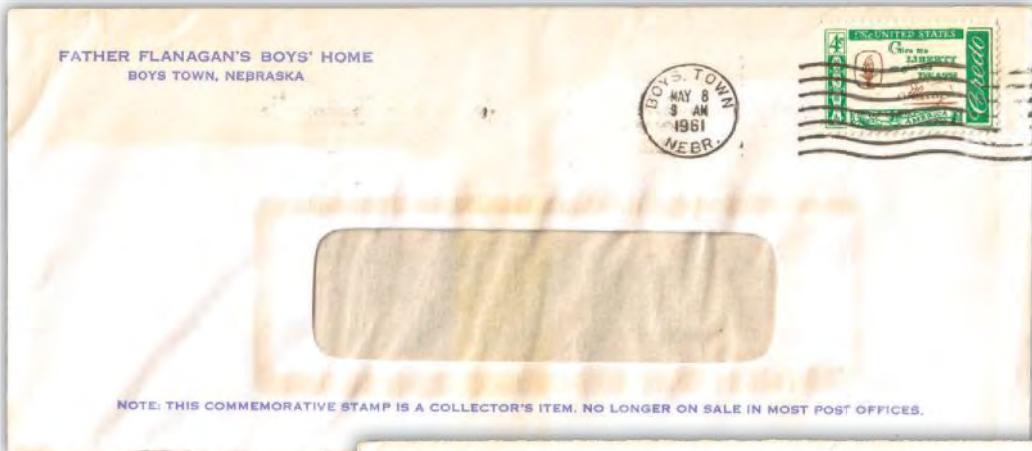


Figure 8a. A window version of "collector's item" Boys Town mailing, May 8, 1961.

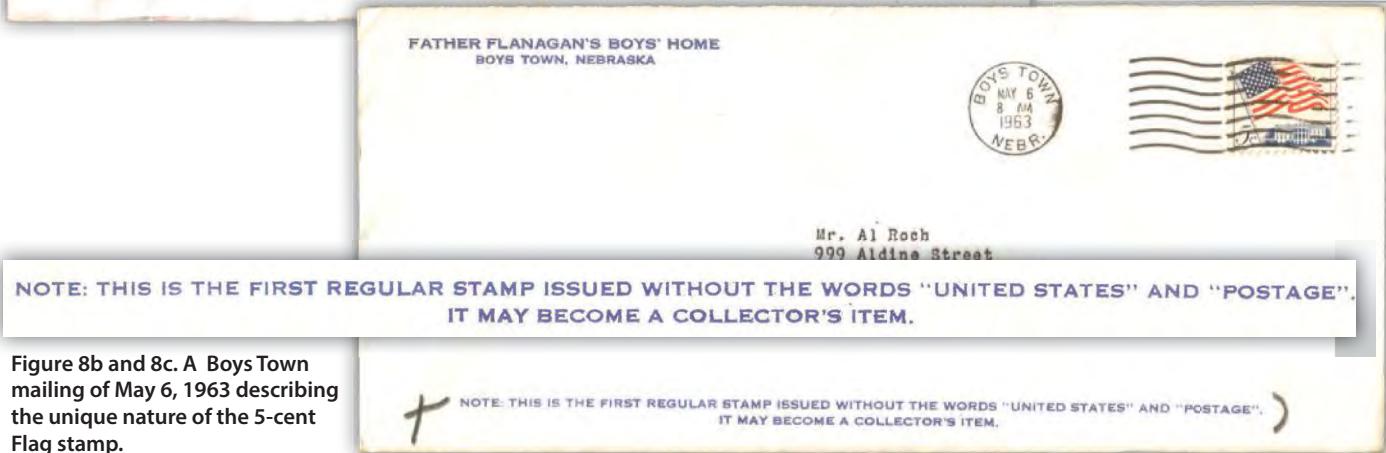


Figure 8b and 8c. A Boys Town mailing of May 6, 1963 describing the unique nature of the 5-cent Flag stamp.



Figure 9. The first 22-cent commemorative on a March 1, 1985 Boys Town mailing, two weeks into the 22-cent letter rate era.

Father Flanagan Receives Postal Honor

My most recent Boys Town cover dating to 1985 is a bit of a coincidence. In November of that year a significant transition occurred at the U.S. Treasury Department's Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP), supplier of most U.S. postage stamps at the time. The retiring of decades-old workhorse presses that month shortly led to the issuance of a new regular stamp with Flanagan as its subject.

Almost all of the U.S. stamp program's regular-issue designs were part of either the Transportation series (coil format only) or the Great Americans series (sheet or booklet formats only). Both series featured line-engraved intaglio press printings. All but one were each rendered in single-ink

monocolor (the \$1 Seaplane coil is bi-colored).

The Cottrell intaglio presses had been in use at the BEP for three decades, the oldest presses in use for some of the stamps in both series. When shut down, the stamp denominations printed on Cottrell presses were inventory staples that needed a future press to call home. Future printing on the newer intaglio presses needed new engraved sleeves. The Great American 4-cent Carl Schurz was one of these orphaned stamps. As a basic low value for make-up use, any additional 4-cent stamps needed new press sleeves.

As early as 1980, Postmaster General William Bolger promised advocates of a Father Flanagan stamp that it "would be considered for the 1986 program," according to Boughner. In late 1984, the U.S. Postal Service finally promised the stamp as a definitive for 1986.

The USPS assigned the 4-cent denomination to a prepared stamp design by Christopher Calle, who based his design on a photo supplied by Boys Town [Figure 10]. Boughner notes concerns that the lengthy "Father Edward Flanagan" name required smaller lettering. So the USPS and the Citizens

Designing the Stamp

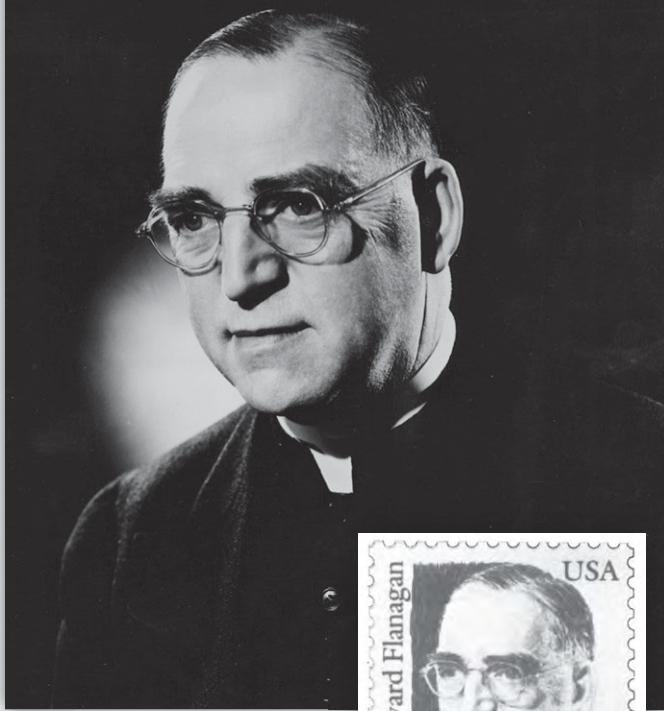


Figure 10. The Father Flanagan stamp image production: the photo is the basis of the stamp (above); a preliminary drawing by stamp artist Chris Calle (top right), a final drawing for the stamp (far right); a proof of the final design before the denomination of "4" cents was added and the honoree's first name was removed (inset above). (Flanagan portrait: courtesy Boys Town Hall of History & Archives; drawn images courtesy of Calle; image above courtesy of Linn's U.S. Stamp Yearbook, 1986.)

Stamp Advisory Committee agreed that "Father Flanagan" was sufficient name recognition on the new stamp.

The Postal Bulletin of June 12, 1986 announced that the 4-cent Father Flanagan issue date was planned for July 14. (That date, a Monday, was chosen for the first-day ceremony as the 100th anniversary of the priest's birth, July 13, fell on Sunday.) The first-day-of-issue location would be no surprise: Boys Town, Nebraska.

Technical details for the stamp indicate that the art director was Derry Noyes, design coordinator for the Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee; the modeler was Clarence Holbert; and the engravers were Thomas H. Hipschen (vignette) and Michael J. Ryan (lettering and numeral).

The First Stamp

Collectors seeking a mint or used example of the 4-cent Father Flanagan stamp will find it plentiful in the hobby marketplace and minimally priced. They are also found on first-day covers, in USPS souvenir items and sometimes on-cover as a make-up stamp when the U.S. letter rate rose from 25 to 29 cents in February 1991.

As often occurs with regular stamps kept in post office stocks for years, restocking needs led to later printings. For the 4-cent Flanagan, more printings led to two new variet-

One (image shown) is what my father always referred to as a "warm-up drawing." This was when the drawing process would begin, just trying to get a feel for the directional strokes of the pencil. The Great American stamps were engraved, and one of the reasons I was chosen to design many in that series was because the technique developed by my father and myself gave the engravers a very clear drawing to follow as far as how they would engrave.



The other image is one of the final drawings I did for the stamp design. For this issue, I did about six or seven finished pencil drawings and then chose the one that best represented the subject. Now when I look at the different versions of the same drawing, they all look very similar.

— Stamp Artist Chris Calle

ies distinct from the supply available when it was first issued. Collectors who seek production-change varieties might find the 4-cent types modest if compared to many of its Great Americans series counterparts. But the causes for the two latter types, placed on sale without first-day assignment, have made possible “earliest documented use” searches for postal history enthusiasts.

The BEP produced all three intentional versions on dull-finish pre-gummed paper in post office panes of 100, with gauge 11 perforations that meet perfectly at the stamp corners. The 1986 version (Scott 2171), is the only one that was phosphor-tagged. Intended to trigger facer-canceler machines in postal plants, the varnish-like taggant was applied on-press as a block on top of each stamp’s design [Figure 11].



Figure 11. Examples of the 4-cent Flanagan under shortwave ultraviolet light. Block-tagged (top row), untagged (bottom row).

New Versions

By April 1991, a second version came on the scene without advance notice, due to two significant developments earlier that year affecting the U.S. stamp program. The first, as mentioned earlier, was the start of a major rate era on February 3 as the domestic letter rate rose by four cents to 29 cents. Coincidentally, the domestic postcard rate also rose by four cents, to 19 cents.

In planning for the new rates the USPS needed more 4-cent stamps in panes of 100. But to meet the coming demand for a make-up stamp, the USPS also had an ace up its sleeve (more on this later). One has to go back seven rate eras to 1974, when the letter rate rose from 8 to 10 cents and the postcard rate from 6 to 8 cents, to find an earlier instance when the two rates rose the same amount, requiring the same make-up value.

In the second development, when the BEP reprinted the 4-cent Flanagan, it proceeded under a new USPS policy that wasn’t made public until the USPS Philatelic Release 18 of March 18, 1991. This policy stated:

“As of Jan. 1, all stamps with values between 1 cent and 8 cents will be printed without phosphorescent tagging. This includes reprintings of stamps presently available such as the 4-cent Father Flanagan stamp, the 4-cent Steam Carriage [coil], and the 1-cent Omnibus coil stamp.”

The new policy was intended to thwart the growing scam of hucksters, who mailed prospects their sales pitch using low-value stamps that “made it through” (due to their phosphor tagging) as proof. The policy was supposed to apply plainly to “stamps below 10 cents,” but this became garbled at times from re-statements that tried to say “1 cent to 9 cents” would no longer be tagged.

Thus, the 4-cent Flanagan reprints, listed as Scott 2171a, were purposely left untagged. Without a shortwave ultraviolet lamp, one ordinarily cannot distinguish between this and the tagged one. (I will offer some identifying tips here in a bit.) The BEP printed all Scott No. 2171 and 2171a panes with line-engraved print sleeve 1 on its combination A press. (The web-fed A press combined five-color gravure and three-color



Figure 12. The 4-cent Flanagan production varieties as mint plate blocks (from left): blue-violet phosphor-tagged, grayish-violet untagged and deep grayish blue untagged.

Giori-type intaglio units.)

In April 1993, the BEP employed a new sleeve 2 [Figure 12] on the intaglio station of its D press to print additional sheets. And, between January and July 1994 the BEP used that sleeve 2 to print more stamps similarly on its F press. (Stamps printed on both the D and F presses from the same interchangeable line-engraved sleeves are indistinguishable in that regard.)

Unfortunately, in the early 1990s the BEP and the USPS were at odds, affecting print records and data exchange. The BEP chafed under the USPS's frustration with the BEP's turnaround on shorter-notice requests. In return, the USPS was expanding its use of private printers, raising uncertainty at the BEP affecting staffing and equipment use.

Surviving records for the 4-cent Flanagan stamp shipping quantities to post offices indicate:

Sleeve 1, year-level data missing: 489,450,000 combined of tagged and untagged (Scott 2171 and 2171a).

Sleeve 2, 1993 data missing: 21,000,000 in 1994, 51,550,000 in 1995, 8,050,000 in 1996, 8,050,000 in 1998 (Scott 2171b) for a total of 88,650,000.

According to the 2017 *Scott Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps and Covers*, two errors are known. These include Scott 2171c, described as "As No. 2171, tagging omitted"; and No. 2171d, described as "All color missing (EP)." For No. 2171c, Scott's footnote states it was found on a USPS souvenir page with a first-day cancel. For 2171d, a footnote elaborates that the color-missing stamp has an albino impression, and that it might be collected with a fully or partially printed stamp. The "(EP)" designation stands for "Extraneous Paper," a piece of paper that falls on the press surface or paper so that it takes the printing ink instead of the stamp paper portion that it blocks.

The USPS took the 4-cent Flanagan stamp off sale from its sales catalog and philatelic windows after December 31, 2000, according to the Postal Bulletin of November 30, 2000. Remaining stock stayed on sale at regular postal outlets through March 31, 2005. Afterwards, any stock left was removed for destruction. A year earlier on March 5, 2004, the USPS issued in replacement, in self-adhesive panes of 20, the 4-cent Chippendale Chair in the American Design series.

Four-cent Father Flanagan Postal History

For its first 4½ years from its issuance in 1986, the Father Flanagan stamp saw some pretty ordinary use. An optometrist mailed out an appointment-reminder postcard on April 21, 1988 using an interesting set of Great Americans stamps [Figure 13]. The 10-cent Russell and 4-cent Flanagan equaled the postcard rate that ended less than three weeks earlier. The 1-cent Mitchell addition brought the postage up to the correct 15 cents that took effect on April 3.

Things changed in early 1991 when postage rates changed.



Figure 13. A 4-cent Flanagan joins two other Great Americans stamps as postage for an appointment-reminder postcard mailed April 21, 1988.

Ordinarily, make-up uses of low-value stamps do not invite postal history interest among collectors. The myriad possibilities across different rate classes, mail-piece shapes and weight steps for a deficiency after higher-valued stamps are affixed defy straightforward organization.

Nevertheless, three avenues of pursuit are most common: examples of the most common make-up cases of a typical postal user (e.g., first-class letter and postcard), one example of any make-up case for each of the production varieties possible, and exotic uses (i.e., destinations or forms not usually seen, especially if not philatelically contrived).

In the case of the 4-cent stamp, there is some challenge to find proper uses due to both letter and postcard uses. When these are multiplied by the three production varieties, one arrives at a set of six cases that are just as challenging to collect as any unusual rate-specific denominated stamp of the period might pose.

Although it was issued in 1986, the tagged Father Flanagan stamp is only considered a make-up rate stamp from the 4-cent rate increase of February 3, 1991, giving it 47 months in that role.

The Postal Service had a new wrinkle, though, to meet the demands of the rate change. For the first time in its history, the Postal Service requisitioned and inventoried panes of 100 of a non-denominated make-up rate stamp (Scott 2521) for contingency use with 25-cent stamps [Figure 14]. The novel stamps, priced at 4 cents, went on sale January 22, 1991, almost two weeks before the rates started.

The Postal Service recognized that additional 4-cent stamps would be needed to accommodate mailers with old first-class (25-cent) and postcard (15-cent) stamps. This prompted a new printing of the Father Flanagan stamp, which was released in April 1991. These were untagged stamps, per the aforementioned new rule in January 1991 that said low-value stamps should not be tagged.

By May 1993 the BEP had available a new group of Flanagan stamps for USPS inventory. These also were un-

tagged but produced with Plate 2 and were in basic service for 20 months. This final Flanagan stamp saw a lower chance of make-up than the use of 4-cent stamps in 1991 or 1992. Time was against it, with people having used up their 25-cent stocks in the preceding 25 months. And complicating matters was a haphazard way this second type of untagged 4-centers wound up in post office stock.

Admittedly, I have not actively sought out Great Americans covers, as my primary interests tend to earlier series. Interestingly, among the covers informally acquired, only one of the six make-up cases is represented (and that by two covers, one illustrated here [Figure 15].) It is the untagged 1991 edition added as make-up to a 25-cent stamp on a letter.

Rounding out our brief tour of the 4-cent Flanagan varieties on-cover, the untagged 1993 edition (2171b) is represented by a trio used on a 1-ounce domestic letter in December 1999 (the day of the cancel is obscure) [Figure 16]. The three 4-cent stamps join a 22-cent Uncle Sam stamp as a convenience overpayment of the 33-cent letter rate, mailed smack in the middle of the two-year rate period. (22 cents was the per-additional ounce first-class rate at the time.)

It is an apparent non-hobby use, from an architectural firm to a university's graduate office. On the other hand, while the 22-cent stamp is understandable, why would an office have 4-cent stamps? Perhaps they were leftovers from the 29-cent letter era.

All of these covers serve as examples of how interesting even recent postal history can be.

Tips to Detecting Differences in the Flanagan Types

The three types of stamps appear so similar that telling them apart requires reference examples or hobby tools [Figure 17]. Otherwise, if only one reference example is at hand, careful color comparison is needed. For the record, below are some color tests to try that determine whether stamps are mint or used. It is important that all color checks be done in natural or incandescent ("warm") light, not fluorescent (or any "cool") light.

Why are the stamp images here against a yellow background? Yellow is the complementary color to blue (closest primary color to the stamps' purplish shades). Having bluish or purplish stamps against yellow helps our eyes just a bit more when dealing with such a subjective task as perceiving color. (Note that colors here on the printed page are unlikely



Figure 14. Like the Father Flanagan stamp, this text-only stamp has a value of 4 cents.



Figure 15. A 4-cent Flanagan (2171a) with 25-cent Grosbeak (2284) made up the 29-cent letter rate in use on October 12, 1991.

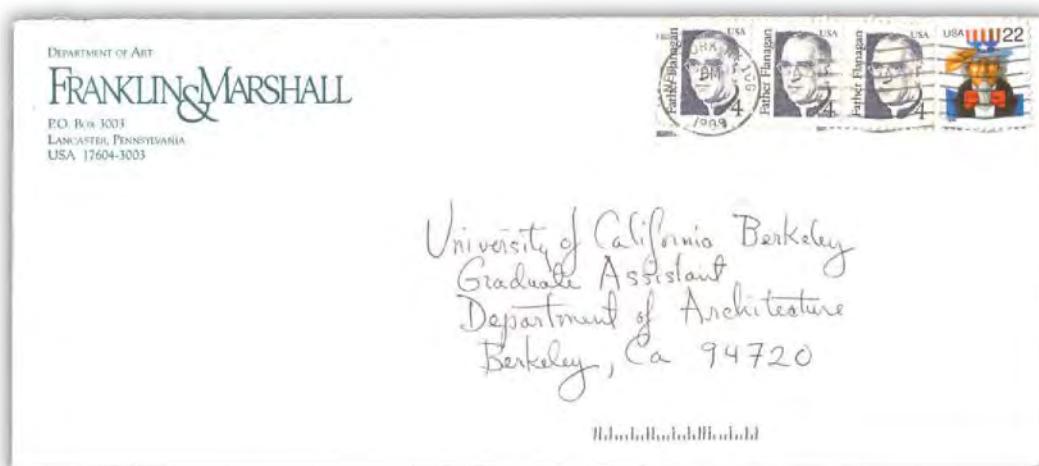


Figure 16. Three 4-cent Flanagan stamps (2171b) and a 22-cent Uncle Sam stamp overpay the 33-cent letter rate in December 1999.



Figure 17. The three main types of Father Flanagan mint singles (from left) Scott 2171 has many thickly inked lines; Scott 2171a has mostly fine lines; Scott 2171b has more thickly inked lines than No. 2171a. The Scott 2171 is tagged; the other two are not.

to reach the fidelity of the stamps themselves.)

Self-evident references exist for two of the three types, short of having reference plate blocks. (The set could be bought for less than \$2, plus shipping earlier this fall.) The original Scott 2171 is the only one found on the stamp's 1986 first-day covers and USPS souvenir page.

Any Flanagan stamp with tagging is No. 2171. Additionally, any 4-cent Flanagan on-cover postmarked before 1990 is 2171 as well. The year 1990 is the earliest that any specialist allows for the BEP to have printed intentionally untagged stamps under the 1991 USPS "leave low values untagged" policy, giving us the Scott 2171a stamp by April 1991, and later, the Scott 2171b.

As for tools, a magnifier is needed to examine the inks, and a shortwave ultraviolet light is useful to positively identify 2171, the only variety that is phosphor-tagged (large block overlay).

Telling 2171a apart from the others can be tried with only a magnifier. A subtle inking difference results in 2171a appearing as a slightly lighter shade to the other two in normal viewing. Careful scrutiny under magnification reveals inking and color differences.

In regards to 2171a's "lighter shade," a close look shows that the extensive left-side background shading lines are mostly distinct and appear crisp and uniform almost everywhere. One place the stamps are not distinct, on any type, are lines above Father Flanagan's hair as the lines' ink runs together here. But unlike lighter-shade (2171a), the 2171 and 2717b types have more such spots of thicker ink scattered here and there in the shading.

Scott lists 2171 as "blue violet" and 2171a as "grayish violet." Unfortunately this pair of colors is not easily distinguishable without a reference for one of them side-by-side. To the average collector, and assuming lack of color blindness, the original color is darker and the successor lighter color has a reddish tinge.

The toughest two stamps to tell apart are the two heavier shaded types, the blue violet 2171 vs. the only one from sleeve 2, 2171b, which Scott calls "deep grayish blue." At first glance, 2171b and 2171 appear the same. Yet one's eyes should adjust after 30 seconds observing a pair under magnification in natural or incandescent light. The original ink of 2171 starts to appear more purplish with a reddish tinge.

Color-wise, telling apart the untagged types (2171a and 2171b) is similar to the earlier comparison, except this time a reddish tinge, becomes apparent for 2171a after some seconds of viewing the untagged types magnified. The color test can confirm an identification made first by the subjective inking test noted earlier. However, as color perception is also subjective, it is best to use reference samples to be sure.

The other self-evident control available for 2171b is any example with selvage showing plate number 2 [Figure 18]. All and only No. 2171b stamps came from printings using print sleeve 2 on the D or F press, from 1993 onward.



Figure 18. One way of assuring you have the deep grayish blue 1993 printing in your collection is by having a plate block showing a No. 2.

The philatelic marketplace offers mint examples of Boys Town charity seals, just as Christmas Seals and other ephemera or "cinderella" material is available. Interest in Boys Town material has been modest in comparison, so prices of regular examples are inexpensive. Among collectors of U.S. material, Christmas Seals receive the most attention, the only charity seals itemized in the Scott Specialized U.S. catalog.

Due to the high print quantities involved with the long-standing Christmas Seals program, they have realized a wide range of print and format varieties, to which the Scott listings attest. One finds Boys Town seals have their own small range of varieties, which was a surprise to notice even among a small sampling of covers I had saved for their postage stamps.

Choosing on-cover examples of Boys Town seals to collect parallels guidelines for other seals, with a small twist. With Christmas Seals since 1907 being the big dog found most often among seals on-cover, collectors can decide if they want to favor Boys Town seals used alone, or only with a choice of other seal types, or disregarding anything else present.

I had fun reviewing my greeting-card envelopes collected from the late 1940s through the 1950s. It grew fascinating to see the different ways that folks affixed charity seals. This is among the factors that can affect the condition and desirability of surviving examples.

Generally, the most interesting seal use might be the one that postal officials frown on – near the postage, tied to the cover by a postmark [Figure 19]. Some collectors like to find seals that were passed off as postage, both those caught and assessed postage due, as well as those postmarked and undetected.

Other collectible uses include any on the address side away from the postage, especially if incidentally tied to the cover by auxiliary markings.

With most mailers affixing seals on the back, it makes the chances of finding them tied to cover more challenging. But these exist as well, even if the cause is offset inking from a machine cancel, perhaps the most likely to turn up. Accidental [Figure 20], transit or receiving cancels, also are possibilities to find on Boys Town seals.

As almost all charity seals are used on greeting cards due to the seasonal nature of most seals, other uses found

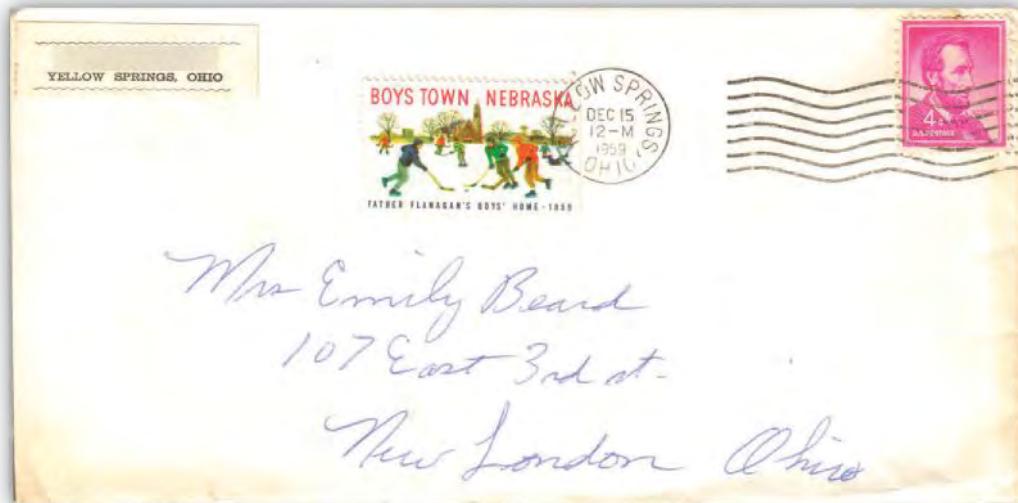


Figure 19. A 1959 Boys Town seal tied to greeting card cover by a December 15, 1959 cancel. This was acquired from an estate sale.

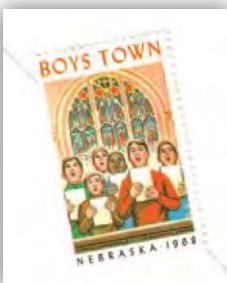


Figure 20. One of two 1968 Boys Town seals tied to the back side of a cover with a December 18, 1968 cancellation.

can be interesting. With limited time to revisit other covers in my collections, I did not find more Boys Town seals. But I did find one cover sent registered, with Christmas Seals on the back flap tied by registry handstamps. Business-to-business mail, without names in the addresses, is another area that collectors can search for elusive Boys Town seal uses.

Resources

Various materials made available through Benjamin L. Clark, managing curator, Boys Town Hall of History & Archive.

"Father Edward J. Flanagan," Notable Nebraskan. Retrieved September 16, 2017 from www.nebraskastudies.org/0700/stories/0702/0101.html.

"Boys Town, Nebr." by B.W. Reed, *The World Book Encyclopedia* (1965 and 2015).

"4¢ Father Flanagan," by Fred Boughner, *Linn's U.S. Stamp Yearbook*, 1986.

The Gate City: A History of Omaha, by Lawrence Harold Larsen and Barbara J. Cottrell, Pruett Publishing Co., 1982, pg. 286-287.

"What You Can Learn from Boys Town Direct Mail Turnaround," Merritt Engel, retrieved September 20, 2017 from blog/2012/10/what-you-can-learn-from-boys-town.html.

"The Great Americans – Part III," by Stephen G. Esrati, *The United States Specialist*, March 2006, pg. 122-129.

"Study Group Obtains Missing BEP Reports," by A.M. Malakoff, *The Plate Number*, March 1995, pg. 31.

"BEP is Resurrecting Plate Data Back to 1991," by Stephen G. Esrati, *The Plate Num-*

ber, January 1994, pg. 1, 12

"Details for 4¢ Flanagan Reissue," by Michael Schreiber, *Linn's Stamp News*, September 13, 1993.

The Postal Bulletin, November 30, 2000 and March 3, 2005.

The Author

Ronald Blanks, formerly a business software analyst, resides in Virginia and has collected stamps since 1968. He enjoys collecting U.S. postal history of marketing mail using stamps, and early mail examples of mechanized postal improvements such as sorting, phosphor tagging and coding. He can be reached at rblanks_stamps@yahoo.com.

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The first Boys Town Post Office, circa 1937.
(Image courtesy Boys Town Hall of History & Archives.)

Boys Town postal cancel from 1944

Boys Town Postal Cancels Offer Collecting Area

By Ronald Blanks

The post office at Boys Town, Nebraska was established in late 1934 and still operates today.

Benjamin L. Clark, managing curator at Hall of History and Father Flanagan House, offered the following about the post office's history:

When the post office opened, Boys Town was 10 miles west of Omaha. Today, Boys Town is in the middle of Omaha. Patrick Norton was the first postmaster. He was Edward Flanagan's nephew and the business manager for Boys Town. That original post office building is still standing today, but used for offices.

A clipping from the Omaha World Herald newspaper of December 16, 1934 notes that the post office quickly rose in standing from fourth to second class. "When the Boys Town post office was officially established only 10 days ago it was given a fourth-class rating," the newspaper story says. "... A few days later the volume of mail entitled it to the rank of second class."

Boys Town quickly built a stand-alone post office.

"The first post office building was built in 1936

and was featured on postcards early on," said Clark in an e-mail. "It is a red brick, stand-alone building. We built a second post office building in 1948, built of buff colored brick and attached to the administration building (at the time)... Boys Town still sends out millions of pieces of mail each year. The current post office building was built in 1987."

The Boys Town machine cancels seen on fundraising letters from Father Flanagan's Boys' Home were impressed by electric-powered Universal machines. These are recognizable from the wider 12 mm space between the postmark dial and the cancellation. Dials from Universal's hand-powered machine, in contrast, are spaced only 6 mm away.

Machine-cancel collectors often seek different cancellation types, including wavy line variations and slogans. For example, Boys Town cancels have included cancellation slugs with either six or seven



This is the only BEP-printed precancel for Boys Town, Nebraska.

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A vintage color postcard of the first Boys Town Post Office. The Boys Town Post Office lintel above the door is now above the door at the current post office building, built in 1987. (Image courtesy Boys Town Hall of History & Archives.)

wavy lines. Dial differences also arise over time. In Boys Town's case, these include replacing the state abbreviation with a two-letter code in 1966 ("NB", and later "NE"). The 68010 ZIP code also was added to the dial in 1966, and even changed briefly in the 1980s.

Some Boys Town fundraising mailings, mostly at nonprofit rates, do not have postmarks. Today's

mailings, as well as some in the past, have only a printed indicia. Other mailings in the past used precancel stamps. The BEP only printed one precancel with Boys Town as the city, using "NE" as the state, and that was the Liberty

2-cent Jefferson coil (Scott 1055). The BEP printed the first order for these on February 3, 1977 and printed a re-order on July 27, 1977.

For more about machine cancels, readers can visit the Machine Cancel Society's website at machinencancel.org.

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Home to the World's Largest Ball of Stamps

By Jeff Stage



Figure 1. Boys Town's stamp ball curiosity was started in 1953 and mostly completed within two years. Photos by Jay Bigalke

Philatelist soliciting stamps for its program.

First, let's look at that gigantic ball. It weighs 600 pounds and sits on a pedestal in front of a starburst mural, also constructed of used stamps.

The Boys Town website has a short video in which the creation of the Stamp Ball is described. It notes that Boys Town's D.O. Barrett started the stamp ball from old used stamps.

In the 1950s, Barrett was the philatelic curator and called the department the PhilaMatic Center, according to Boys Town Correspondence File found online at the Internet Archive website.

Barrett first started building the ball for a stamp show to be held in October 1953 in Davenport, Iowa. He thought people would have fun guessing how many stamps were in the ball, which had a diameter of 23½ inches. He also hoped to promote a 1954 stamp show in Omaha.

The ball returned to Boys Town, where Barrett kept adding to it until it reached a diameter of 32 inches and its current weight. At that point, Boys Town contacted Ripley's Believe it or Not, which certified the object as the world's largest ball of stamps (the video gave no word on where the second-largest ball of stamps might be located.)

The Leon Myers Stamp Center housed in the Boys Town Visitors Center has a nice little philatelic center that includes a tribute to the Father Flanagan stamp, exhibits, philatelic items for sale, and an object billed as the "World's Largest Ball of Stamps," as determined by Ripley's Believe it or Not.

The Stamp Center promotes stamp collecting among youth and adults, and supports Boys Town programs by selling donated stamps. Boys Town runs a weekly classified ad in *The American Philatelist* soliciting stamps for its program.

The ball contains a lot of Boys Town charity seals, but the final layer is mostly made up of donated stamps that were carefully layered to avoid showing damages.

Boys Town publicity states that the ball has not been added to since it was finished, though a look at the top layer reveals mid-1960s stamps from Canada, Germany, and Great Britain. People can touch the ball, but are not allowed to add to it or remove items (though, sadly, some have tried.)

Aside from Boys Town seals, among the countries easily seen on the ball are stamps from the U.S., Canada, West Germany, Great Britain, Belgium, Hungary, Ceylon, France, Guatemala, and the Netherlands.

The Father Flanagan stamp, honoring the founder of Boys Town, was first issued in 1986 as part of the Great Americans series. The center has a very detailed and impressive exhibit on the Father Flanagan stamp, including artwork from stamp designer Chris Calle, one of only two imperforate sheets, a signed proof card created from the original stamp die to assure quality, comparison panes of tagged and untagged stamps, and a display of first-day covers. Along the bottom of one display area are replicas of all the stamps in the series.

The Myers Stamp Center offers exhibits – Barrett used to seek out temporary exhibits from stamp clubs across the nation – such as one about stamps and mail systems, an in-house exhibit featuring fairy tales on stamps, one on influential Americans, and an upcoming Christmas exhibit.



Figure 2. The Father Flanagan stamp in the Great Americans series is a centerpiece attraction in the Leon Myers Stamp Center. The exhibit traces the production of the stamp.

There also is a penny bucket for kids to pick out their own stamps, a small selection of stamp material for sale, and stamp designs by children on display. More serious collectors can ask the curator to see items in a somewhat cramped and overflowing back office.

Oh, wait, so how many stamps are in that stamp ball, you ask. Boys Town says it holds 4,655,000 stamps.



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Where in the World ...

Can We Find Images of Rare Foreign Stamps? Here are Some Choices

In my September column, I responded to a frequently asked question with a list of books recommended for every personal philatelic library. In this column, I'll address a similar question: What is a book showing worldwide rare stamps?

Because this is a topic that can be difficult to research, I again turned to the expertise of the American Philatelic Society and American Philatelic Research Library staff, and asked them: "Can you suggest a recent title showing worldwide rare stamps with good color images?"

As before, I'll share highlights from their responses in this column, and I also welcome your suggestions. You can send information about your favorite rare stamp book to me at tmurray@stamps.org or by mail at the APRL, 100 Match Factory Place, Bellefonte, PA 16823.

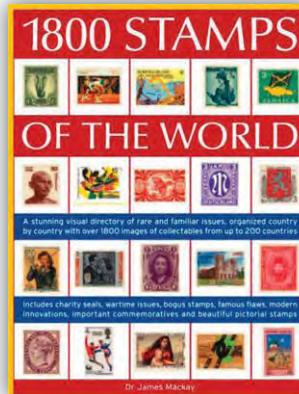
1800 Stamps of the World, by Dr. James Mackay, published 2007 by Southwater. APRL call number: HE6215 .M153e 2007.

Subtitled "A stunning visual directory of rare and familiar issues, organized country by country with 1800 images of collectables from more than 150 countries," Mackay's book has a section for each continent, and within that, sections for individual countries or groups of countries.

Rather than focusing on single sought-after stamps that most collectors will never have the opportunity to put in their albums, Mackay gives an overview of each country's output and the evolution of its stamps. Because of this, the book does not contain the large full-page illustrations typical of a book like Janet Klug and Donald Sundman's *100 Greatest American Stamps*, but it does have many decent-sized illustrations of a variety of stamps.

Rare Stamps of the World, published 1995 and 1997 by Harmers of London. APRL call number: HE6184 .R221 H287r.

These two volumes, published by the British auction house that is about to hit its century of service, show items exhibited at Claridge's Hotel in London. Each odd page contains a large photo



of a stamp, set of stamps, or postal history object, and the facing page contains the name of the exhibitor along with a description of the item's significance.

Exhibitors, listed in the back of the book, include the Royal Philatelic Collection and the United Kingdom's National Postal Museum, and many individual names you may recognize.

If you want a rarities gallery in your living room, look no further than these elegant books.

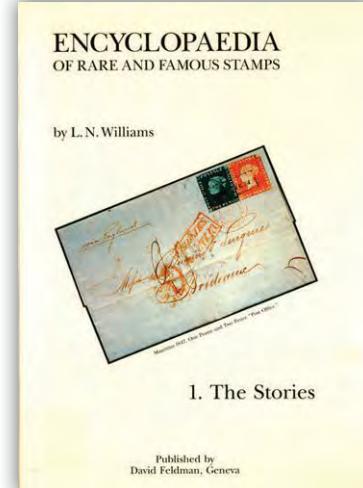
Encyclopaedia of Rare and Famous Stamps, 2 volumes, by L.N. Williams, published 1993 by David Feldman. APRL call number: HE6184 .R221 W724e (closed stacks 1).

If you want to read the stories behind some of the world's rarest stamps and the people who have owned them, then this is the book for you. The illustrations in this book, now nearly 25 years old, are mostly black and white, but it contains fascinating details about each included stamp. For example, eight pages of the first volume ("The Stories") are devoted to the British Guiana 1-cent magenta, and an additional full page in the second volume ("The Biographies") lists the stamp's provenance.

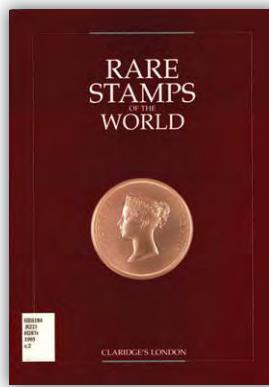
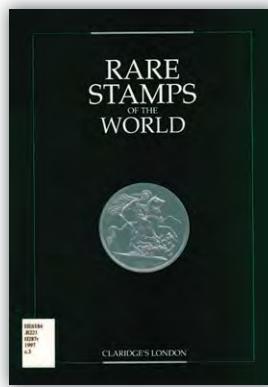
While this book could stand to be updated (especially considering recent developments concerning some of the listed stamps), it is an enjoyable read by one of philately's most prominent authors.

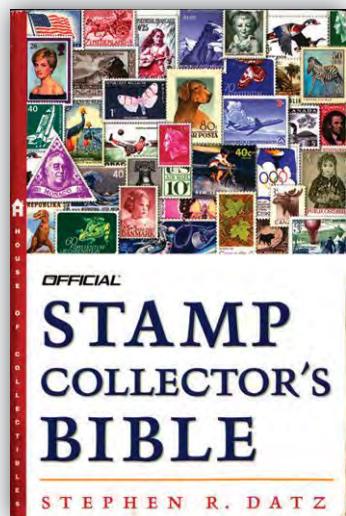
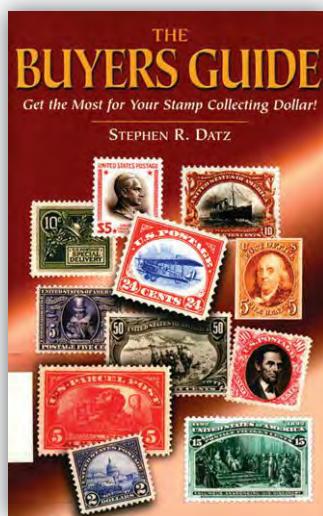
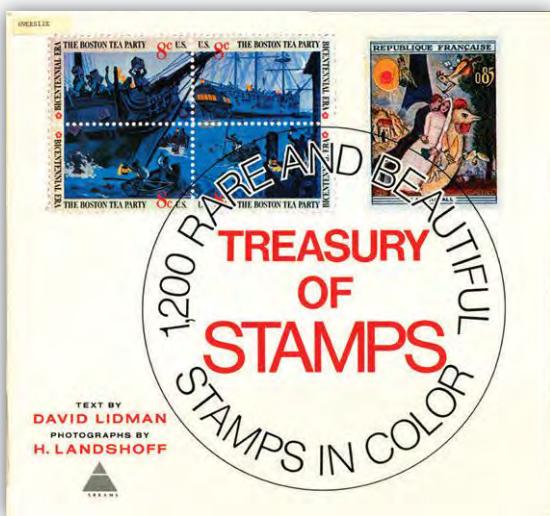
Treasury of Stamps: 2,100 Rare and Beautiful Stamps in Color, by David Lidman, published 1975 by Harry N. Abrams. APRL call number: HE6182 .L714t (oversize).

This hefty volume starts at the beginning — the very beginning, with communication via clay tablets and papyrus. The first part of the book provides an overview of postal communications from ancient times through



1. The Stories





the development of postal services and the introduction of stamps. It also contains chapters on stamp production and design and modern innovations like the ZIP code.

The second, and larger, part of the book explores stamps of the world by topic, such as "The Animal Kingdom" and "Myths and Legends." The illustrations range in size from modest enlargements to full-page images. This book doesn't emphasize the rarities of the hobby, but it is a good showcase of the diversity of postal issues.

More essential books

I received notes and letters from readers after my last column on essential books for any philatelic library. Here are a few of the suggested additions. For the complete list, including those mentioned in my last column, see the library's blog: blog.stamplibrary.org.

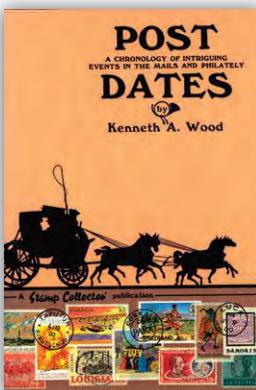
The Buyers Guide: Get the Most for Your Stamp Collecting Dollar (2nd edition) by Stephen R. Datz, published 2000 by General Philatelic Corp.

Though it doesn't contain the details listed in larger or more specialized books, Datz's slim volume is a handy guide for the U.S. collector. In his letter, Ray Hutter says he studies this book before attending a stamp show, "and I am not concerned about walking away from a pressure-dealer because I know what I want."

The Official Stamp Collector's Bible by Stephen R. Datz, published 2003 by House of Collectibles.

Datz packs a wealth of information into this paperback

— from general background on stamp collecting to tips for buying and selling at auction. It also includes handy references even more experienced collectors will turn to again and again, such as philatelic terms in various languages and current and former country names. While some of the information may be a little dated, features such as the foreign stamp identifier make it, as Blain Roman writes, a "go-to book."



Post Dates: A Chronology of Intriguing Events in the Mails and Philately by Kenneth A. Wood, published 1985 by Van Dahl Publications.

While not "essential," this book may help you enjoy your own collection more. As Dr. John Blakemore writes, it is "full of interesting surprises." You might not have a rare gem like the 1-cent magenta in your collection, but you might have the first one of something.

Need Help Using the Library?

Whenever you have research questions, do contact library staff for assistance. You can reach us by phone at 814-933-3803 (press 3 for the Library), by e-mail at aprl@stamps.org, or by mail at APRL, 100 Match Factory Place, Bellefonte, PA 16823.

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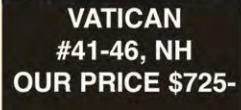
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The American Philatelic Society's Sales Division would like to wish our members and selling community a happy holiday season.

As we immerse ourselves in the hustle and bustle of the holidays with parties, shopping, baking, cards, and out-of-town visitors, you may need to take a break. What better way to relax than with your stamp collection, those little pieces of paper can take us back in time or to another place or picture topics we hold dear. And, if you want to do a little shopping for yourself, consider these holiday specials:

StampStore: Save \$5 on your next \$25 purchase. Shop at our online store at www.StampStore.org and receive this discount by using coupon code HOLIDAYS2018 during checkout. The coupon is valid through January 10; only one per member and it cannot be applied with any other coupons.

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The holiday season would also be a great time to share your collection with your family. Perhaps they aren't aware of your collection or maybe they, too, would enjoy collecting if introduced to the rich history and colorful imagery that stamps offer. Remember, the holidays aren't about how many presents you buy, how many cookies you bake, or how many parties you attend; it's a time to share and celebrate life. So sing, decorate, spend time with friends and family – and most importantly savor every moment.



The APS sales staff took a moment for a photo while preparing for what was expected to be a busy holiday season. On hand are (from top, left) Bill Dixon and Ruth Ann Mayes; Carol Hoffman, Barb Johnson and Sharon Shawley; Stephanie Frankhouser and Director Wendy Masorti. Missing, Darlene Young. (Photo illustration by Martin Miller)

Christmas Seals

With the Christmas holidays right around the corner, some philatelic thoughts turn to those unique cinderella items called Christmas Seals. Christmas Seals are labels placed on mail during the Christmas season as a means of raising funds and awareness for various charitable programs.

The first Christmas Seals were associated with lung diseases such as tuberculosis, but now have grown to include various aspects of child welfare. In 1904, Danish postal clerk Einar Holbøll developed the idea of adding an extra



Denmark Christmas Seals from 1918 and 1921.

charitable stamp or label on holiday Christmas mail. Holbøll's idea eventually was approved by the Danish postmaster and the king of Denmark, and in 1904, the world's first Christmas Seal was issued, bearing the likeness of the Danish queen and the word "Julen," the Danish word for Christmas. More than 4 million seals were sold in Denmark in the first year alone.

Soon after Denmark issued the first Christmas Seal, the idea spread throughout every major country in Europe. Seals were first introduced in the United States by American Red Cross activist Emily Bissell in 1907 after she had read about the 1904 Danish Christmas Seals. By

1908, Bissell's idea grew into a national program. She would go on to design the first Red Cross Christmas Seal which was sold in post office lobbies, initially in her home state of Delaware and then nationally, at a cost of 1 cent each.

There even is an APS affiliate stamp society dedicated to collecting such seals. It is the Christmas Seal and Charity Stamp Society (www.seal-society.org).

Christmas Seals make a great addition to any stamp collection and all of the seals shown, and many more, are available right now. Visit the APS StampStore at www.stampstore.org and type in "Christmas Seal" in the Keywords text box and then click Search. More than 100 items pop up. For specific countries, refine your search by selecting a country from the drop-down Country list. StampStore currently has more than 300,000 philatelic items for sale.



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Each month we list a few categories that are in particular short supply, shown below – to see our full list of stamps needed for circuits visit www.stamps.org/Stamps-Needed. If you have material in these areas that you are interested in selling, consider selling them through circuit sales. For those new to selling, seller information is available online or can be requested by contacting our Circuit Sales staff at 814-933-3803 ext. 231.

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Danzig

German Colonies

Spanish Colonies

Overstocked Categories

We are currently overstocked in the following areas and would not recommend submitting at this time:

Russia

General Germany

Europe

General Global

First Day Covers/First Flight Covers

Scandinavia



Call for APS 2018 Winter Meeting

Pursuant to Article 3, Section 3.4 of the Bylaws, I hereby issue this official call for the 132nd Winter Meeting of the American Philatelic Society for transactions of such business as may be legally brought before it. The convention will assemble at the Birmingham-Jefferson Convention Complex, from February 23–25, 2018.

All meetings of the American Philatelic Society will be held at the convention complex. Proposed resolutions shall be submitted to APS National Headquarters at least 30 days prior to the general membership meeting, which will be held at 9 a.m. on Saturday, February 24.

Mick Zais
President, American Philatelic Society



Keep a Sharp Eye

Flyspecking: Searching for Minute Differences from the Normal

A collector experiences a euphoric moment when he uncovers a slight variation from the regular printing of a postage stamp. It's the same feeling when we find one last surprise at the bottom of our Christmas stocking. We all do it, hoping to discover a printing variety, sometimes one that is recognized by the major catalogs or maybe in a specialized handbook. It's even better if it is one that is brand new to the hobby.

A flyspeck is that stain left from the excrement of a fly. Flyspecking in philately is not as yucky (thank goodness).

A 1929 German Coat of Arms stamp normally shows "40 PF" as the denomination along the left side of the oval, but presents a "PE" printing flaw [Figure 2]. This flawed stamp is listed in Michel as No. 434 I, position 31. This time, Scott provides catalog status for this flaw as B32a. So, why are these flaws not consistently listed in Scott. No doubt it's an editorial decision in which only the more prominent flaws receive catalog recognition.

Some printing differences gain major catalog numbers. Two printing dies were used for France's Mont St. Michel



Figure 1a. Denmark, Scott 157.



Figure 1b. Germany, Scott B269.

Most likely, it is a universal characteristic of stamp collectors. All of us have that desire to discover new things for ourselves. And so we tend to examine postal items, be they stamps or postal history, closer than say, our laundry.

I want to whet your appetite and encourage you to search for postal varieties that have been under your nose all along.

First, let's look at an addition and an omission [Figure 1a]. The 1920 Sonderborg Castle block of four from Denmark, Scott 157. Notice the stamp in the upper right has no pearl inside the "0" of 1920. All the other stamps do. While not listed in Scott, it's a known variety and listed in Facit catalogs as No. 196v1, Pos. 2. Another example from Germany is the unused pair shown, Scott B269 [Figure 1b]. On the right-hand stamp you'll notice a pair of cable lines along the left margin. The Michel Catalogs recognize this variety as No. 885 I, from position 25 of the sheet.

stamp, Scott No. 249 and 250 [Figure 3a]. Examine the two stamps shown and note all the differences, from the heaviness of the ink in every element from clouds to walls to water. There is only one difference between Great Britain's British Empire Exhibition stamps, Scott 186 and 204 [Figure 3b]. The year dates differ 1924 (Scott 186) and 1925. Sure, these are not technically flyspecks, but you need to be aware of them to identify them properly.



Figure 3a. France, Scott 249, 250.

Non-constant printing flaws are noteworthy, but usually do not warrant catalog status [Figure 4]. An example is the Bobcat stamp of 1990, Scott 2482. The white blot near the center of the stamp was caused by foreign matter adhering



Figure 3b. Great Britain, Scott 186, 204.



Figure 4. U.S. Scott 2482, 3095.



to the printing plate (or paper) for one or more passes. It then dislodged never to appear again. It's certainly a collectible item so include it in your album. Ink splatters on stamps (from ink used in the printing, not from your fountain pen) make an interesting display. This 1996 stamp in the U.S. Steamboat set of 1996, Scott 3095, is a good example.

Perforation differences should be noted during your search [Figure 5]. These 1938 Statue of Liberty stamps from Spain, Scott 585, show one with regular perfs and the other with very rough (or perhaps pin perf or roulette).

Mis-registration of inks create collectible varieties. A dramatic example is from People's Republic of China – Northeast area, Scott 1L117 [Figure 6]. On the



Figure 5. Spain, Scott 585.



Figure 8. Ryukyu Islands, Scott 8.



Figure 6. People's Republic of China, Scott 1L117.



right-hand stamp, the blue background is shifted 4 millimeters to the right of the intended placement.

Two designs from Finland [Figure 7] give us our next varieties. First, Scott B10 shows the Helsinki Cathedral from a set issued in 1932. What I like to call “the gathering storm clouds” variety comes from Position 86 of the sheet. Notice how the clouds are covering the right side front of the dome. It is listed in the Facit catalog as No. 178v. Also from Finland, the author Minna Canth commemorative of 1944 is Scott 244. Position 97 shows her with a lock of hair on her forehead (Facit 286v).

Early issues of Ryukyu Islands provide an abundance of printing defects and many are noted in Scott. This 1950 issue of Tile Rooftop and Shishi [Figure 8],



Figure 7. Finland, Scott B10, Scott 244.



Figure 9. Italy, C27.

Figure 10.
Can you find
the flaws
in these
stamps?



Scott 8, shows a “white sky” in Position 76 that occurred during the first two printings. Scott notes that a new plate was made which eliminated the white sky for the third printing.

We move onto the starry, and even starrier, skies of Italy in the Trans-Atlantic Squadron issue [Figure 9], where a single white speck makes the difference between Scott C27, with six stars, and C27a, with seven stars. This is star gazing at its finest.

Now try searching for flyspecks on your own. See if you can pick out the differences for the stamps in our little visual quiz [Figure 10]? The answers will be at the end of the column.

A key in such discoveries is from printed sources, catalogs and handbooks. Some of these publications are extensive (even massive).

* * *

Oswald Schier has spent a lifetime studying a single issue from Spain, the 1938 Defender of Madrid semipostal, Scott B106, B108 and CB6. I touched on this set in the August issue of *The American Philatelist*. Schier gathered enough information to fill almost 800 pages. Each position from every plate was dissected and illustrated for every known plate flaw. In Spanish, it was published in 1991 and is available for loan

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Figure 11. The American Philatelic Expertizing Service discovered this item submitted by a member – an official seal, at bottom right, on an airmail cover – which gained number status in the 2018 Scott catalog.



from the American Philatelic Research Library. Obviously, there are many other similar works published over the years. Let the fine APRL staff know of your area of interest and our librarians can recommend appropriate titles.

In December 2015, the American Philatelic Expertizing Service (APEX) received a U.S. Official Seal on a part cover from 1945 [Figure 11]. The rough perforation gauge was 12.5-by-9, but was unlisted as such in Scott. With an interim APEX certificate, it was examined by Jim Kloetzel of Scott and declared a new perf variety. Full catalog status was given in the 2018 Scott Specialized Catalogue of Specialized Stamps as No. OC29A. An updated APEX certificate (222978) was issued. At this time, the official seal is considered unique.

* * *

As we enter the New Year, the APS Reference Collection is celebrating its 25th anniversary during 2018.

Founded in 1993, the collection has expanded to more than 475 volumes for genuine U.S. and foreign stamps and postal history. It also boasts 50 volumes of counterfeits and altered stamps. For a quarter of a century, it has assisted researchers, provided illustrations for the *AP* and other publications. Portions are featured each month in the APS E-Newsletter, and exhibited at the two annual APS stamp shows and conventions.

Just as important, the collection remains critical for more in-house examinations of items submitted for APEX certification. This is an open invitation to all APS/APRL members to view the collection the next time you visit the American Philatelic Center.



Quiz Answers: Here are the differences found in the four examples of stamps shown nearby: There is a vertical streak down the center of the middle strip in the Jefferson Monument stamps shown nearby (perhaps the remnants of a fly) above the magnifying glass; one of the U.S. Finland and the lion is missing its frame above the "N" in Finland and the lion is missing its frame has several differences, among them a notch in the stamp is missing a period after the overprinted M; One of the French military stamps is missing a strip of three; One of the French military stamps is a very faint streak down the center of the middle strip in the Jefferson Monument stamps shown nearby (perhaps the remnants of a fly) above the magnifying glass.



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A NATION'S STAPLES FILL PHILATELIC PANTRY

Indonesia's First Definitives –
the Rice and Cotton Series of 1951 – Had Many Uses

BY MARDJOHAN "JOHN" HARDJASUDARMA

Indonesia is the world's fourth-most populous country with 263 million people. Bordered by the Indian Ocean to the southwest and the Pacific to the north and east, Indonesia, with 17,000 islands, is the world's largest island state and the 14th largest in total area. The country covers 3,170 miles east to west (a few hundred miles more than the continental United States); 1,373 miles north to south.

We'll skip most of the early history, but humanoid occupation dates back 45,000 years or more. Early civilized influence came from many Asian and Indian populations over many centuries, followed by Islamic sultanates in the 13th century.

Indonesia includes hundreds of distinct native ethnic groups with as many as 700 languages spoken. The largest and most politically dominant ethnic group with about a 40 percent dominance, are the Javanese. The country is about 87 percent Muslim. Jakarta (also Djarkta), on the island of Java, is the largest city in Southeast Asia with more than 10 million inhabitants. Java is the third-largest island at 48,900 square miles, about the size of Mississippi, while the largest is Sumatra at 164,000 square miles, the size of California. Celebes (67,400 square miles) is second largest.

European influence – first from the Portuguese and then the Dutch – started in the 16th century. The Netherlands, under the names Dutch East Indies and Netherlands Indies, occupied the territory from about 1800 until World War II,

when Japan invaded. A United Nations report indicated as many as 4 million natives died from starvation and disease during the Japanese occupation.

Indonesia declared its independence at the end of WWII and battled the Dutch for four years until independence was recognized in late 1949, and the United States of Indonesia was formally established on August 15, 1950.



Figure 1. A 15s Mountain, Palms and Flag of Republic stamp (Scott 333) issued January 17, 1950.

Postal rates fluctuated then, as they do now. In many areas, postal personnel took the initiative to overprint stamps to change them into postal dues; or to create postage dues anew with help of a stencil machine. Many early stamps of independent Indonesia of the late 1940s – called the Vienna issues and heavily marketed by a U.S. stamp dealer – were used so rarely that the Scott Postage Stamp Catalogue does not even list used values for Scott 1 through 119. The next entry is Scott 333, a Flag of the Republic stamp, which was issued January 17, 1950 [Figure 1]. This is when stamps began regular use in the country.

It wasn't long before Indonesia needed workhorse stamps. And what better subject for the country's first set of definitives than important staples and symbols of the inhabitants – rice and cotton.

Rice always had an important place in Indonesian life and folklore. To begin with, there are specific names for the various forms or stages of cultivation and consumption of rice. While ripening in the fields it is called "padi." After it is



Figure 2. The first definitives for Indonesia included nine stamps in the Rice and Cotton set of 1951-53, Scott 368-376.

hulled, it's called "beras" and after cooking – usually steaming – it becomes "nasi." The hulled skin is known as "gabah."

Evidence of rice in Indonesia dates to 3000 B.C. with actual cultivation dating at least to the eighth century, according to stone carvings found on Java. Advances in technology and farming promoted the continued growth of the rice industry among the native population, visitors, colonists, and invaders. Today, Indonesia is the world's third-largest producer of rice.

Cotton – called "kapas" – an important material for clothing and textiles – also symbolizes basic necessities of what is still largely an agrarian society. From the 1820s, the Dutch tried to promote the cotton industry in Indonesia, hoping to supply the home country's growing needs in the textile industry. Since the 1980s, Indonesia has been a world leader in cotton exports.

Placed together, the uses of rice and cotton are fitting for the first definitive of postal franking in the early years

of the nation following its fully recognized independence in 1949 [Figure 2]. These were also the first definitives with the full inscription of "Republik Indonesia."

Designed by M. Irot, and first issued in 1951 with a perforation of 12½ and an image size of 18 millimeters by 22.5mm. The Rice and Cotton set consists of nine values, ranging from 1 sen to 25 sen, with two of the denominations having half values. The values in a complete set consist of 1, 2, 2½, 5, 7½, 10, 15, 20 and 25 sen.

The definitives were gradually replaced by the Animal series [Figure 3], issued in three sets in 1956 (eight stamps), 1958 (seven) and 1959 (six). Values range from 5 to 90 sen, and there were no more half-sen values. Over the years, the Rice and Cotton stamps were issued with different shades (sometimes darker, sometimes lighter) of color, different types of paper and ink, with and without gum, a variety of perforations, or the lack thereof. Different sizes of images are known, such as the standard 18mm by 22.5mm vs. 17mm-by-22 mm found on the 10 and 20 sen. Printing was in multi-sheets and they are known with gutter pairs/blocks or sheets.

By themselves, or largely by themselves, the Rice & Cot-

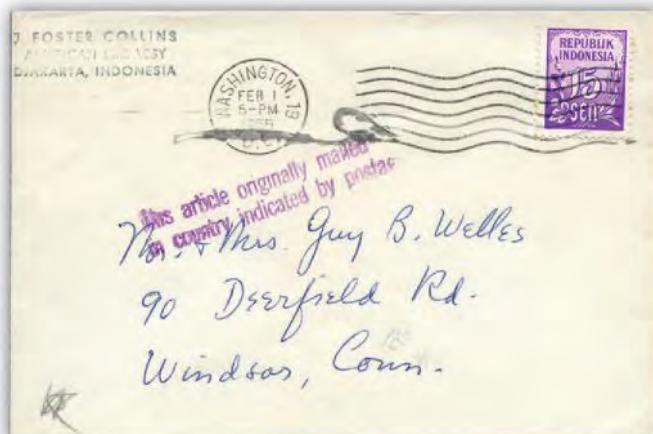


Figure 4. This small-sized envelope was franked with Indonesian postage and carried in a diplomatic pouch from the American Embassy to the U.S., where it received a Washington, D.C. postmark.



Figure 3. A couple of the stamps in the Animal series of definitives issued in 1956 to 1959, Scott 452, 456.



Figure 5. A proof of posting receipt with cancelled 5- and 20-sen Padi and Kapas (Rice and Cotton) stamps. It was postmarked in Jakarta on October 18, 1955 en route to The Hague.

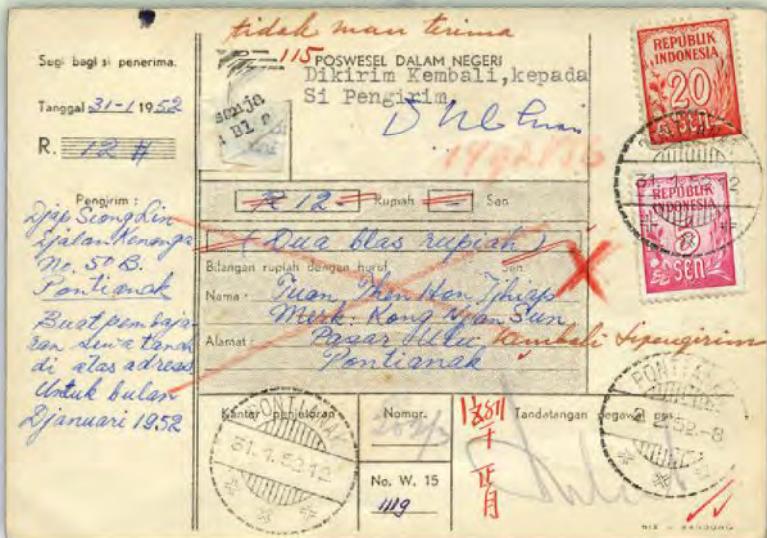


Figure 6. Both sides of a postal money order sent by a renter in 1952 and refused by the property owner with notations from both. Ultimately, in 1956, the back side (below) was filled out and the money order was finally cashed by the landlord.



ton stamps franked a multitude of postcards and letters including the popular small sized so-called visitation cards, usually business cards with or without well wishes or congratulations for the new year, birthdays, etc. Eventually, the postal authorities withdrew their permission for these items citing technical difficulties in processing because of their small size.

There are covers that are just a little over the minimum size such as a letter from an official at the U.S. Embassy in Jakarta [Figure 4]. This particular item was peculiar in that it was actually carried outside the postal system, by diplomatic pouch. Not wanting to create the impression of defrauding the Indonesian postal services of revenue, U.S. authorities urged their employees to use Indonesian stamps, disregarding the actual carriage by anything but the Indonesian postal service. A common rubber stamp applied to the front told the story. Where larger amounts were required, the Rice and Cotton stamps usually made up a smaller proportion of the total postage. That left the public with postcard-size stationary, which was somewhat pricier than the small visitation cards.

Postal forms labeled "bukti memposkan," or proof of posting, that are still plentiful from the period [Figure 5] are proof of mailing receipts, postal money orders that were returned to sender in disputes between the senders (real estate owners) and the recipients, who rented their houses.

25-sen postage was used to mail a postal money order on January 31, 1952 [Figure 6 top] from Pontoanak, the capital of the Indonesian province of West Kalimantan. The payment was for a rented domicile that fell under government rent control.

This system kept rentals relatively low, much to the chagrin of the owners, who by and large refused to cash the money order and returned them back to sender [Figure 6 bottom]. This was meant to be a sign of protest. Renters could ask for repayment, which took a long time; in this case, not until 1956 and only after permission from postal headquarters in Bandung.

New government regulations or continuation of old, pre-existing ones were felt to be protective of the renters since it maintained the old rental rates despite rampant inflation. This was felt to be unfair by the owners, who insisted on higher rates in view of inflation, among other factors. The renters voiced their support of the old rates by dutifully sending their monthly payment to the owners by postal money order, also called "poswesel," or in Dutch, "postwissel."

The owners showed their opposition by refusing to cash the money orders, which were returned



Figure 7. A 1951 letter (top) found itself the subject of a 25-sen postage due stamp on the back, thanks to an overprint that states "denda." The overdue was later lifted. A cover to a bank (bottom) in 1951 is franked with a 10-sen stamp, but carries a 7½-cent stamp stating "port to be paid" and a Soemohadiwidjojo label. It is likely a philatelic creation.

to sender. That explains the existence of these postal forms with full documentation of the back and forth sentiments, beautifully documented on the fronts and backs of the poswesel.

Sometimes, the Rice and Cotton set found odd uses as partial franking of first-day covers, being overprinted and used as postage dues, or used with a provisional postage due sticker [Figure 7 top]. The use of a 10-sen stamp overprinted "denda," for "fine" or "penalty," was reversed four hours after it was applied on February 12, 1951.

A 1951 cover [Figure 7 bottom] – very likely a philatelic creation – was franked with a 10-sen Irot stamp, underpaying the rate to the Javasche Bank. It was slapped with a provisional 7½ cent postage due stamp.

The mimeographed label on white paper has a signature chop of Soemohadiwidjojo, likely the local postmaster. These appear in black or red, according to an Indonesia catalog, and were used in Surabaya in February 1951 on denomina-

tions of 2½, 5, 7½ and 10 sen.

The Author

Ta lifelong philatelist from Indonesia (but living in the United States for the past 41 years), Mardjohan started out collecting the whole world, but is now concentrating on his native country exclusively. He finds the area "fascinating" to collect. Most items are inexpensive and widely available. For the connoisseur, pricey items can also be found, though that is obviously more challenging. It is his hope that Indonesia will be on the shopping lists of many more philatelists.

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VISITING THE BRITISH EMPIRE

BY NOEL DAVENHILL

Sierra Leone

Many Former Slaves Were Sent to British Colony in 1790s;
First Stamp Issued in 1859

The name Lion Mountains (Sierra de Leão) was conferred in recognition of a lion-shaped hilltop behind the harbor, by a Portuguese navigator in 1462. The capital city was named Freetown in 1787, after becoming the home of liberated slaves from England. Many more groups of former slaves arrived from Jamaica and Nova Scotia between 1792 and 1800. From then into the next century, British naval vessels were allocated to intercept slave ships and release thousands of Africans to establish settlements. These Afro/European people (Creoles) rapidly acquired the cultural ideals of the British to become a significant force in the country's development. British Crown colony status was attained in 1807.

Although a post office was opened in 1843, stamps of Great Britain were never placed on sale. There are, however, several covers with local cancellations carried by naval vessels engaged in slave liberation. Sierra Leone's first stamp was issued in 1859, a highly acclaimed 6-pence design printed by De La Rue with Queen Victoria's portrait in a distinctive frame [Figure 1]. Ten identified printings in various shades of violet have been recorded over a period of 36 years before the stamp was finally replaced in 1897. The Scott Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue lists 1859, 1872, 1885, 1890 and 1896 printings. Seven are listed by Stanley Gibbons.

Authorization was granted in 1861 to permit the use of this 6p stamp in the neighboring British West African Settlement of Gambia until indigenous stamps were issued in 1869.

The classic frame design similar to that of Gold Coast's first stamps was selected for new 1-, 3-, and 4-pence and 1-shilling values in 1872. They were re-



Figure 2. Four stamps were issued in 1893 with Crown CA watermarks. To comply with UPU regulations, their colors were changed the next year. The 4p stamp first was blue (Scott 29) and was changed to bister (Scott 30).



Figure 1. A block of six 6p Sierra Leone stamps issued in 1859, Scott 1.

printed in 1873, along with an additional 2p denomination, with Crown CC watermarks placed from sideways to upright.

From 1876 to 1896, the upright watermark was retained for new printings with perforations changed from 12½ to 14. Additional ½p and 1½p stamps were also placed on sale.

Crown CA watermarks were introduced for existing ½, 1, 2 and 4p stamps in 1883. To comply with Universal Postal Union regulations for revised postal charges, color changes for ½, 2p, 3p, 4p and 1sh stamps were implemented from 1884 to 1891

[Figure 2]. A 2½p denomination was added in 1891.

To alleviate a deficit in 1883, 1½-cent stamps, (Crown CC and CA watermarks: Scott 13, 24) were provisionally overprinted "half penny" by the government printer in Freetown. The "PFNNY" flaw (Row 3/1) occurs on both types. It is alleged that blocks of surcharged stamps with the spelling error were sent from the postmaster general in Freetown to his counterpart, a keen philatelist, in Natal.

De La Rue's Imperium key and duty plates from ½p to £1 inscribed "Postage & Revenue" were issued in 1896-97 and included a new 5p denomination [Figure 3].



Figure 3. A 2½p lilac and ultra Queen Victoria, Scott 38, on an 1898 cover sent to France. (Image courtesy of Frank Walton.)

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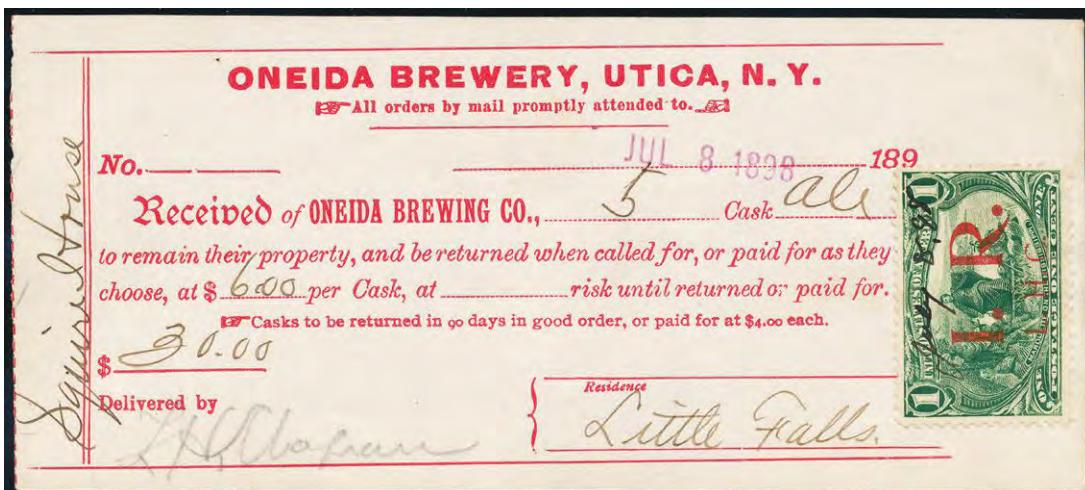
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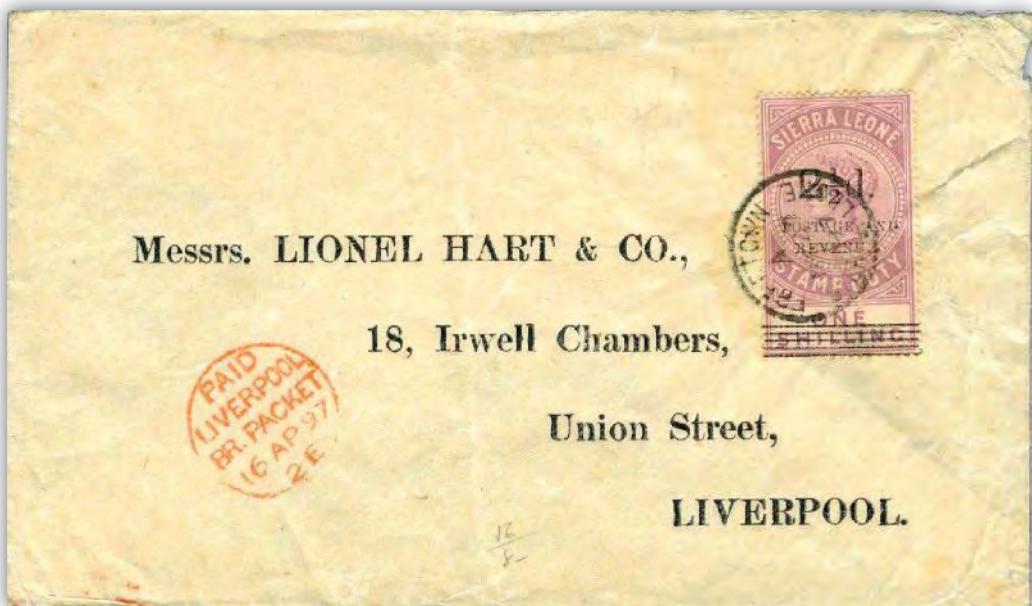


Figure 4. More than 14,000 Duty stamps in 1897 were overprinted "Postage & Revenue" in three lines. Scott recognizes 19 different overprints. This 1897 cover to Liverpool, England is franked with a 2½-cent on 1 shilling, one of the five such surcharges noted by the Scott catalog. (Image courtesy of Frank Walton.)

A shortage of 1p and 2½p stamps in March 1897 required the postal authorities to surcharge various denominations of larger format revenue stamps for postal use [Figure 4].

A total of 14,400 1-cent fiscal stamps were locally overprinted "Postage and Revenue" in three lines. The 2½p surcharge was more challenging because the printer couldn't gather up sufficient identical '2' and '½d' pieces of lead typeface required to overprint panes containing 30 fiscal stamps. This inevitably led to numerous overprint varieties. The number of sheets surcharged was relatively small, with only four sheets of the 2sh fiscal, from which very few stamps are known to have been used for postal purposes.

Many of the surcharged 1sh stamps show various levels of discoloration from unexplained water staining that is believed to have occurred before being surcharged. Statements that overprinting was an economy measure to utilize surplus revenue stamps were challenged by official announcements that they supplemented existing stocks of 2½p stamps to meet a rise in the cost of posting letters to Great Britain.



Figure 5. The accession of King Edward VII brought new designs in 1903, followed by color and paper changes in 1904 and 1907, Scott 65, 78, 91.

In 1903, existing denominations and colors were retained and adapted to show the portrait of King Edward VII [Figure 5]. They were reprinted on chalky paper in 1904-05 with watermarks changed to Multiple Crown CA. The 1p was also issued on ordinary paper.

Major revisions were implemented from 1907 to 1910 by the reprinting of ½p to 2½p stamps in single colors. Higher denominations also were revised. Whereas values from 3p to £1 were chalk surfaced, some 3p stamps were printed on ordinary paper.

In 1912, new 7, 9 and 10p stamps were added to Imperium key and duty plates modified to portray King George V. The 3p made a surprising appearance with the elephant-and-palm tree emblem selected for larger format denominations to which extra-high value £2 and £5 stamps were added [Figure 6]. This emblem was the

badge of the West African Settlements incorporating Gold Coast, Gambia and Lagos (part of Nigeria), which appears on several Gambian stamps, but surprisingly not on those of Gold Coast.

From 1921 to 1927, all except £1 were reprinted with Script CA watermarks. There were color changes for 1p and 1½p values and the 3p returned more appropriate as a key type. Despite "postage & revenue" inscriptions, the £2 and £5 stamps, first issued in 1913, were intended solely for fiscal use. Postmarked copies, were almost certainly cancelled by favor, or removed from telegram forms.

In the 1930s Sierra Leone matched several other British colonies by introducing pictorial definitives. Thirteen stamps in 1932 from ½p to £1 shared two designs, a rice field on lower denominations to 1sh, and a scene comprising palm and cola trees for higher values. Printing was shared by Waterlow (½p to 1sh) and Bradbury Wilkinson (2sh to £1) [Figure 7].

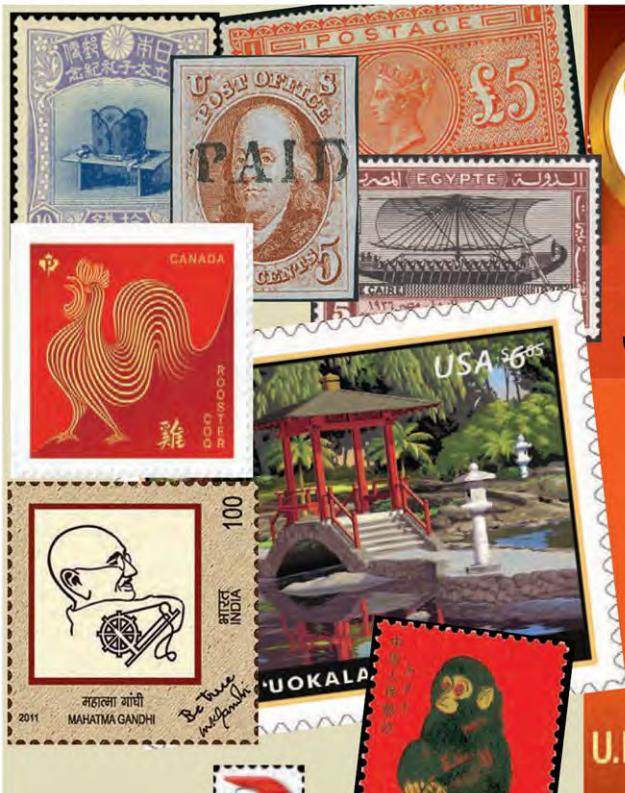
In 1933, some of the finest stamp designs for a British colony were adapted from sketches by a Roman Catholic



Figure 6. The 3-cent King George V set of 1912 includes the elephant-and-palm. The only other country the emblem is showing on stamps is The Gambia,



Figure 7. A low and high value showing the two designs of a 13-stamp set of 1932, Scott 145, 151.



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May 20th
June 24th
July 29th
August 19th
September 16th
October 21st
November 25th
December 16th



priest, the Reverend Francis Welch [Figure 8]. Welch, by the way, also designed Sierra Leone's Rice Harvesting definitives of 1938. The 13 denominations from ½p to £1 printed by Bradbury Wilkinson commemorated two anniversaries: the centennial since the abolition of slavery and the death of William Wilberforce, which occurred just three days after his momentous bill was passed by Britain's parliament.

Welch's most striking design was perhaps the stunning image of an African elephant on the 5sh stamp. The epic events of the period were surprisingly acknowledged by only four denominations: a liberated slave (1p), the old slave market in Freetown (2p), a description of the anniversaries (3p). The 2sh stamp featured a view of Bunce Island, where thousands of captive Africans were held inhumanely before being shipped to North America. During his visit to the historic island in 1992, former U.S. National Security Advisor Colin Powell announced "I am an American, but today I am something more, I am an African, too."

Omnibus issues in 1935 and 1937 marking the Silver Jubilee and subsequent coronation were followed in 1938 with King George VI definitives from ½p to £1 printed by Waterlow & Sons.

The images featuring a view of Freetown from the harbor and a rice harvesting scene were effective, but perhaps missed an opportunity to modify some of Welch's 1933 designs [Figure 9].

Colors of 1½p and 2p stamps were switched in 1941 to reflect a change in postal rates. In 1944, a 1sh3p value was added primarily for airmail use. A very distinct extra cloud (not listed), directly below "RA" on several 3p stamps in sheets printed from frame Plate 3s are worth looking for in circuit books and dealers stocks [Figure 9c].

Victory, Royal Silver Wedding and 75th Anniversary of UPU omnibus issues were followed in 1953 by the 1½p Coronation stamp is-



Figure 9. New stamps featuring King George VI in designs of Freetown Harbor and rice harvesting were issued in 1938-44. One of the 3-cent stamps, Scott 177, an extra cloud can be easily seen below the letters "RA."

sued nearly three years prior to the delayed release in 1956, of QE II pictorials. Thirteen different designs from ½p to £1 were printed by Waterlow. An unknown number of 3p sheets perforated 13x13½ (Scott 199a) were distributed to the trade by the Crown Agents; it seems likely that several sheets were also sold along with regular perf 14 stamps at some Sierra Leone post offices.

The old silk cotton tree on the 2p denomination [Figure 10a], a popular meeting place and tourist attraction in Freetown, also features on the 1933 2p stamp. Another splendid design, the 2sh6p, is a view of the Orugu Railroad Bridge from a train window [Figure 10b]. A close look at the 10sh Law Courts design, reveals a passing double-decker bus, one of several imported from London during the early 1950s.

Independence in 1961 was marked with appropriate themes on 13 pictorials from ½p to £1 printed by Bradbury Wilkinson. Other than replacing the queen's portrait with Sierra Leone's crouching lion motif, the stamps closely resemble those of many contemporary British colonies. One major difference is the new Crown SL watermark signifying the country's independent status.

One of four historical icons selected to commemorate the queen's visit in 1961 features the royal yacht Britannia. Each stamp also incorporates the Annigoni portrait.

In 1963, two commemorative issues were derived by hastily prepared overprints on surplus stocks of QE II definitives acquired from the Crown Agents and probably the Freetown



Figure 10. The old silk cotton tree on the 2p denomination and the Orugu Railroad Bridge from a train window, Scott 198, 204.



Figure 11. One of a set of overprints marking two years of progress in independence created in 1963, and one of the overprints commemorating the "oldest" postal service and newest GPO in West Africa, Scott 244, 254.



Figure 8. An important set of stamps in 1933 helped tell the story of slavery in Sierra Leone, particularly with designs found on four of the low values: 1½p, 1p, 2 p, and 3p, Scott 153-161. (Top four values in set not illustrated.)

General Post Office. They were initiated by a private agent, who was later replaced by the Inter-Governmental Philatelic Corp. (IGPC), of New York.

The first set, which marked two years of progress during independence, comprised 13 descriptive overprints and surcharges applied by the government printer [Figure 11a]. Several denominations additionally overprinted "airmail" were clearly superfluous as no airmail stamps were included in a recent set of flower definitives. Identical 11sh airmail surcharges were applied to 10sh and £1 stamps (Scott C6, C7). The official explanation for additionally surcharging some £1 stamps was said to be due to climatic spoilage of a quantity of locally accessed 10sh denominations. The nine sheets of surcharged £1 stamps were clearly inadequate for distribution to post offices, leaving almost all to end up in dealer's hands. It is questionable why several of the 540 stamps were also used on registered mail posted from the philatelic bureau.

Similar overprints, surcharges and airmail inscriptions were claimed to commemorate the oldest postal service and newest GPO in West Africa [Figure 11b]. They were placed on sale six months later, implemented with some Royal Visit and Independence stamps, apparently to replace insufficient supplies of equivalent QEII definitives. These contrived and ill-conceived stamps were plagued with numerous bizarre typeface varieties. It seems highly improbable that all were caused by genuine printing mistakes.

A final problem concerning these controversial stamps questions why several thousand 1956 3p Rice Harvesting definitives were overprinted following the printing of 90,000

3p on ½p (Scott 242) surcharges.

These outrageous unnecessary stamps undoubtedly led to the downturn in Sierra Leone's philatelic reputation. This was accelerated with the newly appointed agency producing frequent self-adhesive short-term definitive and so-called airmail issues printed from die-cut maps of the new state [Figure 12].

From here on an increasing number of highly



Figure 12. Sierra Leone started creating stamps with unusual shapes starting in 1964. This airmail stamp, Scott C17, is part of a group of postage and airmail stamps in the shape of the state carrying a New York World's Fair overprint.

speculative issues with little or no relevance to Sierra Leone continued to target collectors.

I wish to thank Frank Walton and Peter Foden for their helpful advice.

The images accompanying the British Empire collection are from the American Philatelic Society's reference collection, which can be seen in-person or for free online at www.stamps.org/Reference-Collection-Tour.

There are more than 75 United States and international reference collections available for viewing.

The author can be contacted by emailing: chambon@xtra.co.nz

NOTE: The American Philatelist style is to use "p" for penny and "sh" for shilling. Both Linn's Stamp News and the Scott catalog use similar abbreviations in their articles and listings, so we are attempting to remain consistent with what other American philatelic publications use.

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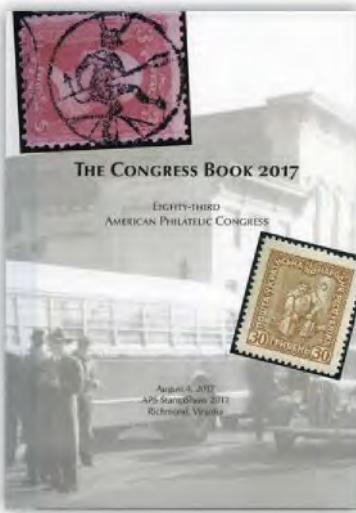
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The Congress Book 2017, edited by Kenneth Trettin

Whether a specific article in this well-established annual publication strikes a nerve among your specific

collecting interests or not, the quality and diversity here cannot be denied. This compilation from the American Philatelic Congress brings together an assortment of scholarly articles likely offering something for everyone.

The 83rd edition of this publication has somewhat fewer stories than we may be used to – only four, compared to eight-or-so in most recent years – but the quality and diversity remains strong and viable.

The book has been published annually since the congress formed in 1935, when a 59-page softcover booklet was produced. Stamp dealer and philatelist of renown, Eugene Klein was the first president and served in that role into 1943, when he died.

"Since its first meeting in December 1935, the American Philatelic Congress has promoted and encouraged philatelic scholarship," explains a note on the back cover. "This volume ... continues the founding tradition of inviting and publishing original research papers on a wide variety of philatelic topics."

The Congress Book certainly is one of the longest continuous philatelic publications in existence and with good reason. The articles – by top collectors, exhibitors and writers in their specialties – are interesting, well researched and nicely illustrated.

This year's lineup offers "The Devil's Post Office," by W.J. Duffney; "Ukraine's Vienna Issue: A Nine-Decade Journey to Postal Fulfillment," by Ingert Kuzych; "United States Postal Savings Certificates, 1911-1967," by Matthew Liebson; and "Hubs of Communication," by Nancy B. Clark and Will Keller. Throughout, the book is nicely illustrated in color and black and white.

In "The Devil's Post Office," Duffney offers us the story of one of American postal history's most fascinating and visually stimulating fancy cancels – a dancing devil wielding a pitchfork. This certainly isn't the rarest philatelic item

– there are 65 documented on-cover and three on-piece of the cancellation utilized starting April 16, 1866 in West Meriden, Connecticut – but one of the most fascinating.

Duffney offers historical background in the area, offering details on everything from the location of the post office and a report of the Great Fire of 1864 to a glimpse of postmasters and other key personalities. The text is kept lively with names such as Abraham Lincoln, Andrew Johnson and Frederick Douglass surfacing in the narrative.

The section only shows a handful of the covers, but they are nicely reproduced and detailed with close-ups. Especially interesting is a full-page color illustration diagramming a period cancelling device.

At 46 pages, Kuzych's chapter is the longest; please do not even think about groaning over what to the uninformed might initially sound like a trudge over an inhospitable post-WWI eastern European landscape. Nothing could be further from the reality of taking the journey with this piece.

"Perhaps the most beloved of all the postal issues from Ukraine's first twentieth century period of independence (1917-1920), the Vienna pictorial set of 1920 remains an extraordinary representation of the Ukrainian national character. In its fourteen scenes are expressed the symbols of the newly independent nation."

The stamps were produced as much of Europe went through post-WWI turmoil. Ukrainian artist Mykola Ivasiuk, then living in Vienna, agreed to create the stamp artwork for free. All 14 designs were created and approved between September 23, and December 2, 1920. The stamps were printed in Vienna.

Sadly, the political and governmental disruptions to the Ukraine led to these stamps were never being put into broad postal use. There might have

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been some limited use, but the author explains all of that. (The Scott catalog offers no official numbers for them, but notes their existence and the availability of all sets for \$5.)

The author presents an exceedingly thorough review – through text, tables and striking color images – of the creation of these stamps. Among the images are original photographs that served as the models for the designs, signed essays, images of original vignettes, an image of the only known photo proof of the full set, full views of an interesting double-pane layout (100 stamps on one side; 50 on the other), and a printing diagram for a sheet of 1-hryvnia stamps.

Although never widely distributed (if at all), the author notes that luckily the stamps were not forgotten. The designs were rediscovered early this century and have been used on modern souvenir sheets showing Ukrainian postal history issued in 2008 and 2010.

Liebson's chapter on U.S. postal savings certificates is an area that many philatelists might know little about, but played an important role for individuals' financial growth and in post office history.

In the opening segments, Liebson gives a nice clear description of the service, which operated a little bit like a bank from 1911 to 1967. The system grew from a couple of post offices offering the service when it opened to more than 12,000 in two years and nationwide from Puerto Rico to Alaska. By 1929, the system held \$153 million in deposits and peaked in 1947 with \$3.4 billion in deposits.

The savings certificates – all of which appear to be a financial instrument but are reflective of a post office service – were evidence of a depositor's account. Overall, there were six distinct series of postal savings certificates, plus some varieties. One simple and easy-to-spot variety is that the signature of which postmaster general was in office would appear on the current certificate. The author illustrates and describes the use and background of all of the main certificates and many

varieties. More than two dozen certificates, including some with close-ups, are shown in full color.

The “Hubs of Communication” chapter is a reprint of a paper prepared for a 2016 symposium at the Spellman Museum of Stamps and Postal History in Weston, Massachusetts, where Clark is president of the board. Both are active in the Mobile Post Office Society.

The article gives a nice overview of the U.S. Post Office Department's Highway Post Office, which operated post office buses from 1941 through June 30, 1974. The HPO was designed to possibly replace the Railroad Post Office, which was fading with the decline of passenger trains during and after World War II.

The Highway Post Office combined some of the advantages of trucking – such as the ability to take roads to destinations not offered by the declining railroad system – while still allowing clerks to sort mail while on the move, which could not be done by standard trucking.

Through photos, covers, and maps, the chapter details the rise of the HPO

service?,” “Basic HPO Route Information,” “RPO-HPO Similarities,” “Promotion of the HPO Service by the Post Office,” “Commercial vs. Philatelic [Covers]” and “HPO Anomalies.”

There is a nice mix of covers, photographs, maps and charts. Among the special photos here is President Franklin Roosevelt promoting the service by handing a postmaster a letter from his car, clerks sorting mail on buses and a chunky HPO bus that was abandoned during a blizzard in 1955 in South Dakota.

Published in August 2017 by the American Philatelic Congress. Hardcover, 6 ½ inches by 10 inches, 129 pages. The current edition is \$43, postpaid in the U.S. Make checks payable to the American Philatelic Congress and send to Charles Wooster, 3991 Gulf Shore Blvd. North, Apt. 301, Naples, FL 34103.

St. Vincent, 1899-1965, by Charles Freeland, Roy Bond, and Russell Boylan

St. Vincent, a small, picturesque tropical island of forested volcanic mountains in the Lesser Antilles in the Caribbean, has an interesting history, culture and, philately.

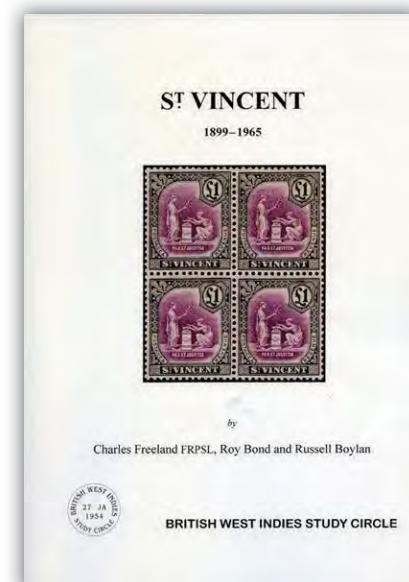


Fig. 7.1.12 – Block of 8 of the 1d showing the printer's imprint and Frame Plate No. 2.



Fig. 7.1.13 – Corner block of 4 of the 1d showing the Frame Plate No. 2a and Vignette Plate No. 3a.

1938-47						
SG Number	Value	Frame Colour	Vignette Colour	Frame Plate No.	Vignette Plate No.	
149	½d	deep blue-green	deep blue	blank	blank	
150	1d	lake-brown	deep blue	2	3	
	1d	"		2	3	
	1d	"		2a	2a	
	1d	"		2a	2a	
151	1½d	scarlet	green	blank	blank	
152	2d	black	green	blank	blank	
153	2½d	blue-green	blue-black	blank	blank	
153a	2½d	purple-brown	green	1 & 1a	blank	
154	3d	purple	orange	blank	blank	
154a	3½d	blue-green	blue-black	1	blank	
	3½d	"		1a	blank	

system, which started with just a few routes, but expanded quickly after WWII. It's a nice easy-to-read presentation with mini-chapters telling the story. Among those are “Why Bother with a Different Ser-

Though there is stampless philately and the stamp period began in 1861, this book – created by members of the British West Indies Study Circle – starts in 1899, noting how well earlier periods have been covered by other publications. Particularly receiving a nod is *St. Vincent* (1971), published by Robson Lowe Ltd. “While comprehensive in its coverage, this book did not include stamps and revenue stamps after 1897 while coverage of postal history and cancellations only went up to 1915,” the Preface notes.

This new book found that the Queen Elizabeth II definitives of 1965 is a good place to stop. It wasn’t long after that when St. Vincent joined many other small nations in a money-grab by producing a lot of unnecessary stamps. (Scott postage numbers reached 278 at the end of 1969; through 2015, the Scott catalog reached 4040.)

There is a lot packed here into the Preface, 16 chapters, three appendices, and a bibliography. There is a full index. Color images of stamps, essays, proofs, covers, and stationery are found throughout, not to mention maps, charts and tables, postmarks, pertinent photos, and more. Everything seems to be covered here, from regular postage and postal stationery to watermarks, overprints, censor markings, maritime mail and airmail, war tax stamps, and inland mail.

In addition to detailed looks at specific stamps and philately, we find fascinating background information. For example, the beginning of the King George VI chapter includes text of correspondence between the Crown Agents responsible for the stamps and the printers, De La Rue and Bradbury Wilkinson.

Always helpful is background information about places and the authors include sections on St. Vincent’s geography and history at the front and the 18th-century Brigands War in the pre-stamp period in a detailed appendix.

So many important philatelic details are within that it’s impossible to even summarize a chapter, which are broken into several sections, but here are a few

highlights from a section on the Queen Elizabeth II issue of 1961:

“In 1961 De La Rue acquired Waterlow ... This led to De La Rue taking over printing of the St. Vincent definitives. No essays were produced ...

“The lower values, up to including 25 cents, were printed in two panes of 100 stamps each ... (while) the higher values (were) made up of 50 stamps in ten rows of five stamps. ... The main way to tell the difference between the sheets of De La Rue and Waterlow ... is to examine the marks in the margins, as the Waterlow panes have various alignment marks in the corners and short dashes halfway along all four sides of each pane.”

“The paper was watermarked Multiple Script CA ...

“The gum used varied printing by printing, but was still based upon the traditional gum Arabic.

“The lower values up to and including 25 cents were comb perforated with gauge 13½ by 14.”

Beyond that, there are details about flaws and varieties and a table – with both Stanley Gibbons and Scott numbers – showing printings of all 12 denominations, their color varieties, and other production details.

The stamps are all so wonderfully documented anyone collecting St. Vincent certainly will be thrilled and appreciative.

Sadly, Freeland, a respected, long-time member and former president of the study group as well as a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society London, passed away in April before the book was published. A small Appreciation notes how “all readers would agree that this book is a fitting tribute to him.”

Published by the British West Indies Study Circle, softcover, 8 ¼ inches by 11 5/8 inches, perfect bound, 294 pages, fully color illustrated. \$30, APS members \$27.50, plus shipping from the APS Specialty Store (<https://stamps.org/Publications>).

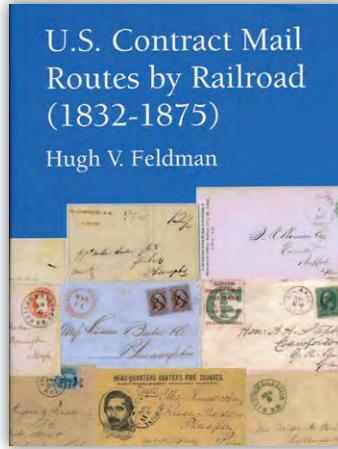
U.S. Contract Mail Routes by Railroad (1832-1875), by Hugh Feldman

It looks and feels as weighty and im-

posing as a 19th-century locomotive. At nearly 8½ pounds and 1,100 pages, this massive book tells the story of early contract mail routes on the steel rails that helped America expand from a former colonial backwater into a powerful force on the world stage.

But size wouldn’t matter if the contents don’t deliver. Fortunately, under the research and pen of respected British philatelist Hugh Feldman, and with the backing of the Collectors Club of Chicago, this exhaustive work is likely to prove to be the prime resource for this material for many years to come.

In his Preface, Feldman explains



some of the period’s growth, and how the trials in the development of the railroads and growth of the postal service were intertwined. Everything from contract kerfuffles and train schedules to different gauge tracks, business decisions, and the thousands of companies contracted to carry mail, interacted with how mail was moved. The book tries to detail and make sense of it all with maps, covers, dates, lists of route stops and schedules, text, and illustrations and so much more.

In addition to the book, there is an accompanying DVD, a first for the CCC. The DVD has a vast amount of additional information, including postmaster general reports, contract records and illustrations of hundreds of covers and the original manuscript contract records consisting of 6,773 pages, and detailed reports from the postmaster general reports from 1823 to 1880 (some have more than 800 pages).

Whew. Clearly it’s all too much to

possibly review here, but we'll offer some highlights. First, it's best to start with a little about the author.

Feldman is an active award-winning researcher, exhibitor, and author, who holds memberships in many premier philatelic societies, most notably the Royal Philatelic Society London. His collecting interests have ranged from British stamps of the Victorian era to the postal services of London and U.S. steamboat mail. His awards range from gold medals and grand awards for his literature and exhibits at U.S., U.K. and international exhibitions to the prestigious Crawford Medal from the RPSL. In 2008, the Collectors Club of Chicago published Feldman's first U.S.-based postal history book, *U.S. Contract Mail Routes by Water, Star Routes, 1824-1875*.

A few years ago he turned his attention to early U.S. railroad mail, which included seven weeks of research at the National Archives and Records Administration in Washington, D.C. Aside from this book, he has worked on an exhibit on the subject that quickly won gold medals at international shows.

The result of such intense research and study is this book filled with detailed maps, charts, tables, and covers offering everything from rates to full routes by dates covering origins, termini, and every stop in between.

The book is divided into seven introductory chapters, including a couple of chapters devoted to the development of mail carriage by railroads, contract and payment terms, route agents, railway post offices, and tycoons. This is followed by chapters on 35 states (Alabama to Wisconsin, which includes transcontinental sections in the California and Nebraska chapters). At the back is a 160-page Gazetteer listing railroad stops by cities, followed by an Index of Railroads, Bibliography, and General Index.

Not surprisingly, in a book this extensive, there are a few minor errors. I only looked at some New York state material, being a native and longtime resident of Central New York (Syracuse).

A common error by many is to mix up Oswego and Owego, which happens here in at least one instance. Syracuse is sometimes listed as being in Onondago, instead of Onondaga, County. But these are incredibly minor blips. I only mention it as a reminder that all researchers need to double and triple-check details and not to take away anything from this achievement. (The publisher does note that original spellings shown in charts and in cancels may have changed over time.)

The era covered marked important and great growth in the U.S. postal system and many postal historians are going to appreciate this book for many years to come.

Published in August 2017 by the Collectors Club of Chicago. Hardcover, 8 1/2 inches by 11 inches, 8.35 pounds, 1096 pages, fully color illustrated throughout showing maps, charts, tables, 242 covers. Also included, a DVD with extra information, including the original manuscript contract records consisting of 6,773 pages, (likely published for the first time) and extensive (hundreds of pages) of postmaster general reports from 1823 to 1880, and illustrations of covers, 242 found in the book plus another 550. Price: \$97.50 plus \$10 postage U.S. from the CCC website, www.collectorsclubchicago.org, or contact Leonard Hartmann at Philatelic Bibliopole, Box 36006, Louisville, KY 40233; www.pbbooks.com, Leonard@pbbooks.net.

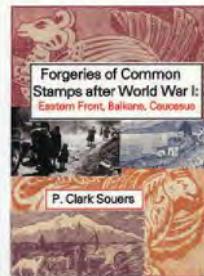
***Forgeries of Common Stamps After World War I: Eastern Front, Balkans, Caucasus*, by P. Clark Souers**

So what do we know about the post-World War I stamps of places like Karelia, Fiume, Epirus, and Batum? Did we even know these places existed or issued stamps?

Well, not only did they issue stamps but forgers and other such crooks tried to cash in by crafting fake stamps that could be passed off as valuable rarities. A little more on that in a moment.

The author states that the "book considers postage stamps issued just after World War I in the countries of

the Eastern front, the Balkans and the Caucasus, all of which were torn up by the war. Because of the chaos, many of the stamps were crudely printed and were heavily counterfeited. My book covers common stamps of 1918-1923, where common means you can find it on eBay. I show how to tell the difference between a genuine stamp and a fake one ... so a person can check it ... before buying. The book covers eastern Europe from Russia, Finland, Poland, Belarus, Ukraine, and Hungary plus the Balkans and the Caucasus. Occupied Hungary and Armenia have large sections because of the heavy counterfeiting of both countries and the confusion in all the varieties.



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Souers states that he considers a "fake" as a completely redrawn stamp but a "forgery" is a genuine stamp with a false overprint. This might go against others' definitions so it's good to know upfront how the author views the material.

After the Introduction, distinct chapters cover Russia, The Baltic, North-Eastern Europe, South-Eastern Europe, The Balkans, North and Eastern Caucuses, and Armenia. Each chapter is divided into appropriate states such

as those noted at the top.

Here's a tiny sample – I picked an excerpt from Belarus – of the information compiled and shared:

"Despite the chaos, the stamps people associate with Belarus is a set of 19 showing an idyllic scene with a peasant couple in full local garb. For a while, these stamps were considered fantasies ... Now, however, (William) Lesh thinks that these were legitimate stamps ... (and) deserve some respect."

The author goes on to explain how

many dealers consider the 10 as two sets of five, one perforated, the other imperf, but in reality a first set of four stamps, followed by a single, and then five imperfs. He then shows two stamps and a dozen details to help philatelists identify the fake ones from the real. Job well done.

The pages are slick and the images, in general, are fairly good quality (the author states he scanned images at 1200 dpi), though occasionally a bit stamp sized, or smaller, like four legitimate

1918 U.S. AIR MAIL 2018



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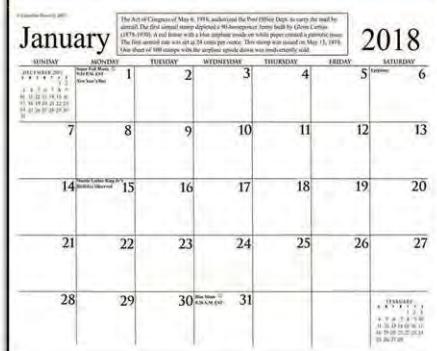
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stamps of Azerbaijan are crammed into a tiny 2-inch-by-1-inch space. But, the book makes up for that by then showing magnified details.

References are listed for every chapter; nearly 100 in all. Though some come from the Wiki universe, many others are from experts for specific genres.

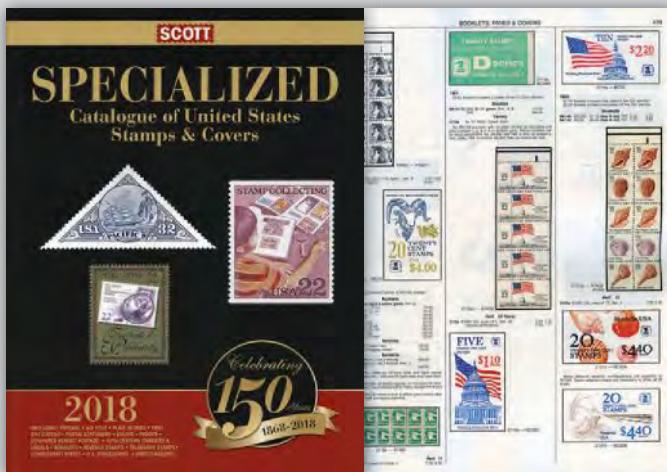
There are a few blips, such as the lack of page numbers, images that show

mount lines and caption guidelines (“top 6th” “bottom 2nd pair,” “AA>” ...) but paying close attention or using the Table of Contents should be enough for an interested philatelist to follow along. (Looking back at the Introduction, I later found the author’s shortcuts to defining stamps using categories of AA>, BB>, and CC>. Note to self: Always read introduction.)

If you are collecting these areas and

this era, this is certainly a reference that could serve you well.

Self-published in 2017. Softcover, 8½ inches by 11 inches, 74 pages (printed), fully color illustrated (print copy only available as loan from APRL). Available in digital form via Creative Commons License Attribution Share-Alike 4.0 International, 143 pages, \$8.88 on Kindle from Amazon or visit the author for more info, <http://postww1stampforgeries.org>.



Catalogs

2018 Scott Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps & Covers

The 2018 catalog released October 1 is the annual bible for collectors of United States philately. Like all similar past catalogs, it is filled with important and necessary details and images to satisfy most U.S. collectors.

As usual, the catalog covers U.S. stamps, Confederate States, U.S. possessions and United Nations. Material covered includes postage, airmail, plate blocks, first-day covers, postal stationery, essays, proofs, computer-vended postage, 19th-century carriers and locals, booklets, revenue stamps and telegraph stamps.

At 1,270 pages, this version is 22 pages more than last year. The Letter from the Editor up front tells us what's new in this edition.

Right off, we see that 10,500 value changes have been made and “the big story” is the large number of lowered values for stamps in fine condition. These lowered values are the result of the editors tracking a softening of the overall market. ... “Lower values are the rule, with few exceptions.”

Wow. That's certainly a big deal. The note mentions 3,000 value changes within Scott 1 and 771 (through year 1934), but no specifics, so let's take a sample. Here's a comparison of mint/used pricing between the 2017 and 2018 catalogs for six stamps in that number range.

Scott 24, 1-cent Franklin blue: 2017 – 140/40; 2018 –

140/37.50

Scott 113, 2-cent Post Rider: 2017 – 525/80; 2018 – 500/75

Scott 228, 30-cent Jefferson: 2017 – 300/35; 2018 – 280/30

Scott 234, 5-cent Columbian: 2017 – 55/9.50; 2018 – 50/8.50

Scott 299, 10-cent Pan Am Steamship: 2017 – 115/32.50; 2018 – 115/30

Scott 621, 5-cent Viking Ship: 2017 – 10/10; 2018 – 9/9

There is probably nothing stunning or even overwhelming by the sample, but it shows the trend.

Other highlights of the editor's note include:

Exceptions – higher values – are found with such specific exceptions as Scott 356, a 1909 10-cent yellow coil, a variety of Scott 519 and “the biggest winner,” Scott 596, a 1923 1-cent green perf 11 made from printer's waste.

Two areas for higher values include scarce revenues and proofs.

Among editorial enhancements are updates to earliest documented use dates, an extensive new note after the 1934 National Parks issue, more listings to computer-vended stamps, more varieties in revenues and new major listings for proofs in the 1943-44 Overrun Nations series.

The specialized catalog, of course, includes many features not found in the regular Scott catalog. Among the many extra features are stamp values by grade, a detailed listing of first-day covers, essays and proofs, booklets: panes and covers, beer stamps and a complete listing of state hunting permit stamps. Chances are, any U.S. stamp-related item you are looking for is here; and all of them clearly illustrated in color.

The editor's letter at the front appropriately thanks Scott Editor Emeritus James E. Kloetzel for “working tirelessly” on this volume.

Published in 2017 by Amos Media, Sidney, Ohio. Softcover, 8 ¼ inches by 10 ¾ inches, 1,270 pages. Retail price \$134.99 per volume, discounted to \$99.99 via Amos Advantage (Linn's Stamp News subscribers); Online version, \$75. To order, visit your favorite dealer, call 1-800-488-5349 or visit online at www.amosadvantage.com



PHILATELIC HAPPENINGS



BY KEN MARTIN chief operating officer

kpmartin@stamps.org • Share your photos of your stamp show, club, or affiliate activities with us via e-mail at aparticle@stamps.org for possible use online and in print.

It is not uncommon for an exhibitor to toil many years before they receive their first national level gold medal. At the Indianapolis area World Series of Philately show in October, the multiframe grand award was won by an exhibit being shown competitively for the first time. While **Bill Dugan** was not the first to achieve this, his grand for "The Production of the 1893 Columbian Exposition Issue" puts him in an exclusive group.

Jerry Miller received the Indypex multiframe reserve grand for "Evolution of the German Post Office at Shanghai, 1886-1917." **Arnold Wasserman** won the single-frame grand for "Jenny Airmail Stamp, 100th Anniversary of U.S. Airmail Service, Then and Now." **Phebe Miller** received the youth grand for "Local Birds."

Many of our World Series of Philately "national" shows include exhibitors from abroad. The October Sescal show moved about 50 miles from near the Los Angeles International Airport to Ontario, California. The grand award winner exhibit came from about 6,000 miles away as **Nick Kirke**, from the Czech Republic, received the multi-frame grand for "The Foreign Mail Cancels of New York City; Their Progression 1845 to 1877." The winner of the George Bennett Memorial Reserve Grand Award for the second-best multiframe exhibit came from just a little farther away in New Zealand. Congratulations to **Ross Marshall** for his exhibit, "Russian Mail via Austrian Galicia to General Postal Union 1874."

Ed Laveroni, the Sescal single-frame grand award winner, only traveled about 375 miles south from the Silicon Valley, to show another exhibit of Russian area material, "St. Petersburg - Moscow Railway, Nikolaevskaya Railway." There was a very good showing for the Rossica Society of Russian Philately, which had its national meeting at the show.

Here and There

Congratulations to **Alex Gill**, Young Philatelic Leaders Fellowship class of 2012, who, following his recent graduation from the University of Wisconsin, has accepted a position with Kelleher Auctions. Alex is the third YPLF alum who has recently been professionally employed in the philatelic world.

This past summer, fellow 2012 alum **Tim Hodge** was hired by Scott Publishing Company as a senior editor. And, 2015 alum **Charles Epting** is now president of the HR Harmer USA auction firm.

We always enjoy hearing from members, but don't get too many communications from members on a cruise. Member **Mike Street**, from Ontario, Canada, wrote us from off the coast of France onboard Holland America's *Koningsdam*. While not impressed with the ship's library, he was delighted that "of the several magazines on the rack, one was the September 2017 issue of *The American Philatelist*!"

While this is being written in the middle of October, we have already received one report of a chapter's promotion of National Stamp Collecting Month. Members of the McAllen Stamp Club, McAllen, Texas prepared a presentation titled, "Our First Commemorative Stamps" and presented it as a program at the McAllen Public Library on October 14.

The club prepared a PowerPoint presentation using stamp images provided by Robert A. Siegal Auctions and scanned images, covers and other ephemeral artifacts from the Columbian Exposition, the 1893 Chicago World's Fair from club members. On display in exhibit frames were a complete set of used Columbians, additional uses on cover, Columbian half dollars, admission tickets and a restaurant placemat with



Phebe Miller (right), receiving the Indypex youth grand from Liz Hisey. Phebe's exhibit was entitled, "Local Birds".

YOU'VE GOT MAIL!

An exhibit about postal history on view
November 24 through April 28.



Guest curated by noted philatelist and postal historian Bill Schultz. Includes selections from the Robert Brinton Collection and private award-winning philatelic exhibits.



Lecture series including noted collectors will be held on selected Saturday afternoons throughout the exhibit. Refer to ChesterCoHistorical.org for upcoming details.

610-692-4800 for information.

CCHS
CHESTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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The Chester County Historical Society exhibit "You've Got Mail," now includes a special loan from the APRL



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The Circuit Sales department is a popular destination for collectors who visit the American Philatelic Center. Several cubicles are available for browsing circuits and selecting philatelic materials for purchase

reproduced images of the Columbian stamps and postal stationery. They reported many positive and "awe" comments received from the public in attendance. Hopefully by next month we will have lots of similar reports from other APS chapters.

Visitors to the American Philatelic Center

Over the first couple weeks of October, members of four chapters visited the American Philatelic Center. We were pleased to welcome members of the Capital Cities (Harrisburg, Pennsylvania), Finger Lakes (central New York), Jockey Hollow (northern New Jersey) and Wilkinsburg (Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania area) clubs. This, of course, excludes our local chapter, the Mt. Nittany Philatelic Society, which meets in our building, and elected officers and had one of its longest meetings (about two and a half hours) that I can recall over the 35 years I have been a member.

With so many visitors, dealer **Brian Engler**, from the Lehigh Valley, who came to the area with his wife who was attending a conference at Penn State, had to wait for his second day to get a seat to view Circuit Sales books. We benefited, however, as he instead provided volunteer service in the American Philatelic Research Library. And, following her conference, Brian's wife also provided volunteer service.

Members with overnight travel to the American Philatelic Center during the first two weeks of October included **Les Lanphear**, of San Diego, California, his second visit of the year; **Jim Cormany Jr.**, from Milwaukee, Wisconsin; **Felix Luis Perez-Filch Jr.**, from Mississippi; **Dave Stockbridge**, from Texas; **Perry and Janna Gingher**, from Kansas; **James Morris**, from Georgia; **Wayne Gnatuk**, from Kentucky; **Dean Johnson**, from Wisconsin; **John and Helene Zwyghwizen**, from Michigan; and newlyweds **Sandi Richter** and **Adam Haley**, from Corvallis, Oregon.

Other early October visitors came



The "Alphabetilately" exhibit continues to be a popular attraction. The A-to-Z display regularly draws local stamp clubs, Boy Scout troops and other visitors to the American Philatelic Center.

from two groups of Boy Scouts and members of the local junior stamp club, which used the "Alphabetilately" exhibit as the basis of a scavenger hunt. That A-to-Z of philately exhibit now hanging on our walls was once held by the National Postal Museum.

Additional visitors included 60 community members, who visited for the annual meeting of the Bellefonte Intervalley Area Chamber of Commerce, and nearly 500 attendees of wedding receptions held on three consecutive weekends.



The Boy Scout Stamp Collecting Badge (left). Shown above are just a few of the many exhibits in competition during UNExpo17. (photo by Ken Martin)

The next two weeks saw even more visitors as our facility hosted an association of planners, the United Nations Expo stamp show, and History Day for the 54 students in Leadership Centre County.

In a prior column, I promoted the “You’ve Got Mail” exhibit about postal history on display at the Chester County (Pennsylvania) Historical Society from November 24 through April 28, 2018. I previously indicated that the exhibit material spans 100 years from 1790 to 1890. However, the time span is now a little greater as we’ve loaned our library’s 1729 Moll Map of the American colonies for the exhibit.

Award Nominations Still Open

And, finally, a last call for nominations for Carter Volunteer awards, the Kehr Award for enduring contributions that help guarantee the future of the hobby, the Charlie Peterson Award for furthering philatelic knowledge through philatelic literature, and the Luff awards, the highest honor for living collectors in the United States. Nominations for all of these are due by December 15. Criteria and additional information is available from stamps.org/awards

Thanks to all who have forwarded items for this column over the past year and best wishes for a happy, healthy holiday season!



The APS's Ken Martin (left) and Scott English (middle), along with UNPI President Greg Galletti (right), open UNExpo17 with a ceremony at the APRL. (photo by Mara Hartzell)



The American Philatelic Center played host to UNExpo2017. The two-day event included a first day ceremony for the three-stamp mini-sheet featuring the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. (photo by Mara Hartzell)



The bourse at UNExpo2017 featured several dealers offering a variety of UN and other philatelic items including progressive proofs and original stamp artwork. (photo by Mara Hartzell)



Chemistry Lab Analyzes Stamp Hinges

But It's Very Doubtful the Results Will Lead to Any New Manufacturing

In an effort to discover why Dennison stamp hinges appeared to peel easily compared to other hinges, the American Philatelic Society supplied the Chemistry Department at Pennsylvania State University with several packages of hinges.

The chemists received N.O. 164 (manufactured by Western Stamp and Coin Supply Company), G&K (made in Germany and sold through Subway Stamp Shop), Supersafe (made in Germany and sold through vidiforms Company, Inc.), Dennison, Dennis's Stamp Hinges (sold through Subway Stamp Shop) and Miracle Hinges (one for which the user had to apply a watermark detection fluid, benzine in its day, to activate the adhesive; no date available).

The results of testing are shown on graphs with commentary by the researcher in the report. Providing the full report here would be too much technical information that we could not put into layman's terms, but what is important is that N.O. 164, G&K, Supersafe and Dennison all used the same type of adhesive – dextrin.

The report suggests that Dennison used a different concentration of corn starch and calcium acid phosphate (used to hydrolyze the starch into dextrin) to make the adhesive. There also is an indication that more adhesive was applied to Dennison

hinges. N.O. 164 and Dennison exhibited the same qualities, but whether it was applied in layers was not stated.

Further research did not show more differences. And, the lab was not able to continue with a line of analysis they had originally planned. (The testing and analyses were done gratis.)

Our next step was to contact a commercial firm specializing in chemical analysis of this type. After explaining what

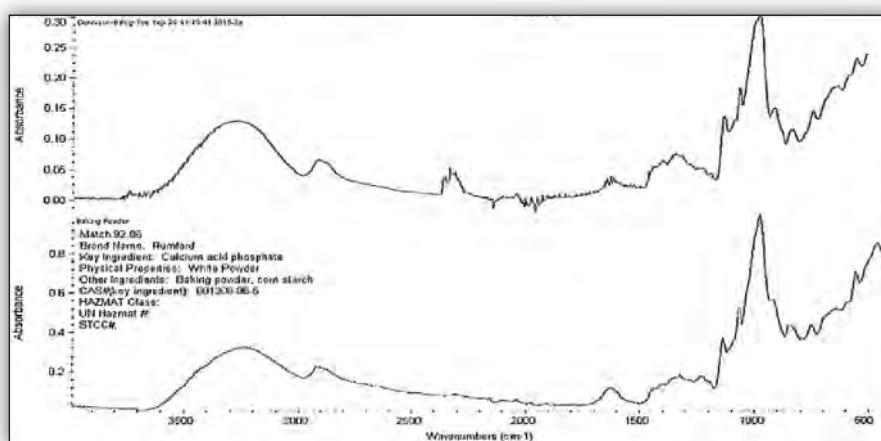


we wanted to do, the company returned to us with a quote for the services and report. The quote was far more than we could justify spending on this project, especially since we were not planning to follow-up on the results of a report, other than to report them to the membership. The hinge market is not a profitable one and we do not foresee anyone getting into or back into that business, even with a particular formula that is proven to have peelability properties.

To get more background and historical information on stamp hinges, visit The American Philatelist archives at <https://stamps.org/AP-2012-December, Page 1108, and https://stamps.org/AP-2015-June, Page 570>.

The question comes down to, "What will you do with the information you get from an analysis and any documentation that is discovered concerning Dennison hinges?" For the APS, we can only report the results to you, the membership. We are not in a position to do any more than that.

At the end of the December 2012 article in *The American Philatelist* noted above, Wayne Youngblood states, "It all hinges on one thing. Without enough demand to make it worthwhile for a paper man-



Compound Determination of Dennison Hinge Adhesive Spectrum

ufacturer/finisher to create gummed glassine stock specifically for the hobby, we must be content to use what is available, whether that is hinges that aren't quite up to snuff or vintage flecks of gold from aging packets." Adapting to what is provided by the market now is the name of the game. Vintage Dennison hinges and an occasional pack of N.O. 164 hinges are available online for a price and likely will be for some time to come.

SHOW TIME

stampshow@stamps.org

The "Show Time" Calendar features a list of upcoming shows and APS events (shown in green). To obtain a listing, please submit a "Show Time" form, available online at www.stamps.org>Show-Calendar or by mail from APS headquarters. Information must be received 60 days before desired publication time.

The listings are free to World Series of Philately and other shows that are sponsored by an APS chapter or affiliate. Other shows/bourses may purchase listings for the month of the show/bourse and the month prior **only**. The listing fee is \$25 per show per issue. Shows designated ***B*** are bourse only.

Grand award winners from shows are eligible for the annual APS World Series of Philately Champion of Champions competition. Visit www.stamps.org>Show-Calendar for a complete listing of shows and APS events.

Florida December 1-3

FLOREX--The Florida State Stamp Show; FSDA & Central Florida Stamp Club, Central Florida Fair Grounds, Commercial Exhibit Hall, 4603 West Colonial Drive (SR 50), Orlando. ***WSP*** Contact: Francis Ferguson, 407-493-0956; Cell; show@ florexstampshow.com; www.florexstampshow.com

Ohio December 1-2

Worthington Stamp Club Show; Worthington Stamp Club, St. Andrews Parish Hall, 1899 McCoy Road, Columbus. Contact: Marie Gibbs, 614-260-0952; kevmar1821@gmail.com; www.worthingtonstampclub.com

California December 2-3

PENPEX; Sequoia Stamp Club, Community Activities Bldg., 1400 Roosevelt Ave., Redwood City. Contact: Kristin Patterson, 408-267-6643; penpexredwoodcity@yahoo.com; www.penpex.org

Michigan December 2

Fernpex 17; Birmingham/Ferndale Stamp Club, Sokol Hall, 23600 W. Warren, Dearborn. ***B*** Contact: Fred Como, 313-527-2059; karate1dad@netscape.net

Wisconsin December 2-3

MSDA Milwaukee Stamp Show; Midwest Stamp Dealers Association, Crowne Plaza - Milwaukee Airport, 6401 S. 13th Street, Milwaukee. ***B*** Contact: Jim Bardo, 847-634-2676; jfb7437@aol.com; www.msdastamp.com

Illinois December 8-9

MSDA Holiday Show - West; Midwest Stamp Dealers Association, Embassy Suites by Hilton, 707 E. Butterfield Rd., Lombard. ***B*** Contact: Jim Bardo, 847-634-2676; jfb7437@aol.com; www.msdastamp.com

California December 9-10

San Diego Postcard, Stamp & Paper Show; Al Bahr Shriners, 5440 Kearny Mesa Rd, San Diego. ***B*** Contact: Ralph Bowman, 619-508-3299; thepapergallery@mac.com; www.thepapergallery.com

Connecticut December 24

Fourth Sunday Collectibles Show; New Haven Philatelic Society, Annex YMA, 554 Woodward Ave., New Haven. ***B*** Contact: Brian McGrath, 203-627-6874; hukeda@comcast.net; www.facebook.com/nhps1914

2018

New Jersey January 4-6
Garden State Stamp and Cover Show; New Jersey Stamp Dealers Association, The Bethwood, 38 Lackawanna Ave., Totowa. ***B*** Contact: Tom Jacks, 908-419-9751; tjacks@verizon.net

Florida January 6
Ocala Stamp & Coin Show; General Francis Marion Stamp Club, Munroe Auxiliary Center, 1542 SW 1st Avenue, Ocala. Contact: Sheldon Rogg, 727-364-6897; h.rogg@verizon.net; www.floridastampshow.com/ www.oclaagfmstampclub.com

Michigan January 6-7
BIRPEX 2018; Birmingham Stamp Club /Ferndale Stamp Club, Birmingham Masonic Temple, 37357 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. ***B*** Contact: Fred Como, 313-527-2059; karate1dad@netscape.net

Florida January 13
West Pasco Stamp Roundup; New Port Richey Area Stamp Club, Regency Park Civic Center, 10240 Regency Park Blvd., Port Richey. ***B*** Contact: Sheldon Rogg, 727-364-6897; h.rogg@verizon.net; www.floridastampdealers.org / www.floridastampshows.com, www.oclaagfmstampclub.com

Louisiana

January 19-20

Winter Stamp Fest & Postcard Show; Crescent City Stamp Club, Doubletree New Orleans Airport, 2150 Veterans Memorial Blvd, Kenner. ***B*** Contact: Doug Weisz, 773-914-4332; weiszcovers@yahoo.com; www.ccscno.org

Florida

January 20-21

Tampa Stamp & Coin Expo; Tampa Collectors Club, Tampa Stadium Hotel, 4750 North Dale Mabry Hwy., Tampa. ***B*** Contact: Sheldon Rogg, 727-364-6897; h.rogg@verizon.net; www.floridastampdealers.com

South Carolina

January 20-21

2018 Winter Stamp and Postcard Show; Columbia Philatelic Society, Spring Valley High School, 120 Sparkleberry Lane, Columbia. ***B*** Contact: Mark Postmus, 803-309-2534; mapostmus@yahoo.com

Georgia

January 26-28

Southeastern Stamp Expo; Southeastern Federation of Stamp Clubs, Hilton Hotel Atlanta Northeast, 5993 Peachtree Industrial Blvd., Norcross. ***WSP*** Contact: Scott Mark; sestampexpo@gmail.com; www.sefsc.org

Washington

January 27-28

GESSPLEX; Greater Eastside Stamp Society, VFW Hall, 4840 148th Ave NE, Redmond. ***B*** Contact: Dana Nielsen, 206-819-8534; dana.nielsen54@gmail.com; www.facebook.com/GESS



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Florida	February 1	Contact: Kathleen Edwards, 814-933-3803 ext 217; stampshow@stamps.org; stamps.org/AmeriStamp-Expo-ASE	St. Jude's Catholic Church, 43rd and Willamette, Eugene. *B* Contact: Mike Lutio, 541-731-1288, lutio@msn.com, www.greatereugenestampclub.weebly.com
Florida	February 2-4	BAYPEX Stamp & Coin Show; Clearwater Stamp Club, Honeywell Minnreg Building, 6340 126th Avenue North, Largo. Contact: Sheldon Rogg, 727-364-6897; h.rogg@verizon.net; www.floridastampshows.com	Florida March 17-18 Tampa Stamp & Coin Expo; Tampa Collectors Club, Tampa Stadium Hotel, 4750 North Dale Mabry Hwy., Tampa. *B* Contact: Sheldon Rogg, 727-364-6897; h.rogg@verizon.net; www.floridastampdealers.com / www.floridastampdealers.org
Utah	February 9-10	Sarasota National Stamp Exhibition; Sarasota Philatelic Club, Sarasota Municipal Auditorium, 801 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota. *WSP* Contact: Liz Hisey, 941-444-0777; lizhisey@comcast.net; www.sarasotastampclub.com/show.html	Virginia March 17-18 SPRINGPEX 2018; Springfield Stamp Club, Robert E. Lee High School (Cafeteria), 6540 Franconia Rd. (VA Rte. 644E), Springfield. Contact: Gerry Frazier, 703-971-5099; frazierg@cox.net; www.springfieldstampclub.org
South Carolina	February 10-11	Utah Winter Stamp Show; Utah Philatelic Society, Sons of Utah Pioneer Building, 3301 E. Louise Ave., Salt Lake City. *B* Contact: Dave Blackhurst, 801-580-9534, dbalckhu@gmail.com, utahphilatelic.org	Massachusetts March 18 SOPEX 2018 (Massachusetts); Samuel Osgood Stamp Club, Elks Lodge, 652 Andover Street, Lawrence. *B* Contact: Robert A. Dominique, 978-470-0583; radpm67@gmail.com
Arizona	February 15	Myrtle Beach Stamp & Postcard Show; Myrtle Beach Stamp Club, Clarion Hotel & Conference Center, 101 Fantasy Harbour Blvd., Myrtle Beach. *B* Contact: Donn M. Ebert, 843-347-0087; liifort@sccoast.net; http://sites.google.com/site/myrtlebeachstampclub/	Oregon March 18 EFOs and You: How YOU Can Benefit from Postal Blunders; APS On the Road Course, Mesa Convention Center, 201 N. Center Street, Mesa. *APS* Contact: Janet Houser, 814-933-3803; jehouser@stamps.org; stamps.org/On-the-Road-Courses
Arizona	February 16-18	ARIPEX; Arizona Fed. of Stamp Clubs, Mesa Convention Center, 263 N. Center St., Building "C" Mesa. *WSP* Contact: Kevin Lesk, 480-240-0388; ariipex2017@gmail.com; www.ariipex.org	Ohio March 18 STAMPEX; Salem Stamp Society, Bi-lateral Exhibition: British Federation and the APS, Red Lion Hotel, 3301 Market St. NE, Salem. *B* Contact: George Struble, 503-364-3929; gstruble@willamette.edu; www.salemstampsoociety.org
Florida	February 17	Annual Stamp Show; West Volusia Stamp Club, Sons of Italy, 1270 Doyle Rd., Deltona. *B* Contact: Mike Daley, 407-417-7818; miked129e@gmail.com; http://floridacsp.com/wvstamp/	Ohio March 22-24 Garfield-Perry March Party; Garfield-Perry Stamp Club, La Villa Conference and Banquet Center, 115000 Brookpark Road, Cleveland. *WSP* Contact: Roger Rhoads; rrrhoads@aol.com; www.garfieldperry.org
Kansas	February 17-18	The Cessna Show; The Cessna Stamp & Coin Club, Cessna Activity Center, 2744 George Washington Blvd., Wichita. *B* Contact: Ralph E. Lott, 316-683-6593	Wisconsin March 24 Frespx 2018; Fresno Philatelic Society, Veterans Memorial Building, 435 Hughes Ave., Clovis. *B* Contact: Dick Richardson, 559-431-5013; starstamps@thegrid.net
Ohio	February 23-24	Nashville Stamp and Postcard Show 2018; Nashville Philatelic Society, Fifty Forward Senior Center, 301 Madison Street, Madison. Contact: Tom Tribke, 615-833-5161; show@nashvillephilatelic.org; www.nashvillephilatelic.org	Alberta March 24-25 Tennessee March 10-11 Nashville Stamp and Postcard Show 2018; Nashville Philatelic Society, Fifty Forward Senior Center, 301 Madison Street, Madison. Contact: Tom Tribke, 615-833-5161; show@nashvillephilatelic.org; www.nashvillephilatelic.org
Alabama	February 23-25	St. Louis Stamp Expo; Mound City Stamp Club, St. Louis Renaissance Airport Hotel, 9801 Natural Bridge Road, St. Louis. *WSP* Contact: Mike Peter, 314-496-5351; info@stlouisstampexpo.org; www.stlstampexpo.org	DANEPEX '18; Badger Stamp Club, Crowne Plaza Hotel, 4402 E. Washington Ave., Madison. Contact: Bob Voss, 608-838-1033; lestamps@



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Pennsylvania April 14-15

WILKPEX 2018; Wilkinsburg Stamp Club,
Gateway Firehall, 4370 Northern Pike,
Monroeville. Contact: Tom Donohue, 412-373-
8697; wilkinsburgstampclub@yahoo.com;
www.wilkinsburgstampclub.com

Connecticut April 21

MANPEX 2018; Manchester Philatelic Society,
East Catholic High School, 115 New State
Road, Manchester. Contact: John Bereuter,
860-978-7856; jrbereuter@cox.net; http://
manchesterphilatelic.webs.com/

Delaware April 21

DELPEX 2018; Brandywine Valley Stamp Club,
Nur Shrine CenterTemple, 198 S. Du Pont Hwy
(US Routes 13 & 40), New Castle. Contact: Bill
Clark, 302-322-2719; kmc4076@aol.com; www.
brandywinevalleystampclub.com

Michigan April 21-22

Plymouth Show; West Suburban Stamp Club,
Hellenic Cultural Center, 36375 Joy Road,
Westland. *WSP* Contact: Tim Strzalkowski,
313-533-7737; showchair@plymouthshow.com;
www.plymouthshow.com

Washington April 21-22

Evergreen Stamp Club Spring Exhibition;
Evergreen Stamp Club, Kent Commons, 525 4th
Ave., N., Kent. Contact: William Geijsbeek, 425-
883-9390; billgphil@gmail.com; www.stamps.
org/Evergreen-Stamp-Club

California April 27-29

WESTPEX; WESTPEX, Inc., San Francisco Airport
Marriott Waterfront Hotel, 1800 Old Bayshore
Highway, Burlingame. *WSP* Contact: Edward
Jarvis, 415-387-1016; ejarvis@westpex.com;
www.westpex.com

Indiana May 4-5

CALUPEX 2018; Calumet Stamp Club, Saint
James Parish Hall, 9640 Kennedy Ave.,
Highland. Contact: Jerry Emerson, 219-662-
1296; http://calumetstampclub.org

Massachusetts May 4-6

Philatelic Show; Northeastern Fed. Of Stamp
Clubs, Boxboro Regency Hotel & Conference
Center, 242 Adams Place, Boxborough. *WSP*
Contact: Jeff Shapiro; coverlover@gmail.com;
www.nefed.org

Ohio May 5

Warren Stamp Fun at Trumpex; The Warren Area
Stamp Club, St Demetrios Community Center,
3223 Atlantic St., NE, Warren, Trumbull County.
B Contact: Alexander Savakis, 330-282-2860;
mcsforum@aol.com

Oregon May 11-13

PIPEX; Northwest Federation of Stamp
Clubs, Red Lion Hotel on the River - Jantzen
Beach, 909 N. Hayden Island Drive, Portland.
WSP Contact: Tony Wawrukiewicz, 503-
244-8223; tonywaw@spiritone.com; www.
pipexstampshow.org

New York May 18-19

ROPEX; Rochester Phil. Assoc., The Greater
Canandaigua Civic Center, 250 North
Bloomfield Rd, Canandaigua. *WSP* Contact:
Tom Fortunato, 585-752-6178; stampmf@
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Jerusalem, Israel**May 27-31**

ISRAEL 2018; Specialized World Exhibition with FIP Patronage, Jerusalem. Contact: Commissioner: Dr. Ross Towle, Contact address: 400 Clayton Street, San Francisco, CA 94117; rossstowle@yahoo.com

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NORDIA2018; Gardarber. Contact: Commissioner: Michael Schumacher, contact address: 21635

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Royal 2018 Royale; Royal Philatelic Society of Canada, Holiday Inn & Suites Parkway Convention Center, 327 Ontario St, St. Catherines. *WSP* Contact: Stuart Keeley, 905-227-9251; stuart.keeley@sympatico.ca; www.rpsc.org

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OKPEX 2018; Oklahoma City Stamp Club, Reed Conference Center, 5800 Will Rogers Road, Midwest City. *WSP* Contact: Joe Crosby, 405-749-0939; joecrosby@cox.net; www.okcsc.org/ OKPEX

Minnesota**July 20-22**

Minnesota Stamp Expo; Twin City Philatelic Society and Various Local Clubs, Crystal Community Ctr., 4800 Douglas Dr, N., Minneapolis. *WSP* Contact: Randy A. Smith, 952-431-3273; rasmary4@frontiernet.net; www.stampsmnnesota.com/MN%20Stamp%20Expo.htm

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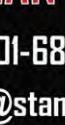
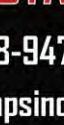
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- Friday, December 22 and Monday, December 25
- Monday, January 1

The APS and APRL will maintain normal hours of 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. EST, on the remaining weekdays of those weeks.



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MEMBERSHIP REPORT

No. 10, October 31, 2017

NEW APPLICANTS

The following applications were received during October 2017. If no objections are received by the Executive Director (814-933-3803) prior to December 31, 2017 these applicants will be admitted to membership and notice to this effect will appear in the February 2017 issue.

Abramson, Rosalie C. (228197) **San Francisco, CA**; 83; Retired

Alfonso, Pasquale (228220) **Brooklyn, NY** US COILS-BRITISH COLONIES-GERMANY; 49

All India Philatelic Society (1605-228159) **New Delhi, India**

Allen, Steve (228161) **Knoxville, TN** US 19TH & 20TH CENTURY, AIR MAILS, PLATE SINGLES; 71; Retired

Amundsen, Larry M. (228176) **Chesterfield, MO**; 171; Retired

Anderson, Thomas C. (228164) **Pittsburgh, PA** US, PLATE BLOCKS; 73; Retired

Bailey, Arthur (228213) **Windsor Locks, CT** BEP FIRST ISSUE; 74; Retired

Bissland, Andrew (228165) **Castle Rock, CO** US-CANADA-WORLDWIDE CLASSICS; 49; Non-Profit Program Director

Blinn-Silva, Sharon (228196) **Londonderry, NH**; 49

Blitzer, Abraham (228247) **Dix Hills, NY** CANADIAN FDC-US COMMEMORATIVES, 19TH & 20TH CENTURY-ISRAEL-RUSSIA/USSR/INDEPENDENT REPUBLICS

Boger, Walter C. (228166) **Lutz, FL** PRE 1960 US; 66; Retired

Booth, Carolyn A. (228252)

Thousand Oaks, CA WORLDWIDE USED; 88; Retired

Botte, Ernest (228180) **Wilmington, MA**; 47

Brennig, Jerry (228218) **Sterling, VA** US AIR MAILS, 19TH & 20TH CENTURY, CLASSICS, POSTAGE DUES; 77; Retired

Brodersen, Stanley (228253) **Maitland, FL**; 83; Retired

Buckley, Jane M. (228198) **Sharpsville, PA** US

Carroll, James A. (228199) **Omaha, NE** COLOR VARIATIONS-US 19TH CENTURY-ROMANIA; 74; Retired

Chafetz, Gwyn (228210) **North Hollywood, CA**; Brand Marketing

Chase, John R. (228152) **Hanover, MA** US 19TH & 20TH CENTURY, AIRAILS, COMMEMORATIVES/PANELS, CLASSICS; 79; Retired

Cisneros, Rafael (228200) **Laredo, TX** US-WORLDWIDE; 60; Real Estate Broker/Septic System Installer

Clabuesch, Walter F. (228224) **Sand Point, MI** MINT US; 79; Retired

Cohen, Richard L. (228254) **Apopka, FL** US, REVENUES, POSTAL STATIONERY-ISRAEL-CHINA-BIOT-BICYCLE; 66; Retired

Conway, John L. (228211) **Baltimore, MD**; 53

Cook-Theriault, Harmony (228167) **Melbourne, FL** NAVY COVERS-MILITARY-VETERAN POSTAGE; 39; Retired

Daoust, Gill (228193) **Houston, TX** US EXPRESS COVERS, NAVAL COVERS, POSTAL STATIONERY, SPECIAL EVENT COVERS/CANCELS-UN COVERS, FDC; 76; Retired

NEW MEMBERS

Applications 227784 through 227862 and 227864 through 227920 and 227922 through 227967 as previously published have been accepted for membership by the Board of Vice Presidents.

SUMMARY

Total Membership,	Sept. 30, 2017	29,267
New Members	180	
Reinstated	37	217
Deceased	26	
Resignations	21	47
Total Membership, October 31, 2017	29,437	
(Total Membership, October 31, 2016 was 30,547 a difference of -1,110)		

de Greef, Roderick (228246) **Bellevue, WA** USED WORLDWIDE-US 19TH CENTURY, CLASSICS, AIRAILS; 56

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- Deuel, Linda E. (228201) **Hemlock**, NY US; 68; Retired
- Dillard, Joellen P. (228255) **Sandy**, UT US; 84; Retired
- DiRaimondi, Chuck (228191) **Horsham, PA** US COMMEMORATIVES/PANELS, COVERS, SPECIAL DELIVERIES, 19TH & 20TH CENTURY; 35
- Duncombe, Earl (228256) **Hyde Park, UT** MINT US, PLATE BLOCKS; Trainer
- Emmel, Benjamin (228214) **Washington, DC** FDC-UN; 28; Analyst
- Fazekas, Julius (228185) **Blaine**, TN US POSTAL CARDS, COVERS, POSTAL HISTORY-PHOTOGRAPHY-POSTCARDS; Engineer
- Felke, Dennis J. (228236) **Barrington, IL** ART CRAFT FDC; 65; Retired
- Figueira, Francisco M.G.L. (228195) **Lisbon, Portugal** PORTUGAL, COLONIES; 37; Lawyer
- Fishback, Larry L. (228215) **Washington, IA** US CLASSICS, BACK OF THE BOOK-CANADA-EARLY COVERS; 50; Trust Officer/Farmer
- Fitchette, Michael J. (228237) **Prescott, AZ** US-FRANCE-HAITI-FRENCH INDOCHINA-ILE DE ROUAD-GREENLAND; 34; Mail Carrier/Grad Student
- Foulds, Harry W. (228202) **Cranford**, NJ US; 75; Retired
- Friedman, Morris (228238) **Staten Island, NY** WORLDWIDE; 83; Retired
- Glentz, Sebastian (228203) **Sheboygan, WI** GERMANY-US-VATICAN CITY; 53; Religious
- Haines, Robert (228183) **Ruthven**, ON CANADIAN CANCELS-FOREIGN CANCELS, PERFINs, PRECANCELS-BRITISH COLONIES-US CANCELS; 59; Technician
- Hannan, Uzma (228162) **Dallas, TX**
- Harms, Douglas W. (228239) **New Baltimore, VA**; 59; Mailroom
- Harrison, Brandon (228257) **Des Moines, IA** FDC-US; 31; Investment Operations
- Hayes, Dennis J. (228240) **Thousand Oaks, CA** US-SPORTS; 88; Retired
- Heineman, Stephen (228204) **Chula Vista, CA** BRITISH COMMONWEALTH; 56; Teacher
- Helbing, Robert W. (228168) **McAllen, TX**; 91; Retired
- Herrera, Jorge (228174) **Spearfish, SD** US-BRITISH COMMONWEALTH; 77; Retired
- Hildreth, James M. (228225) **New York, NY** PICTURE POSTCARDS-POSTAL HISTORY-LATIN AMERICA COVERS; 51; Lease Analyst
- Holton, Stephen (228241) **Papillion, NE** 1847-1963 US-BRITISH COLONIAL; 53; Manager
- Holzkopf, Michael (228181) **Stewartville, MN** US
- Hunter, Kirk B. (228157) **Vancouver, WA** US 19TH & 20TH CENTURY, AIR MAILED; 71; Mortgage Broker
- Icardona, John (228189) **Seattle, WA**; 52
- Irdienieks, Agi (228258) **East Palatka, FL** US-WORLDWIDE; 66; Retired
- Jaskulski, Michael A. (228232) **Dickson City, PA** US, POSSESSIONS-PRE 1967 WORLDWIDE-AIR MAILED-SHIPS; 68; Retired
- Johnson, Michael J. (228222) **Phoenix, AZ** US CHRISTMAS SEALS, COVERS, POSTAL STATIONERY, PATRIOTIC COVERS-CINDERELLAS-PHILIPPINES; 37; Recruiter
- Johnson, Robert A. (228259) **Princeton, NJ** US-BRITISH & FRENCH COLONIES-PRE 1950; 77; Retired
- Johnson, Robert M. (228169) **Anchorage, AK** PRE 1975 WORLDWIDE; 70; Retired
- Jones, Bennie M. (228205) **Danville, VA** US MINT; 65; Retired
- Jones, Susan E. (228245) **KalisPELL, MT** INDIA, STATES-BURMA-BRITISH COLONIES-PAKISTAN; 75
- Kean, Herbert (228233) **Key Biscayne, FL** US; 85; Retired
- Key, Raymond (228219) **Feasterville Trevose, PA** US FANCY CANCELS, 19TH & 20TH CENTURY-CHINA-BRITISH EMPIRE-FRANCE; 52
- Klock, Harry (228260) **Colorado Springs, CO** MINT US, PLATE BLOCKS-WORLDWIDE-CANADA-ISRAEL-RUSSIA; 82; Retired
- Krause, Hildegard (228234) **Kelseyville, CA**; 66; Retired
- Leach, Dwan C. (228177) **Indianapolis, IN** TOPICALS; 70; Retired
- Lee, Chris (228243) **San Mateo, CA** US 19TH CENTURY-GREAT BRITAIN
- Lehman, Harry P. (228187) **Arlington, VA** US AIR MAILED; 73
- Leong, Kin T. (228227) **Sacramento, CA** WORLDWIDE; 72; Retired
- Lossing, Neal W. (228158) **Buckeye, AZ** US 19TH & 20TH CENTURY, AIR MAILED, FDC; 64; Retired
- Loynes, Diana M. (228261) **Kalamazoo, MI** MEDICAL-NURSING-RED CROSS-HAWAII; 58
- Mann, John C. (228244) **Plantsville, CT** US REVENUES/TAX PAIDS (FEDERAL)-CANADIAN REVENUES-FRENCH COLONIES-HISTORICAL REENACTMENTS; 60; Construction Manager
- Matsey, Jonathan (228235) **Staten Island, NY** GERMANY-SLOVAKIA-INDIAN STATES; 42; Police Officer
- Melton, Roy (228262) **Bloomingdale, GA** US, BOB; 66; Retired
- Mercer, Ted (228249) **Chicago, IL** US CLASSICS-RUSSIA/USSR/INDEPENDENT REPUBLICS-GERMANY

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716-31	S57	500	
782	S61M	1,000	
798a	C106M	1,000	
967-80	W6	1,500	
996a	W10	2,000	
	unfolded		
1211-14	N17	200	
1383a	J25m	250	
1399	T28m	350	
1433	T29m	150	
1452	T31M	180	
1483A	T38M	80	
1492	J41M	380	
1518	T41M	900	
	Scott #	We Pay	
1433	1540	T37M	110
1452	1586	T46	1,200
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1492	1647a	SB3	110
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& COLLECTIONS-US; 47

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Consultant

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BRITAIN

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64

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Nallenweg, Rich (Nalwite Naval
Covers 227845-D), P.O. Box 2551,
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Christmas Carols. Artist: Steve McCracken	Dec	1ccc	<i>Rice and Cotton Definitives (Indonesia)</i> , Mardjohan Hardjasudarma	Dec	1166
National Museum of African American History and Culture. Art director: Antonio Alcalá	Dec	1210	San Marino, <i>First Issues, "Classic Stamps"</i> , Joseph Iredale	Oct	942
History of Hockey	Dec	1211	Senegal, "Worldwide in a Nutshell," Bob Lamb	Aug	816
World War I			Seychelles, "Worldwide in a Nutshell," Bob Lamb	Oct	1008
WWI 100, Ed Dubin and Al Kugel	Apr	328	Sierra Leone, Noel Davenhill.	Dec	1170
Worldwide			<i>Spain: A Study in Blue, the 1938 Defense of Madrid Issue</i> , Expertizing, Mercer Bristow	Aug	770
Antigua and Barbuda, "Worldwide in a Nutshell," Bob Lamb	Jan	96	<i>Stamps Borne of Upheaval (People's Republic of China)</i> , Archie McKee	Nov	1052
Azerbaijan, "Worldwide in a Nutshell," Bob Lamb	Feb	192	<i>A Study in Carmine (Canada)</i> , Expertizing, Mercer Bristow	Jul	668
Bahawalpur, "Worldwide in a Nutshell," Bob Lamb	Apr	416	<i>Superheroes on Stamps</i> . Timothy M. Bergquist	Jan	54
Barbados, Noel Davenhill.	Mar	234	Thailand, <i>Its First Stamps, "Classic Stamps"</i> , Joseph Iredale	Jan	24
Belgian Congo, <i>Series of 1894, "Classic Stamps,"</i> Joseph Iredale	Mar	216	Turks and Caicos Islands, Noel Davenhill.	Sep	864
Belgium, <i>Second Commemoratives, "Classic Stamps,"</i> Joseph Iredale	Feb	170	<i>West Berlin Stamp in Center Ring (Germany)</i> , Expertizing, Tom Horn	May	476
British Columbia & Vancouver Island, "Stamp Classics," Joseph Iredale	Jul	632	<i>Wilderness Tourism (Canada)</i> , David Piercy	Jul	654
British Guiana: Interview with James Barron, author of <i>The One-Cent Magenta</i> , Jeff Stage	Mar	256			
Diverse Wildlife Stamps (Canada), Gary Dickinson	Jul	660			
El Salvador, Volcano Stamps, "Classic Stamps," Joseph Iredale	Apr	312			
French Southern & Antarctic Territories, "Worldwide in a Nutshell," Bob Lamb	Nov	1104			



2017 NEW STAMPS

BY JEFF STAGE

Wintery Images Abound

Snow and Christmas Join Our Most Recent National Museum on Late 2017 U.S. Stamps



A tribute to groundbreaking children's literature, classic Christmas songs, a tribute to our nation's newest museum, and an unusual pair of stamps released as a joint issue with Canada make up the lineup of new stamps released in October by the United States Postal Service.

The month's first issue, on October 4, is a set of four honoring Ezra Jack Keats' award-winning 1967 book, *The Snowy Day*, in which a city boy discovers the joys of snow. These were followed the next day by a set of four Christmas Carols stamps. Later, came a single stamp honoring the first-year anniversary of the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of African American History and Culture. Last is a pair of History of Hockey stamps, which many collectors might consider the United States' first true tête-bêche pair.

These are the final postage stamps of 2017, though a semipostal – one that pays for first class postage and costs extra, with the extra amount going to a charitable cause – was planned for November. The forever first-class domestic

stamp will cost 60 cents, with 11 cents from the price of each stamp going to combat the causes and effects of Alzheimer's disease.

The Snowy Day

Drawings from a beloved groundbreaking and award-winning children's book are featured on a set of four wintery stamps, issued October 4, at the Brooklyn Public Library's Central Library in Brooklyn, New York.

The stamps showcase Ezra Jack Keats' story, *The Snowy Day*. Written and illustrated by the celebrated children's author, it was one of the first prominent 20th-century picture books centered on a black child.

A reviewer in The New York Times called *The Snowy Day* "a gentle story that tells its action eloquently in few words and in the frosty blues and other beautifully combined colors of outstanding illustrations."

Each stamp features a different illustration of a boy named Peter exploring and playing in the snow in his ur-

THE SNOWY DAY STAMPS

USPS Item Number: 676100
Format: double-sided booklet of 20 (convertible booklet format), 880 stamps per revolution
Issue Date and City: October 4, 2017, Brooklyn, New York
Art Director, Designer and Typographer: Antonio Alcalá, Alexandria, Virginia
Artist: Ezra Jack Keats
Modeler: Joseph Sheeran
Manufacturing Process: Offset

Printer and Processor: Ashton Potter (USA) Ltd., Williamsville, New York
Press Type: Muller Martini A76
Print Quantity: 400 million stamps
Paper Type: Nonphosphored Type III, Overall
Adhesive Type: Pressure-sensitive
Stamp Sizes: .77 inch by 1.05 inches, 19.56 millimeters by 26.67 mm (image); .91 inch by 1.19 inches, 23.11mm by 30.23mm (overall), 5.76 inches by 2.38

inches, 146.30mm by 60.45mm (booklet size)

Colors: Black, Cyan, Magenta, Yellow
Plate Numbers: "P" followed by four single digits

Marginal Markings: Header, "The Snowy Day," First-Class Forever Stamps, Plate numbers (in peel strip area), "© 2016 USPS" logo in peel strip area, bar code.

ban neighborhood while wearing his iconic red snowsuit. The images include Peter forming a snowball; sliding down a mountain of snow; making a snow angel; and leaving footprints in the snow.

Art director Antonio Alcalá of Alexandria, Virginia, designed the stamps, which are self-stick and being sold in double-sided booklets of 20. These are forever stamps, which will always be valid for first-class postage, currently 49 cents.

Those scheduled to be on hand at the first-day ceremony were U.S. Postal Service Government Relations and Public Policy Acting Executive Director Roderick N. Sallay; Brooklyn Public Library President and CEO Linda E. Johnson; Award-winning children's and young adult author Andrea Davis Pinkney; and Ezra Jack Keats Foundation Executive Director Deborah Pope.

The Snowy Day, written and illustrated by Keats, was published in 1962 and received the 1963 Caldecott for illustrations. A movie adaptation of the picture book won a prize at the Venice Film Festival two years later, according to the *New York Times*.

The inspiration for Peter – who is about 4 years old – came from a *Life* magazine photo article from 1940, and Keats' desire to have minority children of New York as central characters in his stories. Peter appears in six more books growing from a small boy in *The Snowy Day* to pre-adolescence in *A Letter to Amy* (1968).

Keats (1916-1983), a near lifelong resident of New York City, was born Jacob Ezra Katz, in Brooklyn. He was the first children's author known to include multiculturalism in an urban setting in his book and was the first to incorporate collage into his drawings.

The son of Polish-Jewish immigrants, Keats grew up poor, but had silent encouragement from his father, a waiter, who would bring home tubes of paint, but feared he was encouraging a life of hardship for his son. The young Keats won a national art contest sponsored by Scholastic magazine, but found his artistic endeavors temporarily derailed when his father died in 1935.

He worked as a mural painter for the Works Progress Administration and illustrated comic books before being drafted for World War II. He spent much of his service career painting camouflage on aircraft.



After the war, he changed his name in a reaction to anti-Semitism, studied in Paris, and started seeing his illustrations published by leading magazines. In an unpublished autobiography Keats said he didn't pursue children's literature, but was sought out by Elizabeth Riley, of Crowell publishers. His first endeavor was illustrating Elisabeth Hubbard Lansing's *Jubilant for Sure* (1954), for which he visited rural Kentucky for research. He went on to illustrate books for other authors.

Keats' first attempt at writing his own book was a co-authorship with Pat Cherr for *My Dog is Lost* (1960). Two years later, Viking published *The Snowy Day*, which introduced Peter, who appeared in six more of Keats' total of 22 books.

Many of Keats' stories portray family life and the simple pleasures in a child's daily routine. According to Wikipedia, Keats blended collage with gouache, an opaque watercolor mixed with a gum that produced an oil-like glaze. He marbled paper and worked with acrylics and watercolor, pen and ink and even photographs.



Antonio Alcalá art director

When did you start working on this stamp?

January 2015.

What kind of source material did you have for the stamps?

The final stamp artwork came from high resolution scans of the original artwork provided by the artist's estate.

Did you have authority to use all the illustrations in the book?

We requested the use of specific illustrations and

have authorization to use those.

I don't have a copy of *The Snowy Day* right now. I see it has 32 pages and I would guess it has about that many illustrations. What factors were used to choose the images for the stamps?

Our goal was to use four illustrations from the book that represented a child enjoying typical winter scenes.

Has the original artwork been cropped or enhanced? If so, can you discuss those.

The artwork was cropped to emphasize the child and

his activity, but otherwise the images were left "as is."

Were there any other illustrations that were in the running but just didn't make it? If so, why not?

There were no other illustrations considered, as these worked best in the stamp format without any alteration of the original artwork. They make a complete "set" where the images feel par-

allel and complimentary.

Is there anything else you would like to add about this stamp issue and/or the design process?

I remember reading *The Snowy Day* to my children long before I became a stamp designer. It's an honor to create artwork from one of the greatest children's books of my lifetime.

Christmas Carols

With a song in the air from carolers appropriately wrapped in holiday scarves, the U.S. Postal Service issued this year's Christmas Carols stamps before an appreciative crowd in New York City.

Of course, as usual, the holiday stamps were issued a bit out of season – October 5 – but that is, of course, so mailers can obtain the stamps and mail early.

The forever stamps were formally released in a first-day ceremony at the American Stamp Dealers Association's Fall Stamp Show. The ceremony was in the Rheinlander Gallery of the New York Hilton Midtown.

The stamps illustrate four beloved Christmastime songs: "Jingle Bells," "Deck the Halls," "Silent Night" and "Jolly Old Saint Nicholas." Familiar lines from each song highlight the individual stamps. The shades of blue in the backgrounds of the stamps evoke the evening scenes from the four carols. The booklet of 20 stamps includes five of each design.

The late Howard E. Paine was the art director. Artist Steve McCracken of Winchester, Virginia, created original art for the project.

The first-day ceremony participants included U.S. Postal Service



Brand Marketing Executive Director Christopher Karpenko; Linn's Stamp News Editor-in-Chief Jay Bigalke, who was still editor of *The American Philatelist* at that time; American Stamp Dealers Association President Tami Jackson; Jim Balog, an officer with the Christmas Philatelic Club (www.christmasphilatelicclub.org); and U.S. Postal Service Stamp Services Director Mary-Anne Penner. A quartet of singers, dubbed the New York Holiday Choristers, provided some appropriate entertainment, singing the songs shown on the stamps.

"This year's selections were inspired by some of America's favorite Christmas carols, sung and adored by children and adults alike since the 18th century," Karpenko said. All four songs conveyed on the stamps came to life in the 1800s, with "Silent Night" the oldest dating to 1818.

"Translated into dozens of languages, these timeless classics are so recognizable. When holiday items arrive in mailboxes with these stamps, we expect recipients will be humming the tune of the carol lyrics they see — either in their heads or out loud."

Bigalke, who was attending his 24th first-day ceremony for Christmas stamps, offered warm homey

USPS Item Number: 677300

Format: Double-sided booklet of 20,800 stamps per revolution

Issue Date & City: October 5, 2017, New York, New York

Art director, designer and typographer: Howard E. Paine

Artist: Steve McCracken, Winchester, Virginia

Modeler: Sandra Lane/Michelle Finn

Manufacturing Process: Offset

CHRISTMAS CAROLS STAMPS

Printer and processor: Banknote Corporation of America, Browns Summit, North Carolina

Press Type: Alprinta 74

Print quantity: 900 million stamps

Paper type: Phosphor tagged paper, block

Adhesive Type: Pressure-sensitive

Ink Colors: Cyan, Magenta, Yellow, Black

Stamp Sizes: 1.05 inches by .77 inch, 26.67 millimeters by 19.56mm (image area), 1.19 inches by .91 inches, 30.23mm

by 23.11mm (overall), 2.375 inches by 5.743 inches, 60.33mm by 145.87mm (full booklet)

Plate Numbers: "B" followed by four (4) single digits

Marginal Markings: Header "Christmas Carols" 20 First-Class Forever Stamps, Plate numbers in peel strip area, "© 2016 USPS" in peel strip area, bar code

reminises of first-day ceremonies, family Christmases and offered a small tribute to Paine (1929-2014), whom he described as “passionate about stamps and stamp collectors.”

Bigalke noted that George Linn (1884-1966), founder of *Linn's Stamp News*, was a great proponent of a Christmas stamp and would likely have been “very proud” of the history of the stamp. The first U.S. Christmas stamp was issued in 1962.

“The popularity of Christmas stamps is something celebrated and shared by both stamp collectors and the general

public,” Bigalke said. “It’s an honor to be a part of this moment in history introducing a new set of stamps to the nation.”

Familiar lines from each song highlight the individual stamps. The shades of blue in the backgrounds of the stamps evoke the evening scenes from the four carols.

McCracken previously designed the 1993 Circus block of four and the 2010 Snowboard Stamp, which doubled as the U.S. Winter Olympics stamp that year. He also created the Community Colleges prestamped envelope of 2001.



Steve McCracken stamp artist

When did you start working on these stamps?

August, 2009.

Was this a four-stamp set from the start?

Yes.

Can you explain your role and that of Mr. Paine's?

Howard provided the carol titles, which had been chosen by USPS, and gave me free rein to invent a four-stamp arrangement. My first sketches were favorably received, Howard particularly liked the circular arrangement of the carol excerpts. He made suggestions for improvements that are reflected in the final stamps; the upper left stamp was originally a rather staid wreath, but Howard hit upon the idea of the strand of lights and the plate of cookies. It's that kind of art direction that he was so superb at.

This must be one of Howard's final issues ... can you tell us anything else about his connection with these stamps?

He was always thinking about new stamp subjects, and I think many of the issues he was involved with were his original suggestions. I wouldn't be surprised if the carols stamp idea came from him.

This seems to have a perfect mix of a creative design with tradition? How did you come up with this design? Were there any inspirations?

With a little luck and an open mind an illustrator can stumble upon a design solution by thinking with a pencil. Placing traditional Christmas imagery within the circular arrangement of the carol excerpts just looked right. For inspiration I had about a hundred years of traditional Christmas imagery to call upon.

How were the four songs featured chosen? Were you involved in song choices? If so, were there any songs that were highly considered but just missed the cut?

That I don't know, and I'm not sure Howard did either. We both had to jog our memories to recall Jolly Old St. Nicholas.

Did all these stamps evolve one-by-one ... or all at once?

The stamps were sketched out as a single four-part

drawing.

Reviewing the stamps, I guess the main images for Jingle Bells and Jolly Old St. Nicholas were likely obvious? How did you come to the secondary images – the snowflakes and lone child?

Howard and I discussed the stamp topic at length before I made the first sketch, and some of the images and secondary elements were arrived at as we talked. The lone child, for instance, reflects the subject of the song, a gift request for Santa. One dashes through the snow in Jingle Bells, hence the snowflakes.

The sleeping lamb is wonderful for Silent Night, again, how did that come about? Anything else, such as a church or manger scene, considered? I suppose the star was an obvious choice, but was it there from the start?

Thank you. The Lamb of God is evoked, of course, and what could be more “all is calm” than a sleeping lamb? The lamb is also a diagonal counterpoint to the horse. Both are animals, and both are objects that aren't as fully circular as the plate of cookies and the Santa image.

What was the biggest challenge with this issue?

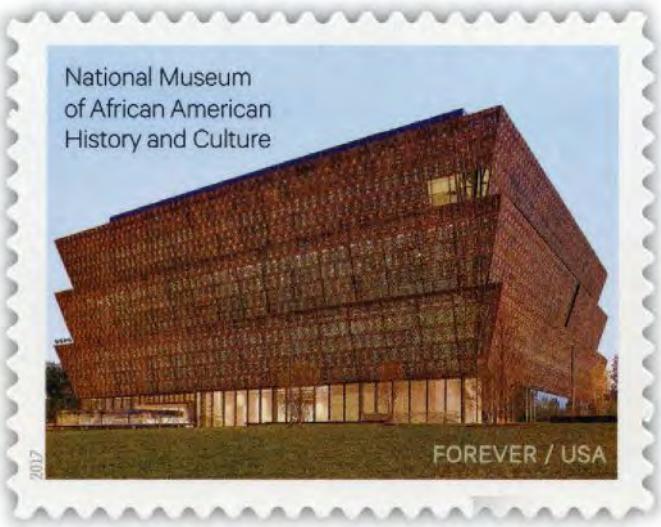
It's a complicated image that had to work as a unit of four as well as individual stamps. Keeping all those parts congruent and legible is a real challenge. That's a lot to ask a viewer to see, particularly at the size of a postage stamp, which is really a tiny poster.

I probably only have a partial list of your previous US stamp work. I have 1993 Circus stamps, 2010 snowboard Olympics stamp, and the Community Colleges envelope ... any others that you can recall?

USPS contracts artists to produce a variety of stamps, some of which are released years later and some which may never be released. Though Howard and I worked on several other stamp projects my contract doesn't permit me to speak about any work in progress or stamps as yet unreleased.

Is there anything else you care to add?

Yes. It was an honor and a privilege to work with the late Howard Paine. He was a consummate designer/art director and a delight to know.



National Museum of African American History and Culture

The U.S. Postal Service, on October 13, issued the National Museum of African American History and Culture commemorative. The forever stamp celebrates the nation's newest museum in Washington, D.C. The stamp, created in panes of 20, was originally scheduled to be issued September 24 on the one-year anniversary of the museum's opening, but was delayed a few weeks.

The stamp art is based on a photograph of the museum's northwest corner by Alan Karchmer. Text in the upper left corner of the stamp reads "National Museum of African American History and Culture." Art director Antonio Alcalá designed the stamp.

"I am humbled that the museum was chosen for this special stamp," said Lonnie G. Bunch III, founding director of the National Museum of African American History and Culture, according to the Smithsonian News Desk website (<http://newsdesk.si.edu>). "It is fitting that the image on the stamp is the building itself, as this building, by its very design, stands as tribute to the African American experience."

Bunch was joined for the ceremony by Smithsonian Board of Regents Chair David M. Rubenstein, Deputy Postmaster General and Chief Government Relations Officer Ronald A. Stroman and Postmaster Gerald A. Roane.

The National Museum of African American History and Culture has welcomed nearly 3 million visitors since its opening on the National Mall. Occupying a prominent location next to the Washington Monument, the nearly 400,000-square-foot museum has nearly 37,000 objects in its collection and is the nation's largest and most comprehensive cultural destination devoted exclusively to exploring, documenting and showcasing the African American story and its impact on American and world history.

The museum was designed by a collaborative effort of four firms: The Freelon Group, Adjaye Associates, Davis Brody Bond and the SmithGroupJJR. Phil Freelon was lead architect and David Adjaye was lead designer.

The museum was strongly informed by the history and arts and crafts of black Americans in the South.

The stamp features a photo of the northwest corner of the museum, displaying the bronze-colored architecture designed by Adjaye. The above-ground floors featured an inverted step pyramid surrounded by a bronze architectural scrim, which reflected a crown used in Yoruban culture.

A report from the Smithsonian News Desk offered the following:

The design of the building features two distinct design elements — the "Corona," the signature exterior feature that consists of 3,600 bronze-colored cast-aluminum panels weighing a total of 230 tons, and the "Porch," which serves as the location for the main museum entrance on Madison Drive. Sustainable elements include photovoltaic panels that produce electricity to heat water for the building.

The Corona, prominent on the stamp, features frames minimally attached to the main structure that integrate geometric patterns and lean outward. They are based on historic iron grilles found in black communities in places like Charleston, South Carolina and New Orleans, Louisiana.

Various news reports tell about design changes from 2012 to 2014.

The original design proposed that the scrim be made of bronze, which would have made the museum the only one on the National Mall whose exterior was not made of limestone or marble. Cost issues forced the architects to change this to bronze-painted aluminum, in September 2012. The change was approved by the Commission of Fine Arts, but the com-

CELEBRATING AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE STAMP

USPS Item Number: 474200

Format: Pane of 20, 180 stamps per revolution

Issue Date and City: September 24, 2017, Washington, D.C.

Designer, Art Director and Typographer: Antonio Alcalà, Alexandria, Virginia

Existing Photo: Alan Karchmer

Modeler: Sandra Lane/Michelle Finn

Manufacturing Process: Offset, Microprint

Printer and Processor: Banknote

Corporation of America, Browns

Summit, North Carolina

Press Type: Alrinta 74

Print Quantity: 15 million stamps

Paper Type: Phosphor Tagged Paper, Block Tag

Adhesive Type: Pressure-sensitive

Colors: Cyan, Magenta, Yellow, Black

Stamp Sizes: 1.42 inches by 1.085 inches, 36.07 millimeters by 27.56 mm (image area), 1.56 inches by 1.225 inches, 39.62mm by 31.12mm (overall) mm

Plate Numbers: "B" followed by four single

digits

Marginal Markings: Front – Header:

Celebrating African American History and Culture, plate numbers in two corners of pane; Back – "© 2016 USPS," USPS logo, plate position diagram, Barcode (474200) in upper right and lower left corners of pane, Promotional text

missioners criticized the change for lacking the warm, reflective qualities of bronze. After tests of several materials, a polyvinyl difluoride coating was approved. Later, radical changes were made from the original landscaping plan – a wetland with a flowing creek and bridges – to a dull black granite wall.

"The Postal Service is honored to issue a new commemorative forever stamp acknowledging the important role African American history plays in American history," Stroman said at the first-day ceremony. "The National Museum of African American History and Culture is an American treasure that serves as a repository for the history of suffering,

struggle and triumph of African Americans."

Early efforts to establish a federally owned museum featuring African-American history and culture can be traced to 1915, although the modern push for such an organization did not begin until the 1970s. After years of little success, a much more serious legislative push began in 1988 that led to authorization of the museum in 2003. A site was selected in 2006. The museum, with construction costs limited to \$500 million, opened September 24, 2016, in a ceremony led by U.S. President Barack Obama.



Antonio Alcalà art director

When did you start working on these stamps?

Fall of 2015

The landscaping is pretty scant. Do you consider that a strength or weakness for the stamp design?

The building is iconic and has great symbolic meaning. We chose to focus on that aspect rather than the larger environment.

The stamp nicely shows two sides of the museum. Were there any other exteriors considered?

Yes, but this provided the best information without other distracting elements (cars, parts of other buildings, etc.)

Instead of the exterior, or images of the interior, was an object considered?

Other images were investigated. Because of the difficulty of representing an entire history and culture in just one or two objects, a decision was made to use the building itself.

Is there anything else interesting you'd like to add about the stamp or design process?

I'm proud to have participated in the creation of this stamp. It represents an extremely important moment in our nation's history.

History of Hockey

They may be arch rivals on the ice during the Winter Olympics or World Hockey Championships, but the United States and Canada proudly stood shoulder-to-shoulder this Fall with the release of a joint issue, the History of Hockey stamps.

Rather than show any kind of progressive timeline involving the sports' key dates, innovations, games, or players, the stamps convey hockey's rich history with a couple of simple images. Canada this year celebrated the 100th anniversary of the National Hockey League (which included four U.S. teams in its original six) and 125th anniversary of the Stanley Cup with several stamps.

The tête-bêche stamps – one attached upside down to the other, in this case foot-to-foot – present a modern pro-style hockey player wearing a helmet, visor, modern skates and stick skating in the top stamp. The lower stamp is mirror-like, as if reflected in the ice, showing a young hockey player from days of old wearing leather skates and gloves, a cap and scarf, and car-



rying a wooden stick. Although the players on both stamps are males, the fact that women of many ages play hockey, too, is acknowledged in the selvage of the country's souvenir sheets that show a modern-day father teaching hockey to his daughter on a frozen pond.

The U.S. is selling 20-stamp panes of first-class domestic forever stamps (currently 49 cents) while Canada is selling their permanent stamps (currently 85 cents) in a 10-stamp booklet. Each country also produced a two-stamp souvenir sheet. The one product with stamps from both countries is a Canadian first-day cover. The cancellations are from Detroit and Windsor, Ontario.

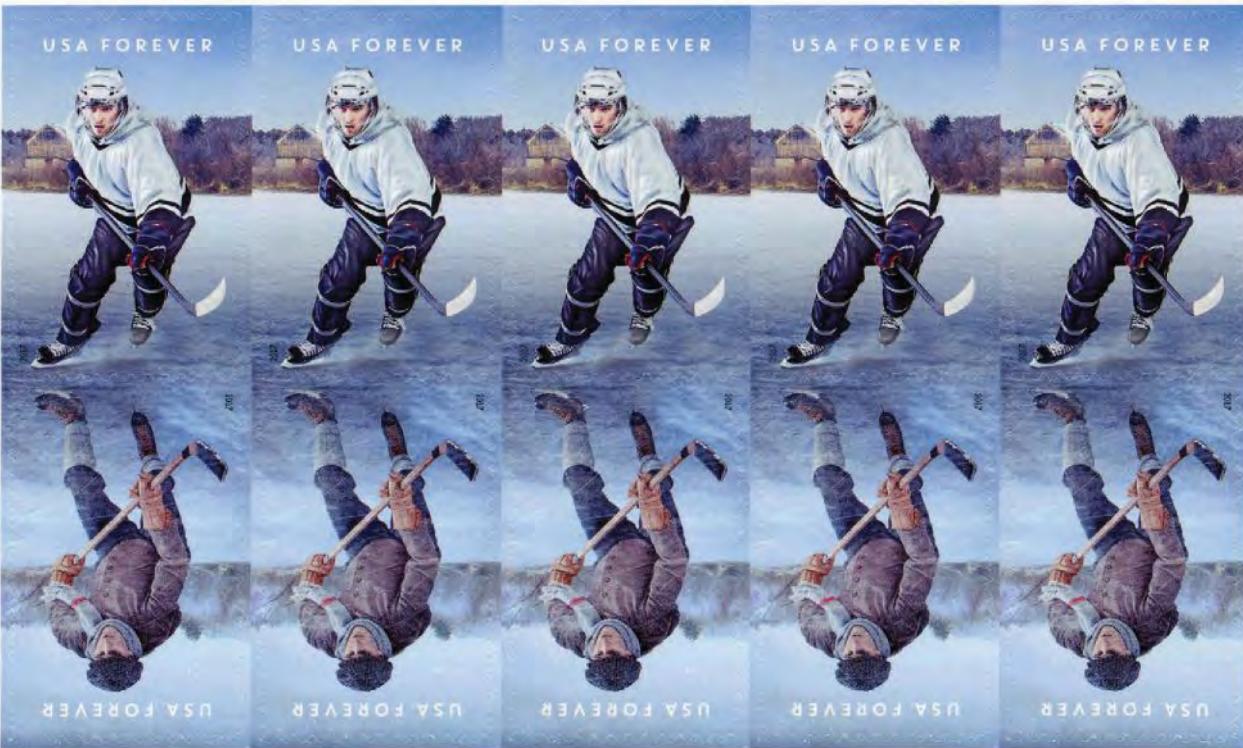
For many U.S. collectors, this issue could be considered the United States' first tête-bêche postage stamps. (Perhaps the closest in comparison could be the triangle stamps issued for the Pacific 97 stamp show in which a pair of stamps could be removed from a pane and appear to be tête-bêche.)

This is the sixth joint issue between Canada and the U.S., the first being the opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway stamps in 1959. It is the first to show a sport.

The stamps were issued in a joint ceremony October 20 at the Belfor Training Center, which is part of the new Little

Caesars Arena, home of the Detroit Red Wings. The speakers and unveiling ceremony was on the ice and stood between the U.S. and Canadian flags. In the background, champion pennants of the Red Wings were displayed.

Joining USPS Postmaster General and CEO Megan J. Brennan and Canada Post President and CEO Deepak Chopra in dedicating the stamps were eight-time Stanley Cup champion Red Kelly, age 90, formerly of the Detroit Red



■ THE HISTORY OF HOCKEY ■



P111

P111

Wings; and author and sports medicine physician Murray Howe, son of NHL legend Gordie Howe, known as Mr. Hockey. Detroit television (WDIV-TV) meteorologist Paul Gross, who noted he was a stamp collector at the start of the ceremony, served as the master of ceremonies. The postal officials said this was likely the first time the postmasters general of both countries had jointly attended a first-day ceremony.

The stamps themselves were a Canadian production. Designed by Roy White of Subplot Design Inc. of Vancouver, the issue features photography by Canadian-born K.C. Armstrong, with retouching by Brad Pickard, and was printed by Lowe-Martin.

"There is no better way to celebrate the unique history of hockey than actually being on the ice; frankly, I'm just glad they didn't give me skates," quipped Brennan as she stood on a carpet placed on the ice for the speakers. "Hockey is the perfect subject for Canada and the United States to honor through these stamps."

Brennan, at first, referred to the stamp showing the vintage skater.

"You can picture the snow shoveled off the ice," Brennan said. "You can hear the skates and the slap of the sticks – you can feel the cold but mostly what you can imagine is the fun, the competition and the energy – this is what endures today and is captured so well on these stamps."

"The subjects chosen for the joint issues highlight how much our nations have in common," Chopra said. "Hockey is one of those things. These stamps celebrate the shared love of hockey, a game now firmly rooted in the lore of both nations."

Kelly has been acknowledged as one of the 100 greatest hockey players of all time, having competed in 20 seasons

(1947-67), played in more than 1,300 games, scoring 281 goals and 823 points. He won the Lady Bing Trophy, awarded for sportsmanship, four times. He spent his first 12 years with the Detroit Red Wings as a defenseman before being traded to the Toronto Maple Leafs, where he skated as a center. Altogether, he was on eight Stanley Cup champions.

"It's a pleasure to back in Detroit," Kelly told the gathering. "I wasn't sure if I would be welcome here. The saddest day was when they traded me (to Toronto). I want to congratulate the U.S. and Canadian postal services for these stamps." He said the vintage stamp reminded him of his days growing up in rural Canada when kids with go down to the (frozen) pond, start a fire, warm their skates and spend all day playing hockey.

Kelly recalled days skating with and against Detroit, including when he first matched up against Detroit as a member of the Maple Leafs. He encountered Red Wings legend Gordie Howe, known as Mr. Hockey, during a shift. While playing in Detroit, an outing with Howe had led Kelly to meet the woman who would become his wife, Andra, for the past 58 years.

"I was going into a corner and Gordie had his hand right around my waist," recalled Kelly. "He asked, 'how's the wife?' I turned my head and was about to answer when he almost put me out of the end of the rink. My boot prints are still in that wood down at Maple Leaf Gardens. But that was Gordie."

Howe (1928-2016) was one of six players recently honored on a new set of NHL stamps from Canada Post. He played most of his 35-year career with the Red Wings. One of his sons, Dr. Murray Howe, spoke at the first-day ceremony.

USPS Item Number: 475500 (souvenir sheet: 564600)
Format: Pane of 20, 240 stamps per revolution
Issue Date and City: October 20, 2017, Detroit, Michigan
Art Directors: William J. Gicker, Washington, D.C. and Susan Gilson
Designer: Subplot Design, Inc.
Typographer: Greg Breeding, Charlottesville, Virginia
Photographer: K.C. Armstrong

THE HISTORY OF HOCKEY STAMPS

Modeler: Joseph Sheeran
Manufacturing Process: Offset
Printer: Ashton Potter (USA) Ltd. (APU)
Printed at: Williamsville, New York
Press Type: Muller A76
Print Quantity: 15 million stamps (souvenir sheet of two: 500,000 stamps)
Paper Type: Nonphosphored Type III, block tag
Adhesive Type: Pressure-sensitive
Ink Colors: Black, Cyan, Magenta, Yellow

Stamp Sizes: .84 inch by 1.42 inches, 21.34 millimeters by 36.07mm (image); .98 inch by 1.56 inches, 24.89mm by 39.62mm (overall), 6.00 inches by 7.50 inches, 152.40mm by 190.50mm (pane)

Plate Numbers: "P" followed by four digits
Marginal Markings: Plate numbers, header: "The History of Hockey," Back: "©2017 USPS," USPS logo, two barcodes (475500), plate position diagram, promotional text.

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Cataloging U.S. Commemorative Stamps: 1950

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Extra illustrations of press sheets and die proofs, additional details, and much more — building upon *The American Philatelist* articles by Charles Posner.



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PUBLICATIONS

American Philatelic Society
100 Match Factory Place, Bellefonte, PA 16823
Phone: 814-933-3803 • Fax: 814-933-6128
E-mail: info@stamps.org



Index for 2017 U.S. New Issues

This index includes only the stamps that have been reported on in The American Philatelist in 2017. It is not intended to be a complete listing of all stamps and postal stationery issued by the U.S. Postal Service. Scott catalog numbers are provided as available at the time of publication. “*” indicates number unavailable.

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ESTONIA DEADLY MUSHROOM

On October 5, Estonia issued a single stamp featuring the deadly brown roll-rim mushroom, thus the skull and spider, a standard on Estonia's poison mushroom stamps. The incubation period of brown roll-rim can last from a few hours to a couple of years. Boiling and cooking do not make this mushroom edible.



INDIA AIRPORT

On October 15, India Post issued a set of two commemorative stamps in as many denominations honoring the 75th anniversary of the Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport in Mumbai.



ÅLAND CHRISTMAS TRADITION

On October 9, Åland issued a pair of Christmas stamps showing traditional gingerbread houses created by expert bakers especially for the stamp art.



LATVIA

HONOR ABOVE POWER

On October 10, Latvia issued a stamp called Honor Above Power showing a pair of chess kings, one tilted and one falling. "Saki Korupcijai - ne" translates to "Say No To Corruption."

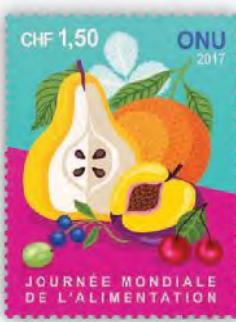


AUSTRIA TRADITIONAL COSTUME

On October 18, Austria continued a traditional costume series, this time featuring a women's outfit from Grinzing, a classic wine region. The stamp shows a completed blouse and skirt, as well as the patterns used.

NEW WORLDWIDE STAMPS

A quick peek at stamps issued in September from ten different countries around the world.



UNITED NATIONS WORLD FOOD DAY

On October 16, World Food Day, the United Nations issued six stamps to mark the event, two each in three denominations – U.S. (vegetables and beans), Austrian (breads and meats and fish) and Swiss (dairy and fruits).



CANADA FABRIC STAMP

On October 23, Canada Post issued three stamps honoring the 100th anniversary of the Toronto Maple Leafs hockey club. A \$5 stamp, available only as a souvenir sheet, features fabric showing the team logo adhered to the stamp.



COLOMBIA TOURISM

On October 9, Colombia issued a pair of stamps for this year's Postal Union of the Americas, Spain and Portugal (UPAEP) series, a type of Europa common-themed stamp for Latin America. This year's theme was tourism.



FRANCE MILITARY TRANSMISSIONS

On October 10, France marked 150 years of military transmissions honoring an act in 1867 that established the first military units responsible for military telegraphy.

The visual illustrates the evolution of military transmissions from the telegraphic sappers (beginning of the optical telegraph) to the transmitters of today.



BELGIUM MASKS

On October 23, Belgium issued a miniature sheet with five stamps featuring ancient masks, considered top pieces from the Royal Museum for Central Africa in Tervuren.



WORLDWIDE IN A NUTSHELL

BY BOB LAMB

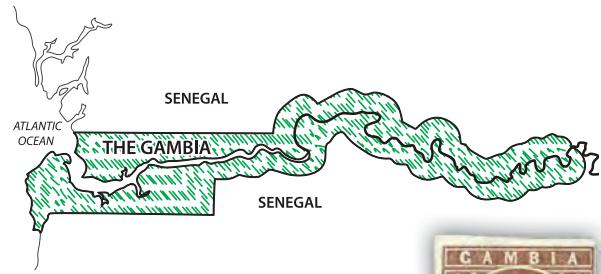
The Gambia

Status: Presidential Republic in West Africa

Population: 2,051,263 (2017 est.)

Area: 4,363 sq miles

Currency: 100 Bututs = 1 Dalasi. US\$1 = 47 Dalasi.



The first stamps of Gambia are imperfs and show an embossed portrait of Queen Victoria as a cameo, Scott 3. The design is based on stamps from Heligoland.

Little is known of Gambian history before Muslim traders arrived with their religion in the ninth century. There is speculation that several Mediterranean cultures at least knew about the Gambia River in pre-Christian times, but the first recorded visit by Europeans was in 1455, when the Portuguese, seized by the vision of Prince Henry the Navigator, pressed southward down Africa's Atlantic coast. They set up a few trading settlements near the mouth of the river, but Vasco da Gama's discoveries soon drew Portugal's attention to the riches of the Indian Ocean. Its Gambian holdings languished.

A century later, a cash-strapped Portuguese royal sold the area's trading rights to the British. They, too, found the region disappointing. Climate and disease made life along the river basin harsh. Nevertheless, Gambia was swept up for the next two centuries in Britain's competition with the Netherlands and France for control of the world's mercantile trade. In the mid-17th century, an odd interloper entered this competition when the duke of Courland (now Latvia) colonized an island at the mouth of the Gambia River. In less than a decade the duke lost his Gambian holdings to the British. As compensation, the British supported his claim to Tobago in the West Indies.

By 1783, the British had gained virtually unchallenged control of The Gambia. They left its administration to private companies engaged in the slave trade. The abolition of slavery in 1808 practically ruined these companies and in 1821, the Crown took control of The Gambia, placing it under the governor of Sierra Leone.

Once the British learned that the Gambia River did not offer access to the heart of West Africa, they sought to trade the colony to the French, who were consolidating their control in that region. After two decades of sporadic negotiations with the French, the British, in 1888, made The Gambia a separate colony, anticipating that the trade could be accomplished at the Paris Conference of 1889. The conference achieved general agreement between the two countries on their spheres of influence in Africa; The Gambia trade was not part of it.

As a result, the British recognized that they would have to pay more attention to the colony. Firmer control was established over the interior and governmental institutions were strengthened. In 1963 it was granted full internal self-government and in 1965 it became fully independent.

Until the middle of the 19th century, mail relied on occasional ship visits. About 1855, mail to The Gambia was sent to Sierra Leone accompanied by funds to defray the postage. An uncompensated postmaster took care of the mail when it arrived in Bathurst. On January 1, 1858, the first post office was opened at Bathurst. In 1867, the colony applied for its own postage stamps. After considerable negotiations over the cost, De La Rue & Co received the contract. To keep the price low, the stamps were imperforate and printed on unwatermarked paper. The embossed cameo design was fashioned after the issues of Heligoland. The first two stamps were placed on sale in Bathurst in January 1869. Stamps were inscribed "Gambia" until 1966 when it became "The Gambia."

Although The Gambia has become a prolific issuer of postage stamps, most of the stamps are only available at a special philatelic section of the main post office in Banjul. However, other post office patrons throughout the country are offered stamps from the 2010 issue depicting traditional musical instruments.



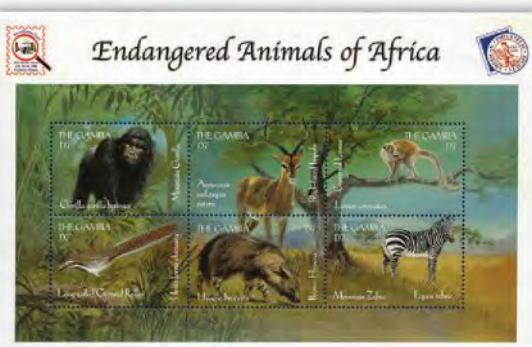
The high value of a 2010 15-stamp set showing traditional musical instruments, Scott 3292. This set is one of the few modern sets available to the local population.



A set of handsome stamps with an inset of King George V, issued in 1922-27, includes this low value green stamp showing an elephant, Scott 102.



The first set of stamps featuring Queen Elizabeth shows local scenes, including this palm wine tapping vignette, Scott 153.



A souvenir sheet, Scott 2194, featuring endangered animals was issued during the 2000 AmeriStamp Expo in Portland, Oregon. The annual show is sponsored by the APS.

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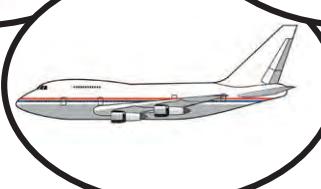
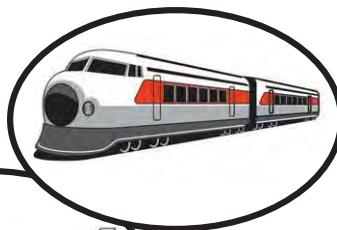


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