



The United States SPECIALIST

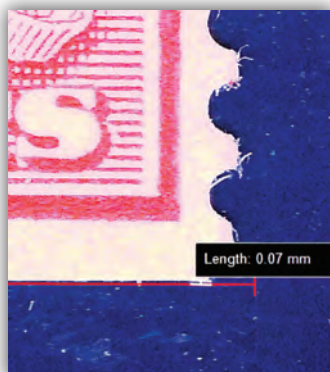
for the Collector of Postage & Revenue Stamp Issues of the United States

WHOLE NUMBER 1109



It's a Mad, Mad (Booklet) World

— plus —



Using High-Resolution Scanning to Detect Faked Stamps

— and —

Arbor Day, Norway and Hawaii



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FOR THE US SPECIALIST



The United States SPECIALIST

the journal of the United States Stamp Society

VOLUME 93, NUMBER 7

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WHOLE NUMBER 1109

An association of collectors to promote the study of all postage and revenue stamps and stamped paper of the United States and US-administered areas produced by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing and other contract printers.

American Philatelic Society Affiliate No. 150

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Martin Kent Miller, Editor

1361 W. Wade Hampton Blvd, Suite F - #102
Greer, SC 29650-1146
(864) 322-6847

email: editor@usstamps.org

www.usstamps.org

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Correspondence concerning business affairs of the Society, including membership and changes in address, should be addressed to the Executive Secretary, P.O. Box 3508, Joliet, IL 60434.

Postmaster: Send address changes to U.S.S.S., P.O. Box 3508, Joliet, IL 60434.



THE UNITED STATES SPECIALIST
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EDITOR

MARTIN KENT MILLER

1361 W. Wade Hampton Blvd, STE F - #102
Greer, SC 29650-1146
email: editor@usstamps.org

**United States Stamp Society
Bureau Issues Association, Inc.**

P.O. Box 3508
Joliet, IL 60434

CHAIRMAN

Roger S. Brody

P.O. Box 5836
Somerset, NJ 08875-5836
email: brody@usstamps.org

PRESIDENT

Nicholas Lombardi

P.O. Box 1005
Mountainside, NJ 07092
email: 8605@comcast.net

VICE PRESIDENT

Jeffrey Shapiro

P.O. Box 3211
Fayville, MA 01745-3211
email: coverlover@gmail.com

SECRETARY

Joel Cohen

10703 Kings Riding Way, Unit T-1
Rockville, MD 20852-5420
email: cohenji@comcast.net

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David S. Sugar

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Arlington Heights, IL 60004
email: david-sugar@wsdd.com

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P.O. Box 690042
Houston, TX 77269
email: stottsjd@swbell.net

BOOKLETS & BOOKLET PANES

Michael O. Perry

P.O. Box 1194
Rainier, OR 97048
email: MOPerry@mac.com

DURLAND EDITOR

Kim D. Johnson

310 E N 3rd Street
Georgetown, IL 61846
email: westhome1@aol.com

ESSAY-PROOF

James Patterson

1850 North Central Avenue, No. 1400
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Prospect Heights, IL 60070

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Mike Lampson

P.O. Box 471963
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email: lampson@usstamps.org

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P.O. Box 10406
Napa, CA 94581
email: terryscott@comcast.net

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Washington-Franklin Head Committee



Figure 1. The discovery example of the brown-yellow variety of Scott 381 was found on this 1912 cover posted in Provincetown, Massachusetts. USSS member Harry G. Brittain analyzed the ink on the 10¢ stamp. PSAG issued a certificate of authentication in April 2022.

Three Authenticated Washington-Franklin Shades to be Listed in 2023 Scott *Specialized Catalog*

by Kevin G. Lowther
USSS #14367 | ✉klowther5@gmail.com

Collectors of Washington-Franklin shades have three newly-listed varieties to hunt: Scott 381a, 474a and 512c. The first is previously unknown; the second is scarce; and the latter is common, but has languished for a century without proper identification. All will appear in the 2023 Scott *Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps & Covers*.

Scott 381a is the latest brown-yellow 10¢ Washington-Franklin whose ink has been analyzed by forensic philatelist Harry G. Brittain. The stamp was used on a May 12, 1912 cover (Figure 1) authenticated in 2022 by Philatelic Stamp Authentication and Grading. The registered cover was mailed in Provincetown, Massachusetts, by a Navy doctor to his wife in the Boston suburb of Dorchester.

Brown-yellow varieties in my collection also have been authenticated recently, on cover, for Scott 338, 416, 433, 510 and now 381. The shade had been unknown, on or off cover, for Scott 338, 381 and 433.

Scott 474a (Figure 2) is a distinct copper red in contrast with the common claret brown shade. This was described as a scarce, unlisted shade when I obtained it in a 1971 Siegel auction. The American Philatelic Expertizing Service concurred in 2021 that the stamp is copper red. (Jim Kloetzel, Scott's emeritus editor who oversees US listings, also has copper red shades in his reference collection.)

Scott 512c covers a range of claret reds, which had never been recognized in Scott. When I shared a gallery of Scott 512 claret reds (Figure 3) with Kloetzel, he agreed that they merit a small-letter designation. The claret reds now keep company with the claret browns (Scott 512) and brown carmines (Scott 512a). Scott 512b is already allocated to the ultra-rare perf 10 at top or bottom.

Kloetzel, it should be noted, encourages collectors who believe they have found something new to have it authenticated. If provided a scan of the certificate, he will issue a number.

Editor's note: Due to variations in scanning and print reproduction, the actual color of the specimens discussed in this or any article in The U.S. Specialist may vary from these printed images.



Figure 2. The scarce copper red shade of Scott 474, shown on the right along with the normal claret brown color, is now recognized by Scott as 474a. The stamp was authenticated in 2021 by the American Philatelic Expertizing Service.



Figure 3. Scott 512 and 512a are long-standing listings for the claret brown and carmine brown shades of the perf 11 12c stamp, respectively. This block of four, in a claret red shade, was among claret red stamps presented by the author to Scott's Jim Kloetzel to support designation of a small-letter Scott listing. The common claret reds are now listed as 512c.

*Vintage Photo of the Month*

Arbor Day Stamp

by **Rodney A. Juell**

USSS #13852 | P.O. Box 3508, Joliet, IL 60434



This photo of two children planting a tree was used by Clair Aubrey Huston as the basis for his design of the 1932 Arbor Day stamp (Scott 717). The children were Alvin W. Hall, Jr., and Ruth Hall, the son and daughter of the Director of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. The staged photo was taken in the side yard of the Hall home in the suburbs of Washington. Shown nearby is a card signed some years later by the two Hall children, with an Arbor Day stamp affixed. Also shown nearby is a recent photo of the side yard, in which the tree is no longer present.

Park Hall Neighbours



Alvin William Hall, Jr.





Farley Era Committee



FDR & the 1937 Hawaii Territorial Commemorative Stamp

by **Paul M. Holland**

USSS #16849 | Santa Barbara, CA 93111

✉ pholland.thorleaf@gmail.com

The central design is a reproduction of a statue of King Kamehameha I, who first placed the Hawaiian Islands under a single sovereignty. The statue stands in front of Iolani Castle in Honolulu.

— From a signed October 18, 1937 letter sent with a favor first day cover of the Hawaii Territorial commemorative stamp by Postmaster General James A. Farley.

It's difficult to discuss this stamp without mentioning that Franklin D. Roosevelt was the first sitting United States president to visit the Territory of Hawaii. Traveling aboard the Navy's cruiser USS *Houston*, FDR debarked at both the ports of Hilo and Honolulu in July 1934. When he arrived at Honolulu FDR was welcomed by a flotilla of traditional Hawaiian outrigger canoes led by legendary surfer and Olympic gold medal winning swimmer Duke Kahanamoku costumed as his ancestor King Kamehameha I as shown in Figure 1.

In Honolulu, FDR was greeted by an estimated 60,000-people, adorned with customary flower leis and was an honored guest at a traditional luau feast. Headquartered at the Royal Hawaiian Hotel on Waikiki Beach, he stayed for several days touring Hawaiian cultural landmarks, New Deal-inspired building developments and military areas. On his departure FDR thanked the people of Hawaii and wished them "Aloha from the bottom of my heart."



Figure 1. USS *Houston* and FDR greeted by flotilla of traditional Hawaiian outrigger canoes at Honolulu on July 26, 1934.



Figure 2. President Roosevelt in Honolulu.



Figure 3. Statue of Kamehameha I standing in front of Iolani Palace, Honolulu.

of the statue was in better condition, it was erected in front of Iolani Palace in Honolulu and the original was placed at North Kohala on the island of Hawaii.

Regarding the stamp itself, in early 1934 the Honolulu Society petitioned the Post Office Department to issue a stamp commemorating King Kamehameha, but nothing came of it. Then on December 8, 1936, Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes and the Post Office Department announced that a series of commemorative stamps would be issued to honor United States Territories, including the Hawaiian Islands. Not surprisingly, the statue of Kamehameha I became a key design feature of this Hawaii Territorial commemorative stamp, with William A. Roache designing the central subject and the frame by A. R. Meissner. A drawing of their design is shown in Figure 4.¹

Figure 4. Original drawing for the Hawaii Territorial commemorative stamp.

Perhaps the most important cultural landmark in Honolulu is Iolani Palace, the former royal residence of the rulers of the Kingdom of Hawaii beginning with Kamehameha III. The statue of Kamehameha I standing in front of Iolani Palace, is shown in Figure 3. There is an unusual back-story associated with this statue. The sculpture by American artist Thomas Ridgeway Gould was commissioned by the Hawaiian legislature to commemorate the centennial of the arrival of Captain James Cook in the Hawaiian Islands. However, the original cast produced at a foundry in Paris and shipped by sea, sank near the Falkland Islands during a storm. After an insurance settlement was used for a replacement, the original cast was recovered from the sea and it belatedly arrived in March 1882. Because the replacement casting



October 18, 1937.

Master Eddie White,
125 East 84th Street,
New York, New York.

Dear Eddie:

I am pleased to send you affixed to this envelope the 3-cent postage stamp issued in honor of Hawaii.

The central design is a reproduction of a statue of King Kamehameha I, who first placed the Hawaiian Islands under a single sovereignty. The statue stands in front of Iolani Castle in Honolulu.

This letter is being dispatched through the Honolulu, Hawaii, post office, having the first sale of the new stamp on this date.

Very truly yours,

James A. Farley

THE POSTMASTER GENERAL
WASHINGTON
OFFICIAL BUSINESS



POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE

FIRST DAY OF ISSUE



Master Eddie White,
125 East 84th Street,
New York, New York.

Figure 5. Favor FDC with October 18, 1937 letter signed by PMG James A. Farley.

Based on this drawing, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing formally submitted a stamp design to the Post Office Department on July 9, 1937, and it was approved by Postmaster General James A. Farley on July 21. The vignette on the stamp was engraved by Charles Chalmers with lettering by James T. Bayer. The plate proof was approved on September 21, 1937 and the first printing took place later that same day.¹

An example of a favor FDC with letter for this stamp signed by PMG James A. Farley is shown in Figure 5. His letter of October 18, 1937 briefly describes the stamp and says “This letter is being dispatched through the Honolulu, Hawaii, post office, having the first day of sale of the new stamp on this date.” The recipient, young Master Eddie White, came from a family of famous diplomats including William Pinkney (1764-1822) and Henry White (1850-1927). Eddie began receiving PMG FDCs from Farley when he was eight years old.

FDCs were also produced using official White House stationery such as that shown in Figure 6. This was sent to Jules Rodier, white-haired telegraph operator at the White House since the days of William McKinley and the Spanish-American War.

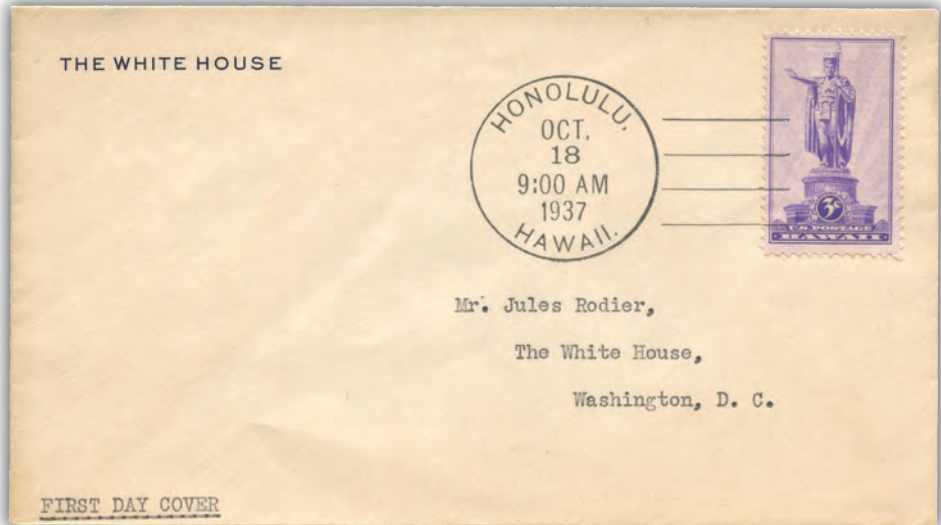


Figure 6. FDC on official White House stationery sent to Jules Rodier.

An example of a cover franked with the Hawaii stamp and sent to FDR at the White House on November 1, 1937 from Saint Petersburg, Florida is shown in Figure 7. Note the slogan cancellation, “Air-Mail Saves Time.”

Members of FDR's Secret Service detail were allowed to use White House stationery during their travels with the President. I'm fortunate in having a considerable number of such covers used by Paul M. Hart, a long-time senior member of FDR's Secret Service protection detail who knew FDR quite well, as evidenced by autographed and inscribed items not shown here. An example franked by a horizontal pair of the Hawaii stamps that was sent by airmail on March 30, 1938 from Atlanta to Hart's daughter at their family home in Washington, DC is shown in Figure 8. This was during FDR's March 23-April 2, 1938 visit to Warm Springs, Georgia as revealed in the White House daily log preserved

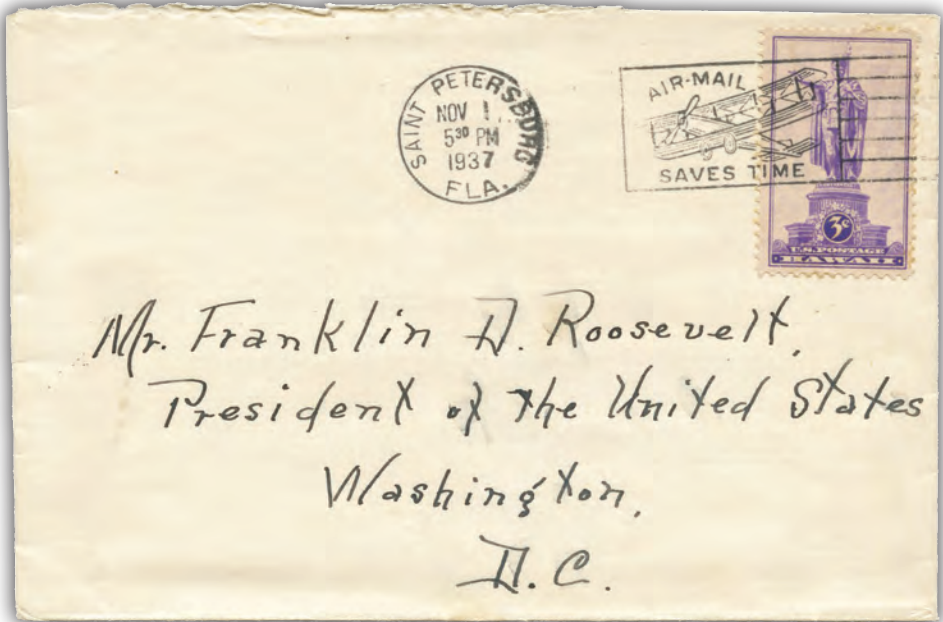


Figure 7. November 1, 1937 cover from Saint Petersburg, Florida sent to FDR.

at the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library. Note Paul Hart's typed initials "PMH" above "White House" on the corner card.

Another example on White House stationery that was sent to Hart's daughter from Warm Springs, Georgia on March 26, 1938 is shown in Figure 9. This airmail special delivery cover is franked with a single Hawaii commemorative, along with other stamps.

Fathers and sons represent a recurring theme in history, with one of the sons of King Kamehameha I becoming Kamehameha III and ruling Hawaii from 1825 to 1854.

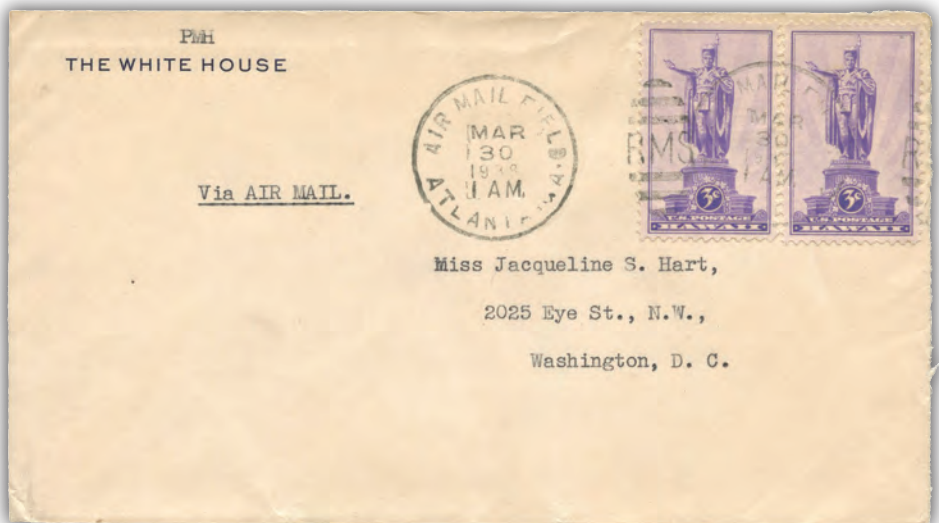


Figure 8. March 30, 1938 airmail cover on official White House stationery sent from Atlanta.



Figure 9. March 26, 1938 airmail special delivery cover on official White House stationery sent from Warm Springs, Georgia.

Kamehameha III is especially intriguing to philatelists since during his reign the earliest postage stamps of Hawaii were issued, the very rare 1851-52 “Hawaiian Missionaries” numeral types. These were immediately followed by engraved stamps in 1853 that depicted Kamehameha III (Scott 5-6). These finely engraved stamps were produced in Boston in sheets of 20 arranged in 5 rows of 4. I am fortunate to have a very nice example from plate position 20 of the 1868 re-issue (Scott 10) printed from the original plate. This is shown in Figure 10.



Figure 10. Kamehameha III as depicted on the second series of stamps from Hawaii.

FDR also had sons, and was accompanied by two of them during his 1934 Presidential visit to Honolulu. During their stay at the Royal Hawaiian Hotel, the legendary Duke Kahanamoku gave FDR's sons surfing lessons at Waikiki Beach. Franklin D. Roosevelt, Jr. and his younger brother John are shown with Duke Kahanamoku in Figure 11. Kahanamoku was not only a legendary surfer and Olympic gold medalist in the 100 meter freestyle (1912 and 1920), but both of his parents were direct descendants of Kamehameha I, so he was of royal blood.

FDR's next and final visit to Hawaii would not take place until late July 1944, near the end of World War II. By then his son Franklin D.



Figure 11. Franklin D. Roosevelt, Jr. and his brother John with Duke Kahanamoku at Waikiki Beach.

Roosevelt, Jr. was in the United States Navy, having gone on active duty in March 1941 after graduating from Harvard and then law school. He served aboard a destroyer in the North African campaign and, for actions during the invasion of Sicily in July 1943, was awarded a Silver Star for conspicuous gallantry.



Hyde Park, N.Y.

Franklin D. Roosevelt, Jr.



Hon. John H. Wilson
Box 2744
Honolulu,
Hawaii.

Figure 12. Christmas Card showing Hyde Park in the snow sent to Hawaii by Franklin D. Roosevelt, Jr.

After the war Franklin D. Roosevelt, Jr. served on the Committee on Civil Rights under President Harry S. Truman, and later went into politics becoming a United States congressman from New York from 1949 to 1955. He also retained connections to Hawaii as revealed by the Christmas card shown in Figure 12. This was sent to John H. Wilson, co-founder of the Democratic Party of Hawaii and three-time mayor of Honolulu. The card depicts Hyde Park in the snow with a signature of Franklin D. Roosevelt, Jr. below. Of philatelic interest, the envelope is franked with a single bureau precancelled 1½¢ horizontal Prexie coil stamp showing that it was sent unsealed, but making it difficult to determine when it was mailed.

I myself have been to Hawaii numerous times, typically with overnight stopovers in Honolulu enroute to the island of Kauai for oceanography experiments, and would often stroll over to the Royal Hawaiian Hotel in the early evenings. Big Band nights were my favorite, when the orchestra would play music of the 1940s as the sun set over Waikiki Beach. This would remind me of my father, a young Naval Aviator during World War II who flew long patrols in a PBY seaplane out of Kaneohe Bay near Honolulu and often spoke of his time in Hawaii. So for me, the Christmas card sent by Franklin D. Roosevelt, Jr. brings to mind fond memories of Hawaii and evokes the classic song by Bing Crosby and the Andrews Sisters that includes the lyrics “Mele Kalikimaka is Hawaii’s way to say Merry Christmas to you.”

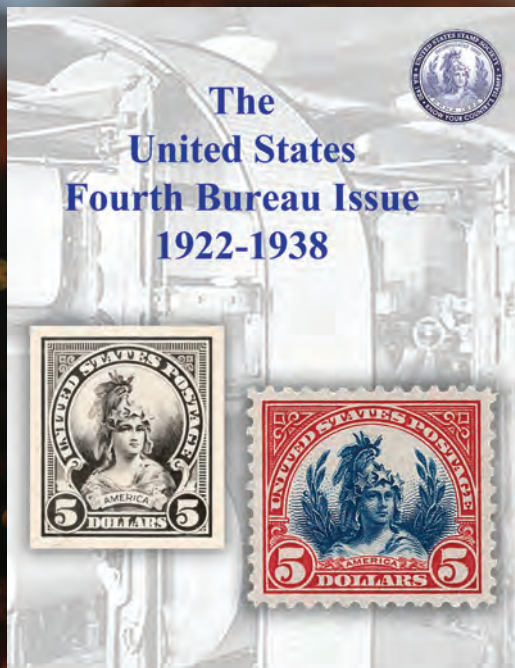
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1. Max G. Johl, *The United States Commemorative Postage Stamps of the Twentieth Century: Volume II 1935-1947*, H. L. Lindquist: New York, 1947, pages 78-80.

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It's a Mad, Mad (Booklet) World

by

Dieter R. Kohler, PhD

USSS #12538

Michael O. Perry

USSS #8210



Introduction

A recent item on eBay must have caught the attention of every booklet specialist. Dealer CKStamps offered the item shown in Figure 1 as “US Error EFO Freaky Stamps Collection Mint 5NH 1LH OG Inverted.” If this were a genuine booklet pane, it would indeed be a first class rarity, never seen before. As a booklet specialist, I was interested to examine this item and willing to bid up into the \$100 range, just for the curiosity value. The right part of figure 1 shows the bidding frenzy that happened at the end of the auction. No less than six different bidders were willing to go above \$500, finally topping at \$2,025. Good thing shipping was free for this item...

Counterfeit Abraham Lincoln stamps have long been known. A May 4, 2021 Linn’s article¹ by John Hotchner shows the variety, and a book by former postal inspector H.K. Petschel² goes into the details of these fakes. Joann Lenz’s site on forgeries³ also has information and an image of a Lincoln forgery. What has never been seen before was a counterfeit Lincoln booklet pane, let alone one in tête-bêche format (one column of stamps inverted).

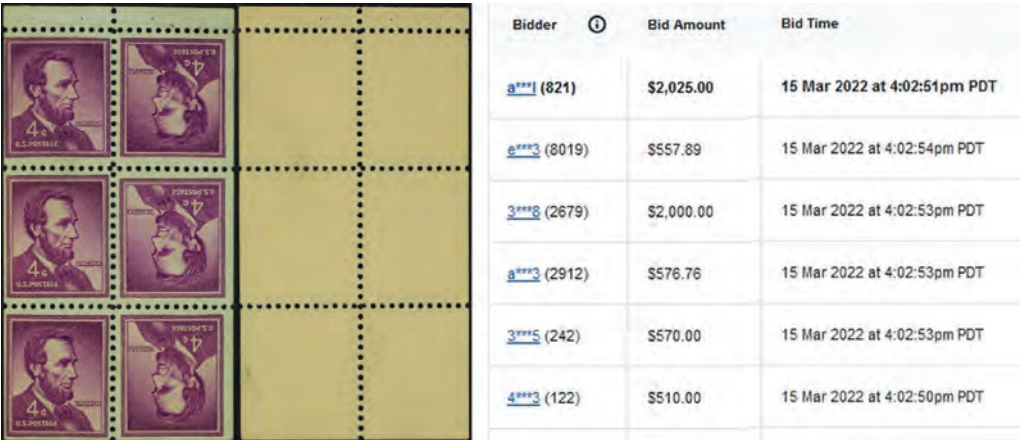


Figure 1: Recent Scott 1036 “booklet pane” offered on ebay and the bidding frenzy at the end of the bidding period.

When collectors think of inverted designs, they instantly think of an airplane flying upside down. Less known are the few early stamps with inverted center designs. People with X-acto knives and a lot of spare time used to cut or scrape out the center designs and put them back after rotating them 180 degrees, or exchanging Franklin busts with Washington busts, and mailing letters with those stamps to friends. While the latter stamps were purely made for pranks, the inverted centers are more of a real problem if really well executed.

So what is it?

The plates for the Lincoln stamps (sheets, coils, booklet panes) never had tête-bêche stamps on them. Also, the fourth stamp on the pane is visibly smaller than the other five stamps which is a dead giveaway that something is wrong.

Fake booklet panes are known for various issues. Depending on the targeted issue,

perforations on ordinary sheet pieces were trimmed off to create the straight edges of a booklet pane, or perforations were added to imperforated sheet pieces. Either method creates tell-tale signs of tampering. The item in question is a “perfect Scott 1036a pane” in that regard, no signs of tampering can be detected, all parameters (perforation holes, sizes and distances, staple holes sizes and distances) are correct (at least what can be examined from the fortunately good scans provided in the auction). Having the item at hand would of course be preferable, but there were 2,025 reasons the author didn’t win the lottery...

The ideal starting candidate for this “booklet pane” is a pane from a dummy booklet TDB5. Figure 2 shows a comparison of the back of the item in question with the front of a TDB5 pane. It is also worth noting that TDB5 booklets have the same covers as the Lincoln booklets, so creating a Lincoln booklet with two “weird panes” would have easily been doable. Panes from TDB5 booklets could also be used, but in general these have larger tab areas.

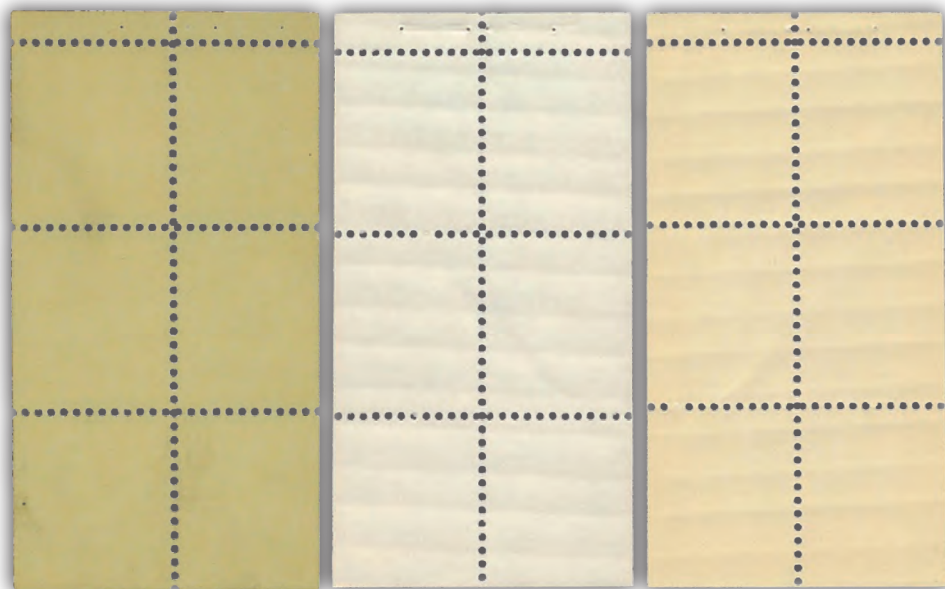


Figure 2: Back of the Scott 1036 “booklet pane” offered on ebay (left) and a front and a back side of two TDB5 panes.

One problem in the auction pictures is the fact that gum breaker ridges cannot be seen. This might be a scanning problem but we cannot exclude the possibility that the pane was glued down to a cardboard paper to fix it when going through a printer, and the pane was re-gummed afterwards, losing the ridges. Gum breaker ridges were introduced by the BEP (Bureau of Engraving and Printing) to counter the effect of excessive stamp curling. All stamps (except coil stamps) issued in and around the “Lincoln period” have gum breaker ridges. They can easily be seen on the front and back images of the two TDP5s in Figure 2.

Figure 3 compares the six stamps in the “booklet pane” to a pair of stamps of a genuine booklet pane. Stamp size differences and small stamp tilts are eliminated. Color



Figure 3: Top stamp pair from genuine booklet pane. The three bottom pairs are stamps 1 to 6 from the “booklet pane”

(genuine) Lincoln stamp, but the six stamps on the pane likely come from six different genuine stamps.

Also none of the Lincoln images match the Lincolns from the 1961 counterfeits, so this item was not made by that gang of people.

Without having the actual pane, it cannot be determined if this item was made by using a laser printer or ink jet printer, printing on a dummy TDB9a pane. It is highly unlikely it was made in an engraving process.

differences are not important (these are always a problem with different scanners/camera settings). Several conclusions can be made from inspecting the stamps, as the quality of the auction pictures is close to excellent.

In principle, all stamps on a booklet pane are identical as they are all copies of a single engraved master die. While there is degradation of the printing plate over time, this will not show on a single booklet pane. Also a defect on the master die may happen during the die transfer process (like a relief break), but this defect would instantly show up from one stamp onward.

When the plates are actually on the press, random ink bleeds happen, particularly when dots and lines (engraved stamps consist of nothing else but dots and lines) are closely spaced together, like in the frame lines of the Lincoln stamps. So on a genuine Lincoln booklet pane, we expect to see small differences in the frame line shapes due to random ink dots and ink bleeds), and basically identical Lincoln busts as the dots and lines are not spaced that close, in general.

Close inspection of the item in question shows that the frames are perfectly structured like in real stamps. What is interesting is that the Lincoln busts differ in minute details from one another, so this pane is not a “five times copy paste” operation of a single

Conclusion

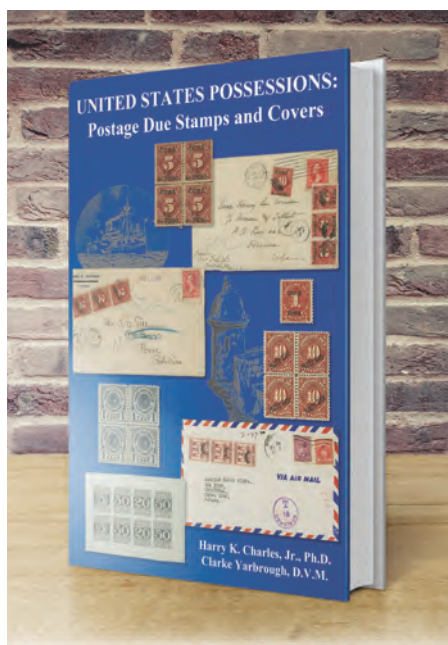
Whoever made this “booklet pane”, they went to great lengths to generate a spectacular item. For what purpose other than “Because I can” is anyone’s guess. Individual TDBS panes did not grow on trees, so there was quite some financial investment in the process. Why they blundered in the size of a single stamp we will never know until the culprit reveals herself/himself.

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**Revenue Issues**

Figure 1. Scott R152c (left) illustrating typical appearance of roulette 6 edges, with slight notches between roulette points indicating it was not created by excising every other perforation on a common stamp. Scott R152b (right) with incomplete guideline below stamp that appears identical to the rouletted example.

The Rouletted 2¢ “Liberty Head” Fifth Issue U.S. Revenue Tax Stamp

by **John D. Bowman**

The 2¢ documentary tax stamp and the second issue general proprietary stamps are known on watermarked paper, both perforated 12 and rouletted 6. A few of the private die proprietary stamps, as well as some taxpaid revenue stamps, are also found rouletted 6 on watermarked paper.¹

The perforated and rouletted stamps were printed during the time that the National Bank Note Company held the contract from 1875, and after it was consolidated into the American Bank Note Company in 1879. They were also printed by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing when it acquired the contract in late 1880.² The 2¢ stamp was used primarily to pay the tax for bank checks. The new revenue tax act did not require higher documentary rates, so there was no need to use multiples of this stamp. Millions of these stamps were printed during this time, but only a tiny fraction were rouletted.

This article describes and offers explanations for why some blue “Liberty Head” fifth issue documentary tax stamps were rouletted (Scott *U.S. Specialized Catalogue* R152c).

The total number of R152 stamps issued was 228,351,869 from 1875 to 1883.³ This is roughly 3 percent of the estimated 8 billion Civil War revenue stamps printed from 1862 until the taxes were repealed in 1883.⁴ The catalog value in the Scott 2021 Catalogue for a rouletted variety is about a hundred times greater than a watermarked stamp. Yet, the former is considerably scarcer than one in a hundred. This is not surprising since supply and demand determine market values, not relative scarcity.

Description of the Roulettes

Figure 1 shows a rouletted 6 and a perforated 12 stamp, both showing an incomplete guideline below the design. Notice how the rouletted edges differ from the rounded points of the perforated stamps. There is often a depression or indentation next to a point that was opposite to a point on the adjacent stamp. I have been able to reunite a few pairs due to this “fitting.” The separations were made by tiny knives with a minute space between each knife so that the stamps would remain attached to each other. One can almost visualize where the adjacent stamp’s roulette points were pulled away from this example. Fakes made by excising every other perforation do not have the same uneven edge between roulette points (Figure 2.)



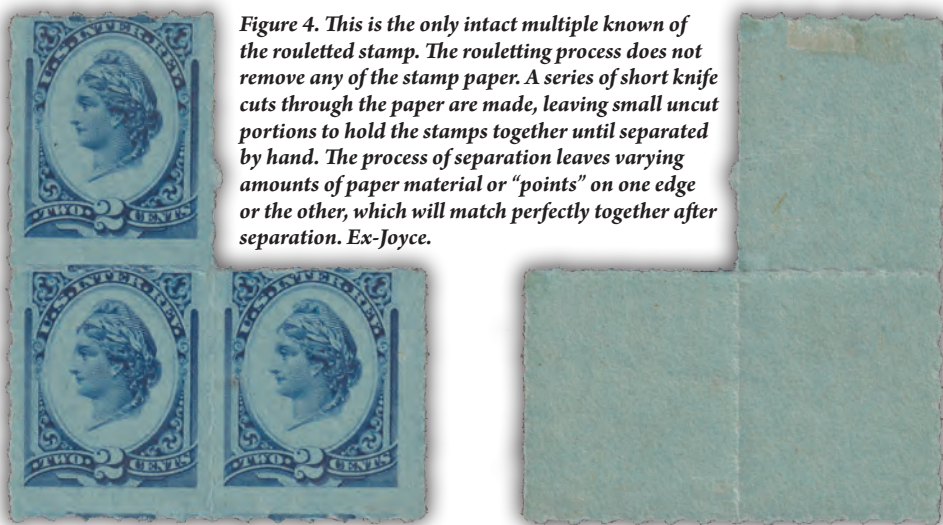
Figure 2. Fake roulette, gauge about 9 per 20mm.



Figure 3. The example on the left shows a scratch extending from under the bust through the right margin. The one on the right shows a faint vertical line that might be a partially erased layout line. Please report if you have confirming copies of these plate marks.

Figure 3 shows two examples with extraneous marks, one being an apparent plate scratch and the other an incompletely erased plate layout line.

Figure 4 is the unique unused multiple of the rouletted stamp, originally in the Morton Dean Joyce collection and sold as lot 2711 in the Daniel F. Kelleher Co. sale 589, June 4-6, 1991. It was sold a second time as lot 655 in 2021 by Robert A. Siegel Auctions, sale 1240, and is currently in the writer's collection. This irregular block of



three illustrates that the rouletting process did not remove any paper from the stamp, unlike round and hyphen-hole perforating processes.

Examples with National Imprint “Lined Out” by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing

Many rouletted stamps have been removed from their original bank checks by collectors. Some collectors obtained large numbers of checks drawn from the same bank. It can be assumed that the stamps on consecutive checks were separated from an original sheet of stamps. By matching the stamps' edges and cancellations, the writer has been able to rejoin some stamps into their likely original positions.

The Bureau of Engraving and Printing obliterated the National Bank Note Co. imprint by inscribing ruled lines across it, then adding “Bu. E & P” in italic script alongside it. ***This observation confirms that all three concerns used the original printing plates.*** Close examination shows that the ruled lines were not placed identically on each plate obtained by the Bureau.

Close examination shows that the ruled lines were not placed identically on each plate obtained by the Bureau. Figure 5 is a rejoined strip of three with the Bureau-obliterated imprint captured in the bottom margins, which were not rouletted horizontally. The date “2/21-81” penciled on the reverse is likely the date of use on the checks from which a philatelist removed them.

Figure 6 shows a vertical pair that the writer has rejoined. The magenta handstamps are similar, and inspection shows one part of the handstamp extending into the upper stamp. During separation, part of the upper stamp was torn away and remained with the



Figure 5. A rejoined strip of three, with partially obliterated imprint in bottom margin. Two stamps have pencil “2-21-81” on reverse, placed by collector who apparently removed these from a group of checks from the same bank. It is likely that these stamps were originally joined on the same sheet.



Figure 6. Rejoined vertical pair showing bottom margin and small portion of imprint. The bottom stamp was torn away roughly and included the lower right corner of the upper stamp, which captured part of the outer toothed rim of the cancellation. Pencil dated “4-2-81.” These two were undoubtedly joined originally.



Figure 7. Single stamps with imprint in bottom margin. The pair and strip of three were rejoined to show the imprint's position across three stamps but were not originally joined on the same sheet. Note how the imprint obliteration differs on each stamp.



Figure 8. Rejoined strip of three from Figure 5, enlarged to show ruled lines obliterating the inscription. Unaltered inscription below.



Figure 9. A guide dot is visible in the margin directly below the "T" of "TWO" on each stamp from the bottom row. The example on the left shows a dot very close to the bottom of the stamp design and the one on the right shows the dot further away but in the same vertical axis.



Figure 10. Guide dot on inner oval to left of nose. A guide dot in the same horizontal axis is found on most examples of R152 but varies in intensity and position along this axis.

lower stamp when canceled on a check. It was quite a pleasant surprise to see these stamps fit together!

Figure 7 shows several examples with imprints at the bottom. The pair and strip of three have been rejoined, but did not come from the same sheet. Note the slight differences in the placement of the obliterating lines in each stamp (Figure 8.)

In Figure 9, a guide dot is visible under magnification underneath the “T” of “TWO” in the bottom margin. The relative vertical distance from the bottom of the stamp design can vary. As far as the writer has determined, this guide dot is in the same location on each position of the bottom margin. Figure 10 shows a second guide dot that is present on most stamps on sheets originally engraved by National Bank Note Co., in this case, from one of the stamps in the irregular block of three. The dot varies in size and horizontal distance from the nose on different plates.

When Were the Stamps Rouletted & Why?

There are no records of how many stamps were rouletted, nor when this occurred. The Alligator match stamp is known rouletted and was first issued by American Bank Note Co. in January 1880. The E.K. Smith match stamp was last issued

on January 24, 1881, and is known rouletted; thus, the rouletting must have occurred prior to that date.

The Bureau acquired the printing contract in October 1880, so it could not have rouletted stamps until November 1880 or later. Elliott Perry, writing under the pseudonym Christopher West, noted that all the rouletted stamps with imprint captured in the margin were of the Bureau-obliterated style, including the proprietary and match and medicine stamps of 1875-1883.⁵ Perry opined that the rouletted stamps were among the first printed by the Bureau.

This narrows the most likely period for roulette stamp production to mid-October 1880 through the end of January 1881. The writer has not seen any examples dated before January 1881, but would be happy to hear differently from a reader. Most examples are used in 1881.

George T. Turner was quoted in Bureau Specialist, “Since the perforating machinery at the Bureau was inadequate, they had to resort to rouletting machines.”⁶ While his statement may be accurate, it does not explain why stamps that heretofore had been perforated by the banknote companies were now rouletted. Two circumstances may have required this unusual measure: (1) the increase in the number of stamps needed may not have been accompanied by an adequate increase in the number of printing

presses, perforators, and staff in the Bureau, and (2) the Bureau was moved from the Treasury building to a new building during March through July of 1880, necessitating idle productivity while equipment was moved and readied for use.

Conclusions

Examples of Scott R152c are relatively scarce, and only a single unseparated multiple is known.

Rouletted stamps with attached portions of the banknote company inscription show that lines were ruled on the printing plates to obliterate the imprint, and “Bu.E & P” was added in italic script. These are uncommon, but suggest that the Bureau of Engraving and Printing did the rouletting.

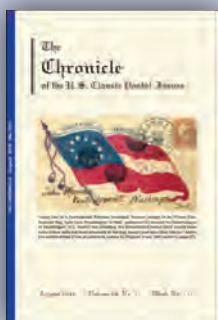
No records have been found that provide a definitive answer to why a small number of Bureau printings were rouletted instead of perforated. The rouletting likely occurred between November 1880 and February 1881, in response to an urgent need for specific stamp issues. The Bureau had just completed moving its equipment, supplies, and staff to a new building by the end of 1880, impeding stamp production for a time.

Fraudulent rouletted stamps have been made from perforated 12 examples by cutting away every other perforation to resemble a rouletted 6 stamp. The fact that the perforating wheels were not always aligned evenly resulted in many perforated stamps with very wide margins that could be altered to create false imperfs or fake roulettes. The enlarged images here should aid collectors in identifying such fakes, and if there is any doubt, an expert opinion should be sought.

This article will also appear in *The American Revenuer* sometime in 2022.

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Washington-Franklin Head Committee

Using High Resolution Scanning to Detect Faked Stamps

by

Kurt Kiesling

USSS # 17223

The Washington-Franklin flat plate coils are among the most commonly faked stamps in the marketplace, and any US collector with more than a few uncertified copies is quite likely to possess one. Early W-F coils were not often thought to be collectable varieties and little stock was initially purchased by dealers or saved by collectors, resulting in higher prices for them today. There is an abundance of inexpensive imperforate material available for the faker to use, making them profitable to fake. Using high-resolution scanning (1200 dpi optical resolution) and computer software to measure the stamp can often detect potential fakes.

Creating and detecting fakes – the past

Altering genuine stamps to create fake coils involves cutting straight edges or adding perforations to genuine material, or both. Since the faker cannot use the same equipment used by the BEP, examiners must compare elements of the stamp against genuine stamps to note differences.

For Washington Franklin coils, the classic references for identifying fakes are Paul Schmid's *The Expert's Book*, and Martin Armstrong's *United States Coil Issues 1906-38*. Most of the criteria they discuss are subjective in nature, such as perforation shape, edge condition, and perforation roughness. Some are more exacting such as the proper perforation spacing and watermark position.

Two important elements of genuine stamps mentioned in these books are parallel edges and parallel perforation rows, which can also be subjective as neither source gives guidance on "how parallel." This is perfectly understandable since when they were written measurement methods for such work was essentially limited to rulers and loupes with 0.5 or 0.25 mm gradations. Although accurate enough for basic work such as differentiating a flat plate from a rotary press, they cannot detect a skilled faker's efforts.

Developing Improved detection methods

High resolution scanning with measuring software can achieve 0.02 mm precision which is about one fifth the width of a human hair. This allows us to determine the BEP's manufacturing variability for genuine stamps. Comparing a stamp against allowable variation is far less subjective when trying to detect a fake.

The software I use can draw lines and circles on a scan of the stamp in question, showing the length or diameter of the object measured. The line (or circle) can be moved to new positions on the scan without changing its dimension or orientation – this functionality is useful for several of the examinations detailed below. More details on the software can be found at the end of the article.

There are five dimensional criteria I studied which fakers find difficult to match. I first examined a minimum of 150 genuine stamps for each criterion, and developed dimensional ranges within which 90% of BEP stamps fell. Any stamp exceeding one of these ranges therefore has a 10% or less chance of being genuine – exceeding two reduces that to about 1%.

The examination procedures are not a substitute for obtaining certification but should give a collector more confidence to submit stamps for authentication or to rid their collection of “weeds.”

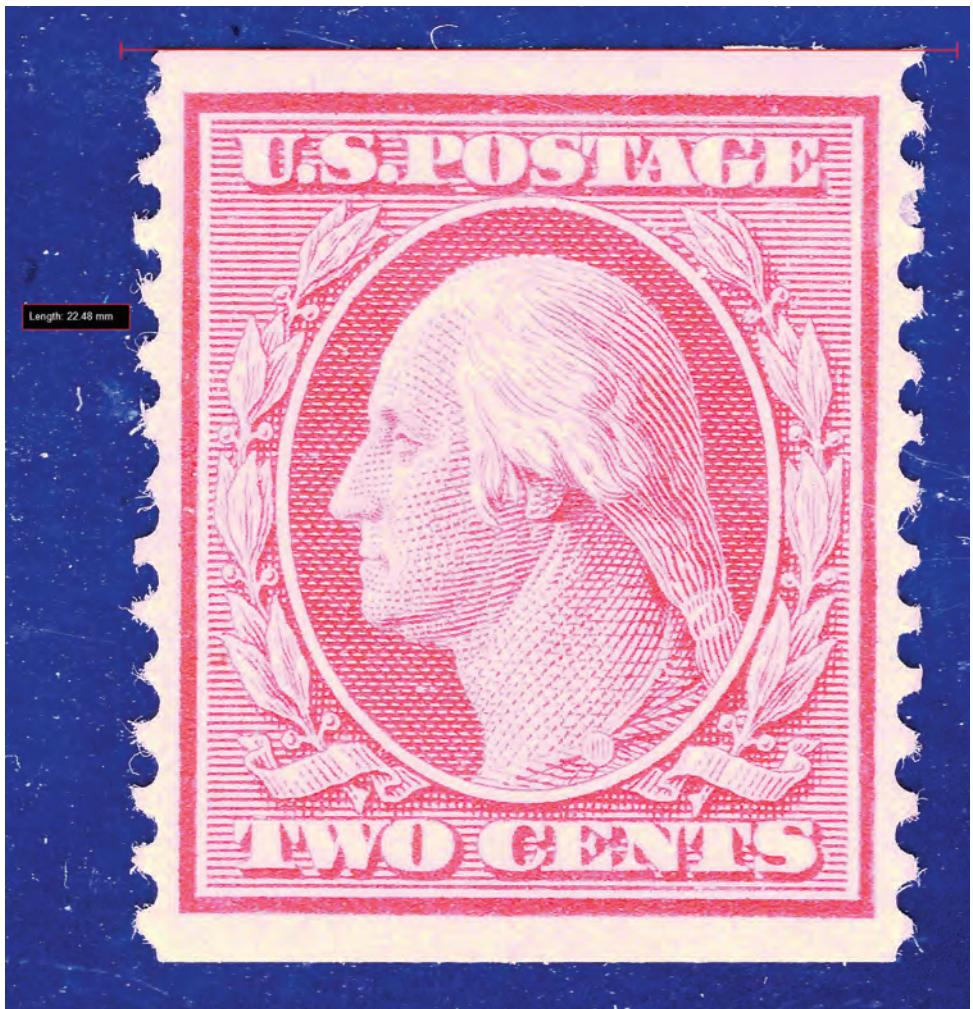


Figure 1. This screen image shows the initial line (red) set along the top edge of the stamp.

The Five Improved Criteria

Parallel straight edges: If a faker attempts to cut their own strips from an imperforate sheet, or tries to trim off perforations from a large margined sheet stamp or booklet, it is difficult to ensure that the edges are parallel. To check for parallelism, a line is drawn on the scan and positioned accurately along one edge, and then moved to the opposing edge. Figure 1 shows the initial line set along the top edge, and figures 2 and 3 show the line repositioned on the bottom edge with a 0.07 mm gap, indicating that the edges are not parallel.



Figure 2. The typical screen image (above) shows that this specimen's edges are not parallel.

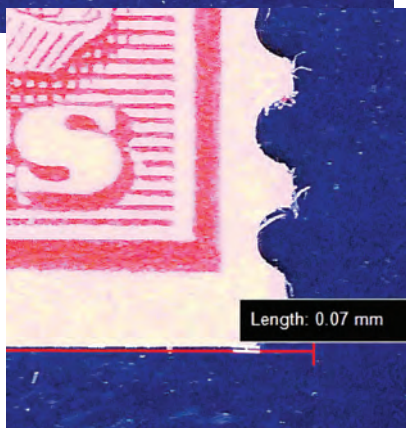


Figure 3. The enlarged view (right) makes the difference more obvious.

Over 90% of the genuine coils I studied have a gap of 0.04 mm or less. Any coil with a gap exceeding **0.04 mm** therefore has a 10% or less chance of being genuine.

In addition to imperforate sheets which were produced for stamp vending companies who perforated them for use in their specialized dispensing machines, the BEP also produced 17 different flat plate imperforate coils. These coils, like imperforate sheets, could be purchased by the public and fakes using these coils will likely pass this criterion.

Parallel perforations: The same technique can be used to see how parallel the perforation rows are to each other. The faker must add perforations manually to imperforate material and it is difficult for them to have perfectly positioned rows. This examination is a bit more difficult due to perforation quality, and slight imperfections in hole positioning along a row. Drawing the first line and measuring the gap along the other row of perforations is not as precise as measuring the straight edges, so care must be taken.

In 160 observations, I found that 90% of genuine stamps fell between 0.0 and 0.07 mm of being parallel. Therefore any measured gap greater than **0.07 mm** only has a 10% or less chance of being genuine. Figures 4 and 5 show an example with a gap of 0.13 mm.



Figure 4. The example above, and the enlarged view in Figure 5, show a gap of 0.13 mm.

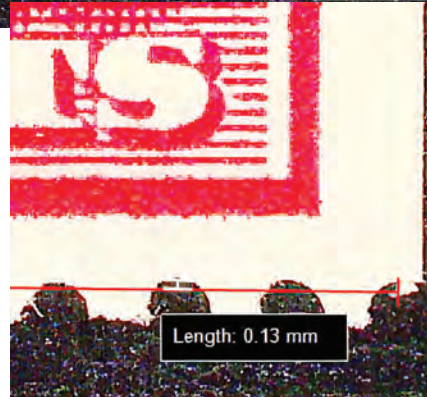


Figure 5. The enlarged view (right) of the specimen in Figure 4.

Perforation diameter: Genuine BEP perforations vary considerably in shape and edge condition due to the use of rotary pin perforators. As perforating wheels wear, hole size decreases slightly and the perforations become rougher and more misshapen. Fakes and reperfected edges are usually made using straight line perforators which leave rounder and cleaner holes, but often use different diameter pins.

Flat plate perforators used for Washington-Franklin stamps had 0.042 inch (1.07 mm) diameter pins. A perfectly positioned and unworn pin and die would produce a perforation equal to the diameter of the pin, but I haven't found any genuine stamps with perforations greater than 1.04 mm.

Measuring perforation diameter is complicated by the roughness of the perforation. Unless the hole is fairly well shaped and clean, I often have to draw a 1 mm circle on the scan and then "grab" it and move it to a number of perforations on the stamp, to get an impression if the average size is larger or smaller. I can then adjust the size of the circle and check it against a few of the better perforations to get my best estimate of diameter. Figure 6 shows a typical example where determining the diameter is somewhat subjective.

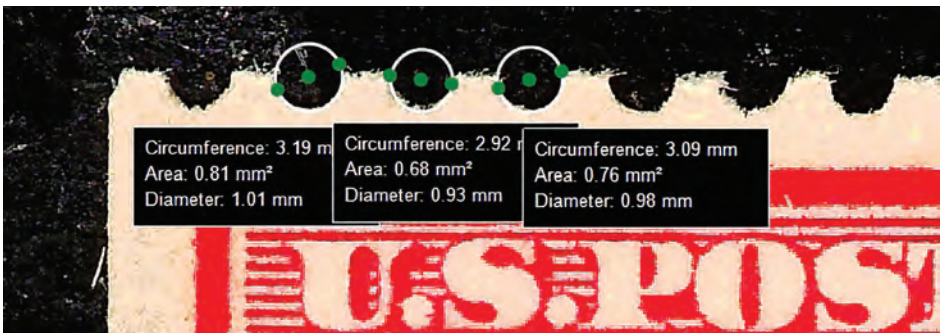


Figure 6. This example shows how determining diameter can be somewhat subjective.

Well over 90% of the stamps I measured ranged between **0.97 and 1.04 mm** in diameter, so anything outside that range has less than a 10% chance of being genuine.

Perforation alignment between rows: The straight line perforators used by fakers often have an attached fence that is aligned at right angles to the row of pins. By placing the straight edge of the imperforate stamp against the fence, the resulting row of perforations will be perpendicular to that edge, and by sliding the stamp along the fence, the second row of perforations will be parallel to the first row. However, this technique will result in perforations that are in near perfect alignment to those on the opposing row. Such alignment in genuine stamps occurs infrequently as each row of perforations is made by a different rotary perforating wheel which is seldom aligned with an adjacent wheel.

Most of the time, the misalignment is visually apparent and precise measurements are not needed to pass this test. When in doubt, a line is drawn along one of the straight edges of the coil, and then moved so that it passes through the center of a perforation. The resulting gap between the line and the center of the opposing perforation can then be measured.

The roughness of most genuine perforations makes it difficult to know the exact centers of the perforations needed to accurately measure any gap. It is often necessary to draw two circles and position them in opposing perforations to better determine the centers, as shown in Figures 7 and 8, with a measured gap of 0.04 mm.

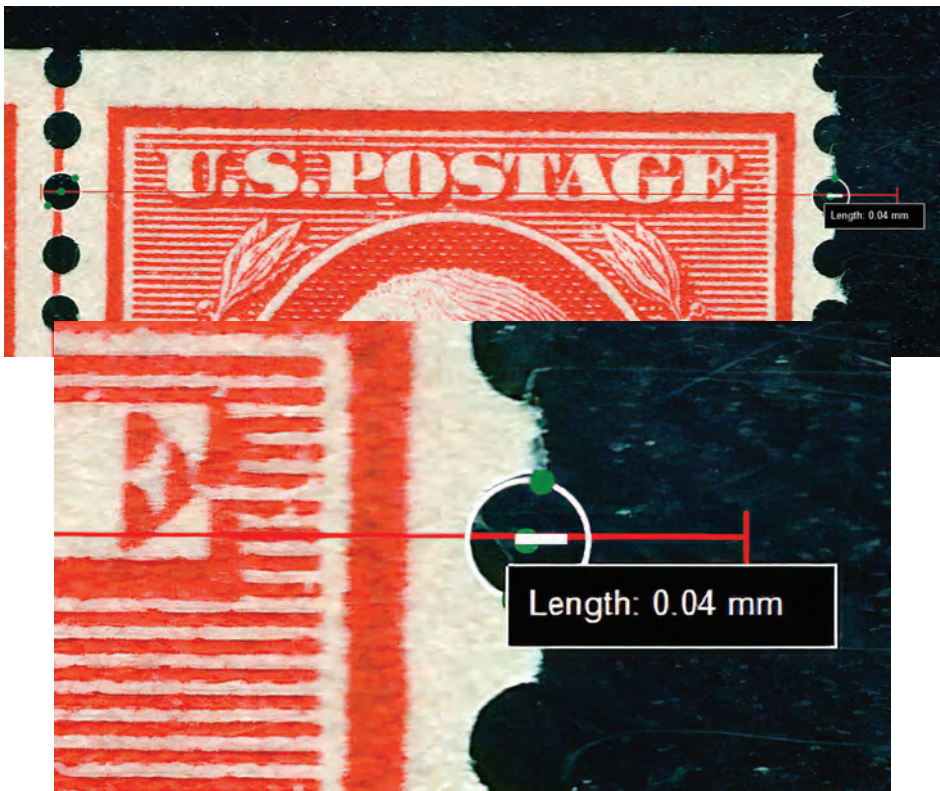


Figure 7. This example (top) shows draw two circles and position them in opposing perforations to better determine the centers. The right edge is magnified in the example immediately above.

For genuine stamps, 90% of the time the gap for perf 12 coils will be greater than **0.12 mm**, so anything less than this has a 10% or less chance of being genuine. For perf 10 coils, the gap is **0.15 mm** for the 90% confidence level.

Edge to edge height/width: One of the easiest ways to fake a coil is to take a genuine straight edged stamp and cut off the opposing perforations. Such fabricated coils are typically shorter or narrower than a genuine coil. Martin Armstrong's reference suggests that vertical perforation coils (sideways) should be no less than **24.5 mm** high, while horizontal perforation coils (end to end) be no less than **21.5 mm** wide (**21.25 mm** for Scott numbers under 385). Schmid's values are essentially the same.

However, I have used high resolution scans to measure over 900 common flat plate stamps and have found that over 30% of genuine stamps measure less than those values. The following are my recommendations for the 90% confidence ranges for edge to edge dimensions for flat plate coils. As usual, stamps with edge to edge dimensions less than these values have a 10% or less chance of being genuine.

Scott numbers < 385:

Sideways coils: **24.23 mm**

End to end coils: **20.76 mm**

Scott numbers 385 and above:

Sideways coils: **24.30 mm**

End to end coils: **21.02 mm**

Software and Scanning Details

The computer measuring software I use is called IC Measure (Figure 8), and is a free download from the website at www.theimagingsource.com/support. Figure 9 shows the top toolbar which appears when you start the software. In the upper right corner of the screen there is an icon with a question mark inside a circle, which will open up a short instruction manual on how to operate the software. Calibration is needed to get the correct dimensions when drawing lines and circles, and is done by loading a high resolution scan of an accurate millimeter ruler and performing the calibration function.

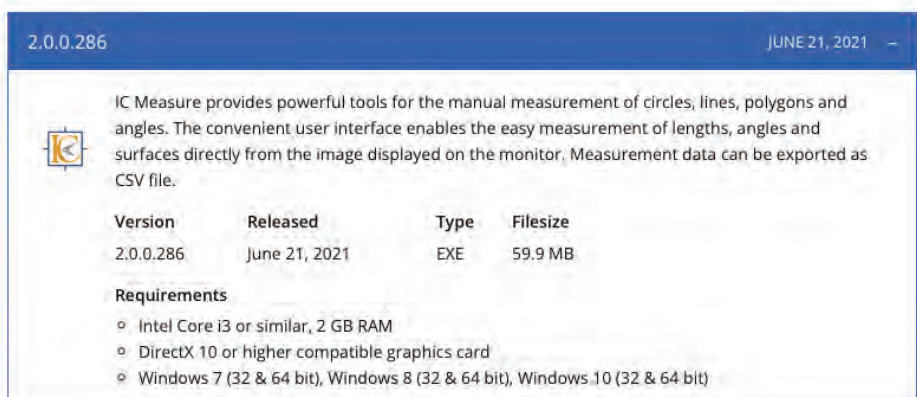


Figure 8. This screen image shows the software specifications for IC Measure.

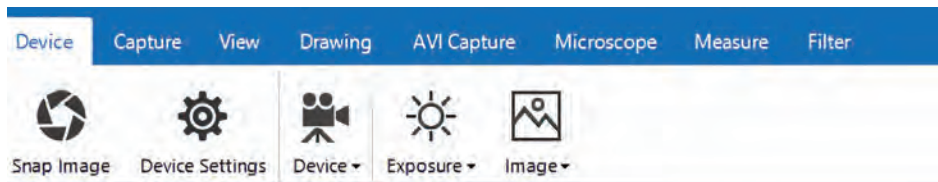


Figure 9. This image shows the toolbar of the measuring software used for this article.

Note that the software cannot load full page scans and it will be necessary to access your scanning software to reduce the scan area, which reduces the saved image file size as well as scanning time. I use the “preview” function to access the size reduction capability for my brand of scanner. A 6-by-5 inch scan can be loaded and the resulting file size is near the maximum size the software can handle.

Scanners with a minimum of 1200 dpi optical resolution are reasonable in cost (<\$100) and images can be saved indefinitely, allowing the collector to go back numerous times to inspect the stamp without having to physically handle it again. Removing a stamp from an album, placing it in a protective mount, scanning, and returning the stamp to the album can be done in a little more than one minute. The process is far safer than trying to examine it with a loupe or ruler.

Summary

The techniques mentioned above are tailored for W-F flat plate coils, but once a criterion is established for detecting other types of fakes, high resolution scanning most likely will be useful as it offers much larger viewing areas with high magnification than most other methods.

Stamps which appear to “pass” the recommended criteria outlined above are not necessarily genuine – but one has greater confidence in receiving a positive result when sending them to an expertizing service.

Epilogue

I want to thank Gerald Nylander (head of the Washington Franklin study group – USSS) and Ken Schaffer (AmericasStampStop, Berkley, Mi) for providing additional scans for this study.

In measuring stamps to this higher level of accuracy, I have definitely noticed that sample size and randomness is critical to obtaining meaningful guidelines. As an example, I originally found that mint stamps measured about 1% larger than used stamps (600 observations). On further analysis, it was obvious that this was due to the fact that the mint stamps I measured were probably selected for appearance with larger margins, and were not representative of average BEP production.

To continue my studies using high resolution measuring, I would like to ask the readership for help in providing scans from their collections to increase statistical validity of any results I might find interesting enough to publish. In particular, I need examples of: plate blocks or plate singles of Scott 498 and 499, particularly in the early 7000’s; blocks or strips of any WF variety, showing a guideline with 5 to 10 adjoining stamps. If you have such material, please e-mail me before sending any scans.



Figure 1. This photo shows the "We Will Win" slogan painted on a road in Norway road during WWII. (Photo: eBay).

We Will Win

US First Day Covers in Support of Norway's WWII Resistance

by

Richard St. Clair, PhD

USSS # 17035

Early in World War II, Norway was considered by Germany's Führer Adolf Hitler to be strategically important to his military designs, thus he invaded Norway on April 9, 1940 by air and sea. Afterward, the Germans stationed 350,000 soldiers in this northern country of less than 3 million inhabitants. Almost immediately, Norwegians began to resist the Nazi occupation at risk of imprisonment and even death.

I am personally interested in the occupation of Norway since I am a Norwegian-American with relatives who lived through those traumatic years under Nazi rule. There are many books on the resistance and Norwegian life under Nazi tyranny, some of which I will list in the references.

Although the Germans declared to Norway that they "came in peace," they quickly abolished the *Storting*, Norway's national legislature, installed a puppet leader in the person of Vidkun Quisling. King Haakon VII decided to flee into exile in Great Britain.

They expanded the Nazi party equivalent in Norway called *Nasjonal Samling* (founded in 1933), but only a mere 40,000 Norwegians ended up joining, for self-serving motives and not out of patriotism. The Nazis invited young able-bodied Norwegians to join the German *Wehrmacht*, but only 700 actually enlisted; those who had ties to Germany. All in all, Norwegians nearly unanimously opposed, and many joined the resistance against, the despised Nazi invaders.

In the United States, the postal service in 1943-1944 issued the Overrun Countries series showing as vignettes the flags of countries occupied by the Axis powers. These stamps are Scott 909-921, with flags of Poland (909), Czechoslovakia (910), Norway (911), Luxembourg (912), Netherlands (913), Belgium (914), France (915), Greece (916), Yugoslavia (917), Albania (918), Austria (919), Denmark (920), and Korea (921). The stamp featuring Norway's flag was issued in Washington, DC on July 7, 1943 with the standard cancellation reading "First Day of Issue."

First day covers (FDC) of the Overrun Countries issues are plentiful. I found twelve of these FDCs with interesting cachets in support of the resistance in Norway, hence the motivation to write this article. The Norwegian people often painted the slogan, "Vi Vil Vinne" ("We Will Win") on streets in protest of the occupation. Figure 1 shows one of these slogans painted on a country road outside the capital city, Oslo.

This defiant patriotic slogan made its appearance on a 1943 Norwegian 20 øre postage stamp (Scott 263). Issued by the Norwegian government-in-exile, it was used for correspondence on Norwegian ships until after the liberation of Norway, at which time the stamp and the others in its set (Scott 261-266) were used for regular postage in Norway.

The cachet in Figure 3 carries the slogan "Vi Vill[sic] Vinne" with a giant uppercase V for victory over the Nazi occupation symbolized by the chains over a swastika. As with the stamp in Figure 2 (Scott 263), the cover shows the insignia of King Haakon VII, a large H with a superimposed 7 and crown above. This cover is also interesting because it has the regular Scott #911 with another specimen with the red flag color quite faded. It is uncertain if this is a color error/variety, or simply fading due to sunlight exposure. Uncertain as well is the double franking with the two 5¢ stamps. It is addressed to a Lieu-



Figure 2. The defiant slogan first appeared on an issue from the Norwegian government-in-exile. Scott 263.



Figure 3. "Vi Will Vinne!" cachet with two stamps.

tenant Vernon Clark of the Signal Corps Department at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

Figure 4 shows a block of 4 of Scott 911 with the pen notation “Airmail Special Delivery.” The cachet shows a picture of the awesome Nærø Dal (Nærø Valley), in a sparsely populated region in central Norway (now spelled Nærøy). Under the picture is the hortatory slogan, “Freedom is a Creed, Liberty a Necessity for the Sons of the Ancient Vikings.”



Figure 4. This ArtCraft cover bears a block of four Overrun Norway stamps, Scott 911.

The next cover (Figure 5) with the slogan, “We Fight On, We Will Win,” has a cachet bearing a painting of the destroyer, the *Sleipner*. According to Wikipedia, “HNoMS [His Norwegian Majesty’s Ship] *Sleipner* was a destroyer commissioned into the Royal Norwegian Navy in 1936. The lead ship of the *Sleipner* class, she gained near-legendary status in Norway by enduring over two weeks of intense air attack by Luftwaffe bombers following

the 9 April 1940 invasion of Norway. After the resistance in South Norway started unravelling she made her way over the North Sea to continue the fight against the Germans from exile. After serving as a convoy escort along the coast of the United Kingdom, she was decommissioned in 1944.”



Figure 5. This Smartcraft/Staehle FDC shows the *Sleipner*.

Figure 6 is Norway #261, the 10 øre stamp from the government-in-exile 1943-45 series, depicting the destroyer *Sleipner*, and a post-war photo of the *Sleipner* is shown in Figure 7.

Figure 8 shows the coat of arms of Norway, the lion rampant holding a battle



Figure 6. A wartime issue from Norway depicting the destroyer Sleipner (Norway #261).



Figure 7. The Sleipner at sea sometime after the Second World War (Photo: Wikipedia).

axe, with the hortatory inscription, “The Kingdom of Norway, cruelly betrayed and overrun by the Nazis in April 1940 under the guise of ‘Protection from Allied invasion,’ still keeps up the fight for freedom under its government in exile headed by King Kaakon VII. Her mighty merchant marine, her thousands of fishing craft and the indomitable spirit of her people are invaluable in the cause of liberty.” (The cachet, here in red, is also available in a blue variety.)



Figure 8. This cachet includes Norway’s coat of arms and hortatory inscription.

In Figure 9, the cachet bears an insert photo of Norway’s King Haakon VII and the account of the government in exile in London. Interesting is the comment, “The Crown Princess and her children, at the invitation of the President of the United States, came to America (August 25, 1940).”

Crown Princess Martha of Norway (born Princess of Sweden, Figure 10) and her children were invited by US President Franklin D. Roosevelt to live at The White House after the Nazi invasion of Norway. The two families had met previously during the Norwegian Royal Tour of the US. While Martha boarded a ship for the US, her husband joined his father, King Haakon, in London, where they set up a government-in-exile. After the war, Martha and her children (who include current monarch, King Harald) returned to their home, but Martha sadly passed away from cancer in 1954 before her husband succeeded to the throne.



Figure 9. This cover includes an actual photo of Norway's King Haakon VII and account of the Norwegian government-in-exile in London.

Figure 11 has a cachet with the Norwegian flag between two American flags with the hortatory statement, "Lest we forget - The People of Norway Fight on for Freedom from the Nazi."

The FDC in Figure 12 shows the American and Norwegian flags crossed in friendship, with the notation, "United States of America Honoring the Oppressed Nation Norway."

The FDC in Figure 13 has a stunning Dorothy Knapp handpainted cachet (this cover offered for \$465 on eBay). Dorothy Knapp (1907-1986) was a commercial artist and art teacher residing in Rhinebeck, NY, who designed commercial FDCs during the 1940s, mainly for Fleetwood, one of the large FDC publishers. It is uncertain when she painted this cover – was it at or shortly after the date of issue, or perhaps after the war? There is no reference to the war or the resistance in this cachet. However, its beauty is undeniable.

Rounding out this essay is a simple Scott 911 FDC cachet (Figure 14). The two-color cachet has the slogan, "LET FREEDOM RING," underneath the Norwegian flag and torch of liberty.

I am sure there are other FDC cachet varieties for the Overrun Norway issue to be found, as the above were the ones that I found easily on eBay.



Figure 10. Norway's Crown Princess Martha.



Figure 11. Norway and US flags with slogan (Photo: eBay).



Figure 12. Norway and US flags crossed in allied friendship with slogan (Photo: eBay).



Figure 13. A Dorothy Knapp handpainted cachet on a Scott 911 first day cover (Photo: eBay).

About the Author

Dr. Richard St. Clair, born and raised in North Dakota, is a collector of worldwide stamps and covers. In addition to the United States Stamp Society, he is member of several other philatelic societies, notably the American Philatelic Society, Scandinavian Collectors Club, Scandinavian Philatelic Society, Royal Philatelic Society of Canada and others. He is a Ph.D. graduate of Harvard University and a widely recognized composer of modern classical music with membership in ASCAP. His maternal family emigrated in the late 19th century to the US from southeastern Norway farming country and settled in Minnesota.



Figure 14. "Let Freedom Ring" cachet (Photo: eBay).

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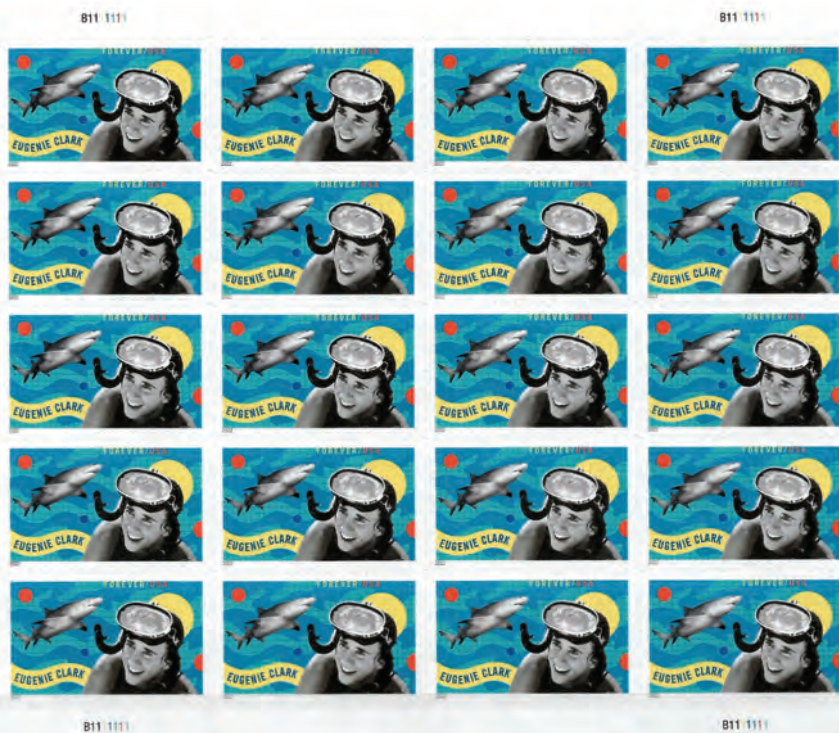
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