



The United States SPECIALIST

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

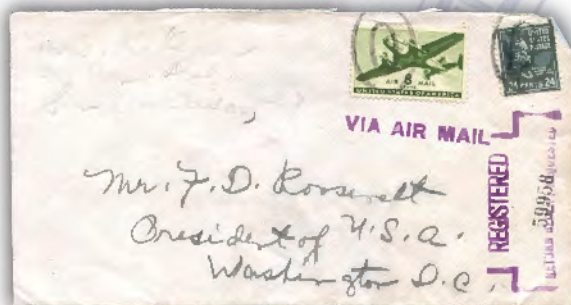
WHOLE NUMBER 1124



The Making of a First Day of Issue: 1948 Rough Riders Commemorative



— plus —



24¢ Benjamin Harrison Stamp on a Registered Airmail Cover Sent to FDR

— and —

America's Embossed Revenue Stamp Paper, Part IV



United States Possessions: Postage Due Stamps and Covers presents the story of Postage Due stamps used in the major possessions or territories of the United States. Written from a stamp collector's perspective, the authors address the challenge of identifying the myriad of Possession Postage Due stamps by concentrating on stamp identification while also covering the Postage Due issues of Cuba, the Danish West Indies, Puerto Rico, the Panama Canal Zone, the Philippines and more.

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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.

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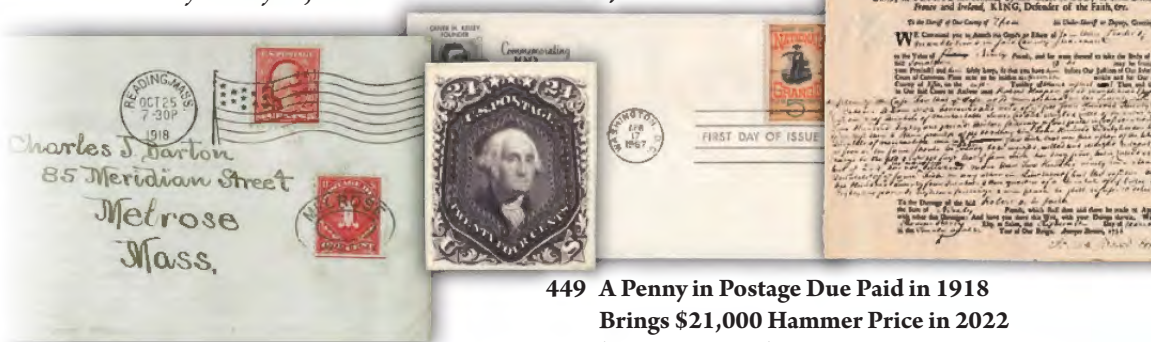
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Society and Philatelic News



Henry Scheuer



The Connecticut Tercentenary Issue of 1935,
by Peter J. LaPlaca and
Anthony F. Dewey

Authors Tie for AFDCS Writing Award

Two works tied for first place in the American First Day Cover Society's Philip H. Ward, Jr., Memorial Award for Excellence in First Day Cover Literature published in 2022. One recipient was Henry Scheuer, for his two-part article in *The American Philatelist* in November and December 2022, "How the Earliest Collectors Sought Out First Days." This article also won the 2023 U.S. Stamp Society's Barbara Mueller Award.

The other winner was a book, *The Connecticut Tercentenary Issue of 1935*, by Peter J. LaPlaca and Anthony F. Dewey. Included in the book is a complete catalogue of all known cachets for the issue, Scott 772.

Although all articles in *First Days*, the official journal of the AFDCS, are automatically considered for this award, "I find it interesting that none of these works was published in our journal," said AFDCS president Lloyd A. de Vries. "Their publication in media not specifically about first day covers shows, in my opinion, the wider acceptance that FDCs are gaining."

A complete list of past winners can be found on the AFDCS website at www.afdcs.org/ward.html. Philip Henry Ward, Jr., began servicing first day covers in 1909. Although an electrical engineer by trade, he wrote on new issues for *The American Philatelist*, *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News* and *The Weekly Philatelic Gazette* in the early 20th century.

Members Respond to the Call for Exhibits

Late in 2022, a Call for Exhibits was published in *The U.S. Specialist* (September 2022). Exhibits Manager Chris Steenerson (Chris@RxStamps.com) issued a request for members to share their exhibit with other members of the Society.

Steenerson noted that many USSS members have created competitive exhibits that not only have garnered awards, but also through years of research, have become important and definitive studies of their subjects. Other exhibits, competitive or not, have entertained or imparted knowledge of a vast variety of philatelic subjects.

Several members have answered the call but there is always room for more. If you would like to have your exhibit posted on the USSS website for all to enjoy, please contact Chris Steenerson (Chris@RxStamps.com). The current selection of exhibits are located in the Resources section of the website at www.usstamps.org/resources/exhibits.

Sarasota National and Writers Unit 30 Announce "Articles Only" Exhibit

The sixth annual "Articles Only" Literature exhibit will be held January 19-21, 2024 at the Sarasota National Stamp Exhibition in Sarasota, Florida. Cosponsored with Writers Unit 30, this literature exhibit, pioneered in Sarasota, will be open only to articles of less than 8,000 words. This is one of only three opportunities for literature exhibitors. GASS and CHICAGOPEX are the other two. What makes the Sarasota event unique is that is open to articles only and can be equated to a one frame philatelic exhibit for literature. This exhibit is intended to recognize the hundreds of authors of philatelic journal articles who each year contribute to the hobby with new information for collectors, exhibitors and researchers. Authors of short articles are encouraged to participate. Those wishing to take part in the exhibit are advised to send entries in quickly, since space is limited. The Sarasota Expo will be held at the Sarasota Municipal Auditorium.

All submissions will be electronic, posted when accepted on the show's web site and available immediately to all, including the APS-accredited judging panel. This year's judging panel includes Ken Trettin as Chief Judge along with Cheryl Ganz and Alan Warren. Entrants are encouraged to consult the revised *Manual for Literature Exhibiting & Judging* posted on the APS web site.

Journal editors and authors are encouraged to submit entries for the show no later than December 1, 2023, though earlier registration is recommended. A complete prospectus and entry form are available on the show's web site at <https://www.sarasotastampclub.com>.

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Vintage Photo of the Month

National Grange

by **Rodney A. Juell**

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This month's photo was taken on April 17, 1967 at the first day ceremony for the National Grange stamp in the Department of Agriculture building in Washington, DC. Depicted are Orville Freeman, Secretary of Agriculture (left); Herschel Newsom, master of the National Grange; and Deputy Postmaster General Frederick Belen. All of the Giori printed stamps (Scott 1323) were to have been phosphor tagged, however numerous tagging omitted errors exist.



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FIRST DAY OF ISSUE



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE



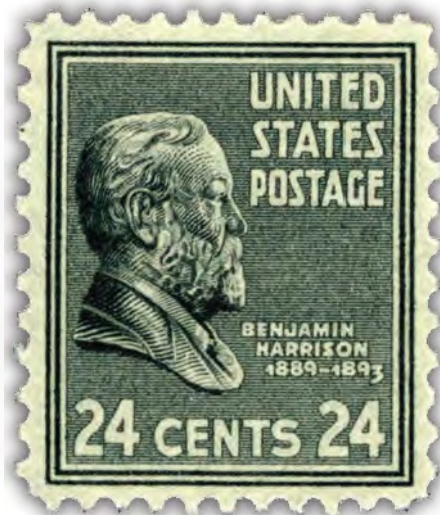
from the Presidential Era Committee

24¢ Benjamin Harrison Stamp of the 1938 Presidential Series with Usage on a Registered Airmail Cover Sent to FDR

by **Paul M. Holland**

USSS #16849 | Santa Barbara, CA 93111

✉ pholland.thorleaf@gmail.com



On this stamp is depicted the profile likeness of Benjamin Harrison, reproduced from a bust by Adolph Weiman, now in the possession of the John Herron Institute at Indianapolis, Indiana.

— From a signed December 2, 1938 letter sent with a Favor First Day Cover of the 24¢ Benjamin Harrison Stamp to Secretary of War Harry H. Woodring by Postmaster General James A. Farley.

If the 3¢ Thomas Jefferson stamp was the postal workhorse of the 1938 Presidential Series paying the first class postage rate, the 24¢ Benjamin Harrison stamp was an outlier used mainly for paying domestic registered mail fees with return receipt, offering no important single rate usage. Whereas some 356 printing plates were used for the 3¢ Thomas Jefferson stamp, in the case of the 24¢ Benjamin Harrison stamp the “four plates used for printings of this denomination represent the lowest number of plates used for any value of this series.”¹

In fact, one has to go back to the nineteenth century to find any regular-use postage stamps issued in a 24¢ denomination. Initially, these 24¢ stamps depicted George Washington, with designs shown in Figure 1 from my collection of plate proofs on card. Such proofs offer the collector beautifully printed, affordable examples of United States stamps printed from the original printing plates.² The story of how these came into my possession from the collection of Dr. Herb Tanney is told elsewhere.³ Although printing plates were produced in 1857, the first of these stamps were not actually issued until mid-1860, shortly before the Civil War began. Then, in August 1861, the design was superseded when all earlier stamps were demonetized to void the value of stamps held in post offices in the South. Examples of the new design were printed in markedly different shades of lilac, as shown in Figure 1. These 24¢ stamps were typically used for franking double-weight letters to England.⁴



Figure 1. Dr. Herb Tanney plate proofs on card in the author's collection (with Scott numbers shown).

In 1869, a new pictorial series of stamps was issued, and although they are much admired today, they proved to be unpopular with the public and were soon replaced by large bank note stamps. Examples of the 24¢ values of both types as plate proofs on card from my collection are shown in Figure 2. The first depicts the signing of the Declaration of Independence, and the second shows a portrait of General Winfield Scott. Again, these values were mostly used for overseas mail.



Figure 2. Plate proofs on card of 24¢ stamps from the author's collection.

In 1875, the United States joined the General Postal Union (later renamed the Universal Postal Union), and once new uniform postage rates for overseas mail were established, a 24¢ stamp denomination was no longer required. As a result, after June 30, 1875, the 24¢ large bank note stamps were no longer issued to post offices, and in 1885, all remainders of these held by the Stamp Agent were destroyed.⁵

Consequently, no more regular issue 24¢ postage stamps were issued until the Benjamin Harrison stamp was released on December 2, 1938, as part of the new Presidential Series. However, it should be mentioned that 24¢ airmail stamps were issued in 1918 and 1923 (Figure 3), with the first of these including special delivery service in the postage. The United States has not issued any other 24¢ postage stamps since the Benjamin Harrison stamp, and none is likely in the future. The closest later stamps came to a 24¢ value was the 24.1¢ Tandem Bicycle stamp (Scott 2266) in 1987-88 Transportation Coils, but as they say, “close but no cigar.”



Figure 3. Examples of 24¢ airmail stamps from the author's collection.



Figure 4. Bust of Benjamin Harrison by Adolph A. Weinman.

The right-facing portrait of Benjamin Harrison on the 24¢ Presidential Series stamp is based on a bust by the famed American neoclassical sculptor Adolph A. Weinman (1870-1952). Shown in Figure 4, this bust is inscribed A. A. Weinman, fecit (Latin for “I made it”). However, Weinman is best known for designing two of the most important United States coins used from 1916 through the end of the FDR era. These are the iconic Walking Liberty silver half dollars (1916-1947) and “Mercury” dimes (1916-1945). They are among the most beautiful American coins ever produced, with examples from my collection shown in Figure 5.

Benjamin Harrison was elected the 23rd US president in 1888 after defeating President Grover Cleveland in the Electoral College despite losing the popular vote.



Figure 5. United States silver coins designed by Adolph A. Weinman.

Known for high tariffs and lavish government spending, he was badly defeated by Grover Cleveland in a rematch during the 1892 election. He was also the grandson of the 9th US president, William H. Harrison, featured on the 9¢ stamp of the Presidential Series.

So why was Benjamin Harrison not on a 23¢ stamp of the Presidential Series? A detailed discussion on how the various denominations for the Presidential Series stamps evolved is given in *The Prexies* on pages 6-7.¹ For example, it was originally planned for Benjamin Harrison to be on a 35¢ stamp before being moved to the 24¢ value. Other changes were also made, and it was not until James Monroe was moved from the 4½¢ to 5¢ stamp that things began to fall into place with the sequence of values in cents corresponding to the order of presidential terms in office.

The question of a 23¢ stamp has also been addressed by Ken Lawrence in his article “The Missing 23-Cent Benjamin Harrison Stamp.”⁶ As Ken points out, there were at least some reasonable postal usages for a 23¢ stamp. By skipping a 24¢ value, this scheme would still have the 25th president, William McKinley, on the 25¢ stamp, thereby providing a useful mnemonic for young stamp collectors to recall the exact order and placement of all US presidents up until the dawn of the twentieth century. However, this was not to be. By the way, the first 23¢ United States stamp issued was that for Mary Cassatt (Scott 2181) as part of the 1986-94 Great Americans series. Other 23¢ stamps have been issued since.

The 24¢ Benjamin Harrison stamp was designed by Victor S. McClosekey, Jr. from the bust by Adolph A. Weinman in the John Herron Art Institute in Indianapolis, Indiana. The portrait for the die was engraved by Charles A. Brooks and lettering by James T. Vail, with the first plates going to press on November 15, 1938.¹ These were “pre-eye” plates 22162 and 22163. Type II “electric eye” plates 22827 and 22828 for the 24¢ Benjamin Harrison stamp, designed to provide improvements in perforation, were sent to press on December 18, 1941. Plate proofs of both types from the collection at the National Postal Museum are shown in Figures 6 and 7. These plates were approved on 8 November 1938 and 11 December 1941, respectively. A detailed discussion on “pre-eye” and “electric eye” printing plates is provided in *The Prexies* on pages 21-26.¹ Note the heavy vertical dashes in the gutter between the left and right panes on the press sheet and the horizontal lines (or bars) in the left margin of the “electric eye” printing plate.

A December 2, 1938 favor first day cover (FDC) for this stamp with a letter signed by Postmaster General (PMG) James A. Farley is shown in Figure 8. Note the embossed Post Office Department seal and heading at the top. The letter is addressed to Secretary

of War and fellow FDR cabinet member Harry H. Woodring. It's clear that Farley knew the recipient quite well, likely from weekly cabinet meetings at the White House, as the salutation on the letter reads "My dear Harry" and it is simply signed "Jim."

FDCs were also created for stamps of the 1938 Presidential Series using official White House stationery, such as the one sent to Jules Rodier, shown in Figure 9. As is the case for other similar FDCs sent to Rodier, who was a long-time White House telegraph operator, this is postmarked Washington, DC.

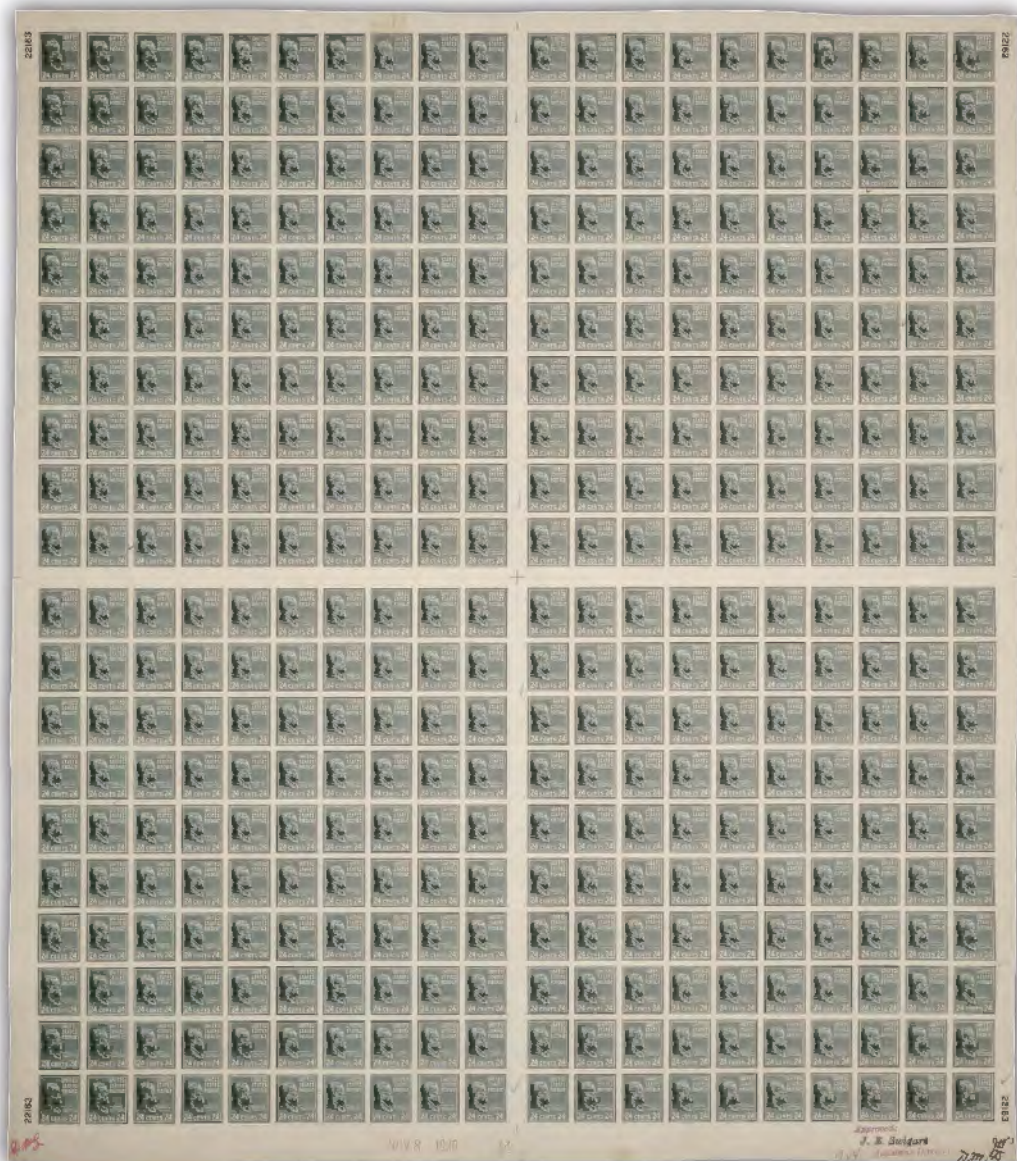


Figure 6. Pre-eye plate proof of the 24¢ Benjamin Harrison stamp approved on November 8, 1938
(Image courtesy of the Smithsonian National Postal Museum).

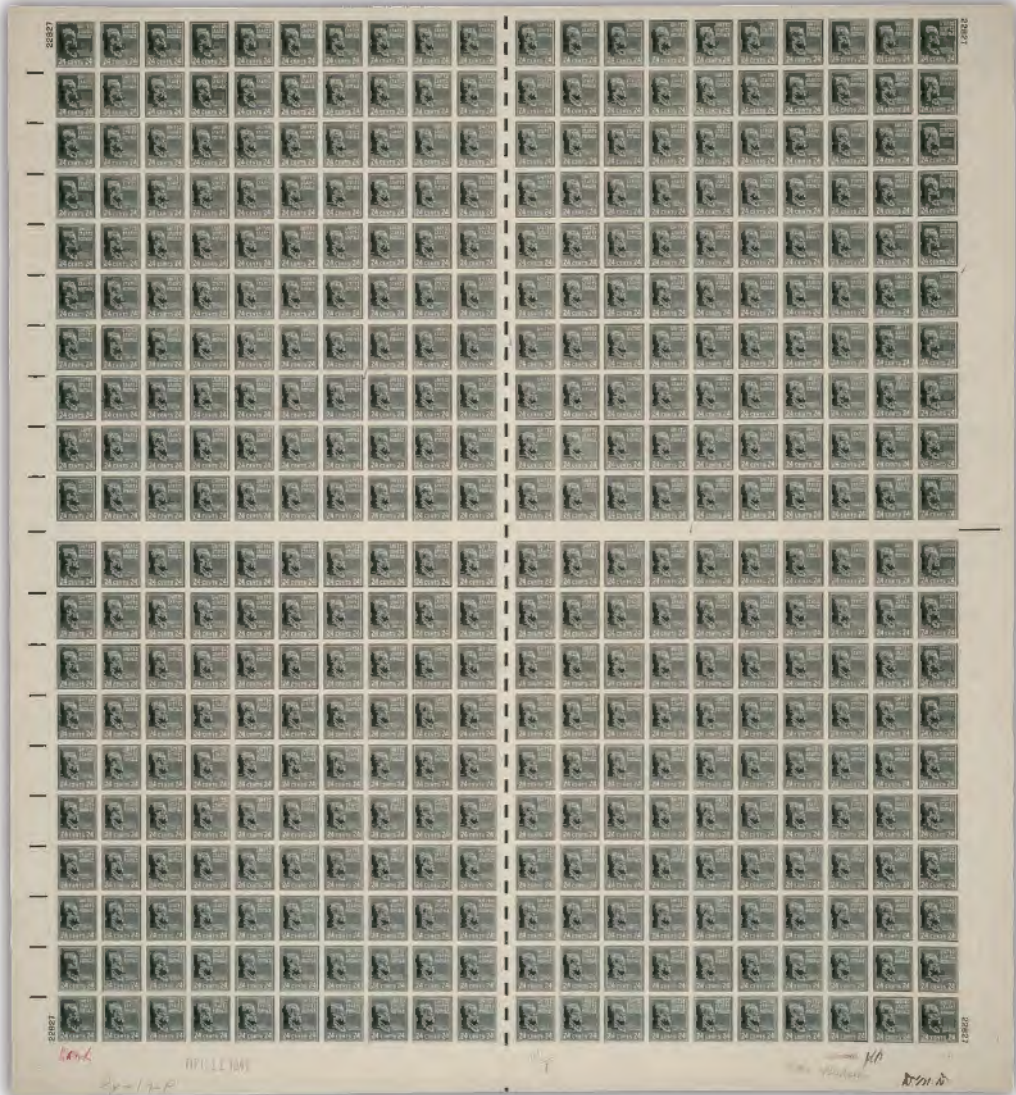


Figure 7. Electric-eye plate proof of the 24¢ Benjamin Harrison stamp approved December 11, 1941
(Image courtesy of the Smithsonian National Postal Museum).

I am fortunate in having an unusual registered airmail cover addressed in pencil to “Mr. F. D. Roosevelt, President of U.S.A., Washington D.C.” that is franked with a 24¢ Benjamin Harrison stamp. Shown in Figure 10, backstamps show that it was mailed on Wednesday, November 1, 1944, from the main post office in San Francisco, CA, and received the following day in Washington, DC.

Although the cover is damaged and there has been an attempt to erase the return address “Mrs. K. Kessler, c/o Gen. Del., San Francisco Calif.,” the combination franking of an 8¢ transport airmail stamp with 24¢ Prexie is an interesting one. The 8¢ airmail and 20¢ registration rates (with added 4¢ return receipt fee) became effective on March



THE POSTMASTER GENERAL
WASHINGTON

December 2, 1938.

Hon. Harry H. Woodring,
Secretary of War.

My dear Harry:

It affords me pleasure to send you attached to this letter the 24-cent stamp of our new regular series, which is being placed on sale today.

On this stamp is depicted the profile likeness of Benjamin Harrison, reproduced from a bust by Adolph Weiman, now in the possession of the John Herron Institute at Indianapolis, Indiana.

The Washington, D. C., postmark of today identifies this envelope as an official first-day cover.

Very truly yours,

THE POSTMASTER GENERAL
WASHINGTON
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Permit for private
payment of post



- FIRST DAY OF ISSUE -

Hon. Harry H. Woodring,
Secretary of War,
Washington, D. C.

Figure 8. Postmaster General favor FDC with letter for the 24¢ Benjamin Harrison stamp.

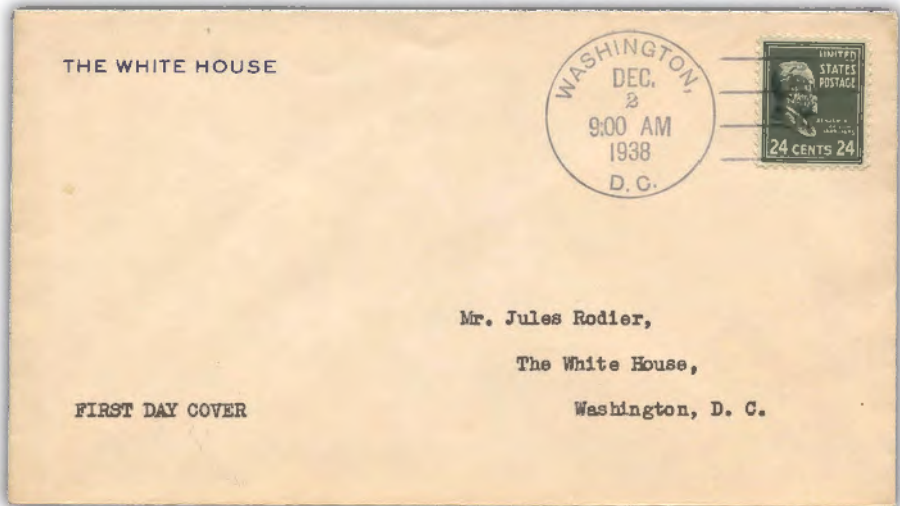


Figure 9. FDC on official White House stationery for the 3¢ Jefferson stamp sent to Jules Rodier.



Figure 10. Registered airmail cover sent to FDR franked with a 24¢ Prexie and 8¢ transport airmail stamp.



26, 1944. Since Mrs. Kessler mailed this from the main post office in San Francisco, the mail clerk's use of this particular Transport-Prexie combo provided an efficient way to pay the 32¢ franking. Also, note the use of a registered "return receipt requested" hand stamp at the right side of the cover.

To put this cover sent to Franklin D. Roosevelt into perspective, it was mailed less than a week before November 7, 1944, when FDR was elected to an unprecedented fourth term as president. The fact that Mrs. Kessler hand-addressed this cover in pencil while lacking a permanent home, as indicated by the General Delivery return address, suggests that there may be a poignant World War II era story lurking here.

References

1. Roland E. Rustad, *The Prexies*, edited by Leonard Piskiewicz, Bureau Issues Association, Belleville, IL, 1994, pages 284-289.
2. Paul M. Holland, "Encounter with United States Plate Proofs on Card," *The American Philatelist*, August 2021, pages 705-710.
3. Paul M. Holland, "Favor First Day Covers for the 1935 Special Printings of the National Parks Stamps," *The United States Specialist*, February 2023, pages 56-64. See 57-58
4. *Encyclopedia of United States Stamps and Stamp Collecting, Second Edition*, Rodney A. Juell, Lynn R. Batdorf and Steven J. Rod, eds., United States Stamp Society, Katy, TX, 2016, page 36.
5. Lester G. Brookman, *The United States Postage Stamps of the 19th Century*, Volume II, H. L. Lindquist: New York, 1966, page 282.
6. Ken Lawrence, "The Missing 23-Cent Benjamin Harrison Stamp," *The Prexie Era Newsletter*, Spring 2020, pages 4-6.

Note to the reader

Among the many benefits of membership in the United States Stamp Society is free online access to books such as *The Prexies* and *The Transports*, as well as a digital archive of all articles previously published in *The United States Specialist*.

The screenshot shows the United States Stamp Society website. The header includes the logo and navigation links: Home, News & Events, About Us, Committees, Digital Specialist, Resources, Store, and Membership. A breadcrumb trail indicates the user is in Home / Resources / USSS Publications - Downloadable. The main heading is "USSS Publications - Downloadable". To the left is a sidebar with a search bar, a login status "Welcome back! You are logged in ✓", and a list of links: Shopping Cart, Your Profile, Membership Renewal, Help, Admin Section, and Logout. Below this is a "RESOURCES" section with links to USSS Publications - Downloadable, Research Papers, Reprints, Exhibits, Prexie Era, Dummy News and Views, Encyclopedia of United States Stamps - 2016 Edition, and Glossary of Terms. The main content area features a stack of books and a table of publications.

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A Penny in Postage Due Paid in 1918 Brings \$21,000 Hammer Price in 2022

by **Kevin G. Lowther**

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Two bidders wanted the cover shown above very, very badly. It is the only known Scott 505 cover—the 5¢ rose error—also charged postage due. The hammer price was \$21,000, nearly ten times the long-standing Scott on-cover valuation of \$2,250. Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries estimated lot 3531 in its December 2022 US postal history sale at \$1,000-\$1,500.

I am somewhat responsible; the lot description cited me as the authority. My five-part series on the “red error,” published in the *Specialist* in 2012, mentioned that only one postage due cover existed among about 127 Scott 505 covers recorded. (USSS member Stephen White maintains the census.)

The cover was postmarked in Reading, Massachusetts, on October 25, 1918. The wartime first class letter rate of three cents was still in effect. Seeing the stamp’s standard 2¢ color, a postal clerk in Melrose, Massachusetts, knew an extra penny of postage was due.

Scott does not keep track of the highest price paid for stamps on or off cover. It is more than likely, however, that the ceiling for the “red error” on cover has been established.



America's Embossed Revenue Stamp Paper, Part IV: Massachusetts Bay Surviving Stamps & Documents

by **Roger S. Brody**
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and **John C. Rowe**

Surviving Stamps - Province of Massachusetts Bay

Examples of stamps, both on and off documents available to collectors of the Province of Massachusetts Bay, are rare. Their scarcity is highlighted by the passage of five to six generations of Americans between their official use and the advent of revenue stamp collecting. Given the risks of closet, garret, and attic storage and the passing of estates before entering the more benign environs of revenue collections, it is surprising that any at all survived.

**Table 1. Number of
Massachusetts Embossed Stamps
Recorded (Makepeace, 1943)**

Denomination	Number
½ penny	3
II pence	49
III pence	61
IV pence	15
Unknown	15
Total	143

In 1941, an initial survey was made of all forms of embossed revenue paper in private hands. The census, originally published as an insert in the Embossed Revenue Stamped Paper News, was modified and corrected in subsequent issues through 1943 (Makepeace, 1943). The Massachusetts items are shown in Table 1. Unfortunately, this survey did not indicate the type of document usage.

Almost concurrent with the conducting of the survey in 1941, a large find (between 50 and 100 stamped documents consisting of some 50 deeds and II and III pence stamped writs) still in local government hands was made in 1938 in Salem, Massachusetts archives, according to Ward (Ward, 1957). Naturally, at that time, most of these new specimens had not yet made it into the hands of collectors to be incorporated in Makepeace's census. Most of the new finds were III-pence stamped writs. The advent of all these arrest warrants in the marketplace was to soon drive the 1938 Scott catalog price from \$50 for a III pence warrant down to \$2.50 in 1943. The price of the corresponding II pence stamp on documents (generally deeds) was reduced

from \$35 in 1939 to \$10 in 1942, while the IV pence held relatively steady, rising from \$25 in 1939 to \$30 in 1942. The comparative valuations have flattened over eighty years, though the relationship remains with II, III and IV pence values escalating in 2022 to \$400, \$160, and \$700, respectively.

It is believed that the actual count of Massachusetts items well exceeds the above census totals. A total of at least 250 to perhaps 500 copies of all denominations available to collectors is more probable, with a very large number of Essex County writs with the III pence stamp surviving. Although the copies in private hands are scarce in an absolute sense, many copies survive in public institutions-especially the ½ and II pence.

Table 2 indicates a profile of the various usages of the Massachusetts denominations as determined by a private proprietary database of the surviving documents.

Table 2
Number Massachusetts Embossed Revenue Document Recorded in Private Hands

Document Description	Denomination (pence)					
	1/2	II	III	IV	Total	Percent
Bill of Lading					0	
Bill of Sale					0	
Bonds:						4
Bond (Unknown)		1		1	2	
Bond, Obligation		1			1	
Bond, Penal		3	1		4	
Bond, Performance		1			1	
Court Documents:						
Bond, Recognizance					0	
Court Order					0	
Deed/Conveyance		15		21	36	19
Indenture					0	
Lease		2			2	1
Newspaper	6				6	3
Notarization						0
Power of Attorney		2			2	1
Probate						0
Receipt of Legacy		1			1	
Writs:						68
Writ (Unknown)		1	32		33	
Writ of Arrest		8	62		70	
Writ of Execution		6	5		11	
Writ of Summons		1	9		10	
Cut Squares/Partials	4		3		7	4
Totals	10	42	112	22	186	
Percent	5	23	60	12	100	

This data comprises 237 identifiable transactions for both colonial Massachusetts and New York issues documented in auction catalogs, known dealer sales (or stock), and Internet auctions. The breakdown of this data results in 62% being found in auction catalogs (the traditional source for records of these scarcer revenue items); dealer stock and sales amount to 20% of the data. Auction sales on the Internet are a growing phenomenon, with slightly more than 18% of these data items all occurring within the last two decades.

The surviving Massachusetts embossed documents exhibit a very sharp distribution curve as just two of the document types comprise the vast majority (87%) of the surviving documents. Most of them are writs comprising two-thirds of all Massachusetts documents today. Serious students of this issue should take note when the chance presents itself to acquire any of the various document types other than these.

Half Penny Use

The half penny newspaper stamp is the rarest of the Massachusetts issues in private hands. Many copies survive in institutions such as the Boston Public Library, which has copies of all issues of *The Boston Evening Post* from May 5, 1755, through December 13, 1756, with half penny stamps. According to Ward (who acquired the Hiram Deats collection in the late fifties), only three copies of documents with this stamp were known in private hands as late as 1957: in the Sheldon, Joyce, and his collection (Ward, 1957). Accordingly, a June 28, 1756, copy of *The Boston Gazette* was reported in the hands of Theodore Sheldon when his collection was sold at auction on June 4, 1970 (Mercury, 1970). A September 13, 1756, copy of *The Boston Evening Post* (Issue No. 1098), including the text of the French Declaration of War, was sold in the Morton Dean Joyce auction on June 6, 1991, for \$600 (Kelleher, 1991). Leland Powers reported a copy of this denomination on an incomplete newspaper document that he indicated was probably a proof or re-strike based on the "character of the paper" (Powers, 1941).

An October 11, 1756, copy of *The Boston Gazette and County Journal* with news of the terms of the surrender of the British Garrison at the British Naval station on the island of Minorca in the Mediterranean and news about the arrest of the British Admiral John Byng is known. A December 20, 1756, copy of *The Boston Evening Post* reporting the invasion of Saxony by the Prussian Army was the first embossed item sold in the Admiral W. V. Combs sale (Bennett, 2000). More recently, a July 8, 1756, copy of *The Boston Weekly News-Letter* that realized \$3,250 in the 2019 Antizzo sale (Siegel, 2019, Figure 4 in the preceding article here) contained a list of those killed and missing at Fort Bigham during the French and Indian War. All copies known have the red typographically printed stamp in the lower right at the margin.

The back page of the April 11, 1757, edition of *The Boston Evening Post* (Figure 1) contains an interesting report of a letter from New York dated April 4. The opening portion of the column reads as follows:

By a Letter bearing Date at Fort William Henry March 26, we have the following account:

The Boston Evening-Post. No. 1128.

Monday, April 11. 1757.

To the VIRGINIA-CENTINEL, No. XIX.

S I R,

IN the present State of Things, the Art of War is an useful and important Acquisition; the Profession of Soldiers is honourable, and even laudable; and Valour is to be numbered among the Virtues. The Necessity and Justice of the present War calls a peculiar amiable Splendor upon all these; and I with my Countrymen may acquire immortal Glory by them. But yet, it must be owned, this Honor carries in it something very mortifying to human Nature. The Excellency of these Things, like that of Medicines, supposes the present disordered State of the World; which requires such severe and desperate Remedies. I have a Manuscript Sermon by me, which makes some new Reflections upon War in this Light; which, if you think proper, you may communicate to the Public.

The Preacher having given a brief View of the present Ferment among the Nations, proceeds thus:—"Now in this disordered State of Things, the Question in my Text seems very proper, *'Utrens esse War—and Fightings among us?'* What infernal Cause is it, that sets the World in Arms? That sets reasonable Creatures of the same Race, upon disturbing and destroying one another? Whence is it, that the Art of War, that is the *Art of killing one another with Dexterity*, is a necessary Science? Whence is it, that a great Warrior, that is, a great *Destroyer of Mankind*, should be an honorable and celebrated Character? Whence is it, that Swords and Guns, and other Instruments of Death, are become necessary Utensils in Society, and the most useful Pursuits of Kingdoms? To such Questions as these my Text gives the true Answer, *'Wars and Fightings among you come from envy, even from your Lusts.'*—The Lust of Dominion, the Lust of Riches, the Lust of Fame, has set the World in Arms from Age to Age; and the Quarrel is still continued, and never likely to be decided, while those restless Lusts, from which it springs, remain predominant in the Hearts of Men. Matters of Justice and Property between Nations are not so intricate to themselves, but that they might be decided amicably, were it not for the Strength of Lust. But that they should immediately fly to Arms, and shed each others Blood; that Matters of Property should not be decided but by taking away the Lives of the Proprietors? how astonishing is this! how shocking an Evidence of the Power of outrageous Lusts! Were this internal *en*ire violent but quenched, the external Flames would soon go out. But a depraved Nature, like an unruly Tongue, sets on Fire the Course of Nature, and is itself set on Fire of Hell. When these Lusts inflame the Hearts of public Persons, of Kings and their Ministers, they set the World in a Blaze around them; and their Subjects fired with the same Passions, add Fuel to the Flame.

"The present War, traced to this Source, naturally leads us to reflect upon the fallen degenerate State of human Nature. Cannons and Trumpets, and all the horrid Noise of War, proclaim aloud this mortifying Truth through the World, that we are a Race of apostate Creatures, fallen from our original Rectitude, and become the Slaves of imperious and savage Passions.

"What is this Globe, but a wide-extended Field of Battle? What are Soldiers, but *Destroyers of Mankind by Profession*? What are Heroes and Conquerors, but the most bold and insatiable Destroyers of Mankind? What is the History of Nations, from their first Rise to this Day, from Nimrod down to Lewis XV. but a tragical Story of Struggles for Dominion, unjust Encroachments, bloody Battles, and Sieges; ravaged Countries, ruined Cities, and Heaps of slain? How many Thousand Souls has the Sword of War cut off in Europe only, within these 60 Years past? And thus it generally is, and has been, all the World over, from Age to Age. A late ingenious Author computes, that the Number of Men killed in the Field of Battle, from the Beginning of the World to the Year 1748, amounts at least to 40,000 Millions. And, to this adding, the Havock, Calamity and Destruction attending War, viz. Famine, Dilease, Pestilence, and Massacres in cold Blood, he thinks he may fairly double the last Total, and make the Number 80,000 Millions. And as the Number of Men existing at any one Time upon the Earth, never exceeds 500 Millions, the Number of Mankind cut off by the Sword of War, or its attendant Evil, in all Ages, must at least be equal to 160 Times the Number of Souls this Day on the Globe. What a prodigious and shocking Computation is this! The Earth is peopled with *Innards*; their Hand against every Man, and every Man's Hand against them. Twenty Years of Peace is a rare Thing among the Nations. The Ocean of Mankind has but few and short Calms; and it is easily tossed into a Tumult; and the outrageous Waves dash, and foam, and break against one another. Streams of human Blood are running almost incessantly both by Sea and Land; and now the Tide is likely to swell unusually high; a SPRING TIDE OF HUMAN BLOOD—Swords and Guns, the Instruments of Death, are, as I observed, become necessary Utensils in Kingdoms, like the Instruments of Husbandry and Architecture. Men are tearing one another to Pieces about the Trifles of Time; which a few Years at most, will tear from all their

Hands. A Thousand Swords are dividing this Atom Earth among a Thousand Lords; and yet, strange! they cannot agree after all. What exasperated Pride! what burning Rancor! what Barbarities and Tortures, and eager Thirst for Blood! what public authorized Murders!—*Murders*, I say; for if the Man who privately takes away his Neighbour's Life unjustly, be guilty of Murder, certainly, they who commence an unjust War, and thus take away the Lives of *Thousands* unjustly, perhaps at a *Blow*, are still more deeply guilty of Murder.

"This is a short Sketch of the History of Mankind.—But is this the History of the World in its *paradisaical* State? Would innocent Creatures thus tear one another in Pieces? Would innocent Creatures be thus actuated with malignant Passions? Did human Nature first come out of the Hands of its Creator, thus enflamed with the Passions of Hell? Is it not plain, that the good fundamental Law of Morality, is not now deeply impressed upon the Hearts of Men? viz. *'That we should love the Lord our God with all our Hearts, and our Neighbour as ourselves.'* The Love of God, and the Love of Man, if they were the ruling Passions of Mankind, would soon put an End to this Confusion and Bloodshed; would turn this Earth into an *Eden*; a Region of perfect Peace, and universal Benevolence. But instead of these, lawless tumultuating Lusts bear the Sway. *'O! fallen, fallen Man!* in what mournful Strains shall we lament over thee! the Offspring of God degenerated! the most curious and noble Piece of Divine Workmanship in our World, shattered, broken, and lying in Ruins!—Who can repair these Ruins, and raise the noble Frame again? None but He, who formed it at first. There is need of a Reparation equivalent to a new Creation, and therefore a new-creating Power is necessary. This, and only this, is the effectual Cure of War, and all its bleeding Wounds. This is the only inviolable Bond of Peace; the only firm Cement of divided Nations.

"The present War, indeed, as far as I am capable of judging in national Disputes, is just, is unavoidable, upon our Side; and consequently our Duty.—But now corrupt must this World be, when it is even our Duty to weaken and destroy our Fellow-Men, as much as we can! How corrupt must the World be, when *Peace* itself, the sweetest of all Blessings, is become an *Evil*, and War is to be chosen before it! When it is become our Duty to shed Blood; when *Zelus*, i. e. a Contempt of a Man's own Life, and Boldness to destroy others, is sanctified into a *Virtue*; when it is become *glorious* to kill Men, who are made after the Image of God; and when we are obliged to treat a whole Nation as a Gang of Robbers and Murderers, and bring them to Justice? This certainly argues a prodigious Pitch of Degeneracy in them; and as we share in the same corrupt human Nature with them, we have no Reason to compliment ourselves upon our superior Goodness. The brave BRITONS are fallen Creatures."

Province of the Massachusetts-Bay.

By the HONOURABLE

His Majesty's Council for the Province aforesaid.

A PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS it hath pleased GOD in his holy Providence to remove the Honourable SPENCER PHIPS, Esq; late Lieutenant-Governour and Commander in Chief of said Province, by Death; and therefore the Administration of this Government is devolved in His Majesty's Council in Virtue of the Royal Charter;

WE have therefore thought fit (in Council) to issue this Proclamation; hereby establishing all military Commissions heretofore issued by Lawful Authority, and which have at no Time since been revoked or superceded; and they are hereby established and confirmed to all Intents and Purposes, until further Order; and all Persons commissioned as aforesaid, and all others concerned, are to govern themselves accordingly.

Given under Our Hands at the Council-Chamber in Boston, the fifth Day of April 1757, in the Thirtieth Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord GEORGE the Second, by the Grace of GOD, of Great-Britain, France and Ireland, KING, Defender of the Faith, &c.

By Order of the Council,
A. OLIVER, Secr.

Thos. Hutchinson
Stephen Sewall
Joseph Pynchon
Isaac Royall
Benja. Lincoln
John Erving
Rich. Curt.
Wm. Brattle.

Wm. Pepperrell
J. Osborne
Jacob Wendell
Benja. Lynde
S. Danforth
Sam. Watts
John Hill
J. Chandler
James Minot
John Ois
A. Oliver

GOD Save the KING.

FOREIGN

Figure 1. The Boston Evening Post, April 11, 1757, with red halfpenny stamp.

That on Saturday the 19th, about one o'clock in the Morning, a Noise was heard at some Distance from the Fort, and a Light seen on the East Side a Considerable Way down the Lake, which gave the Alarm. That two Hours after this, the Enemy made their Approach on the Ice. with their whole Army; upon which the Garrison made a smart Fire of Artillery and small Arms, which obliged the main Body to retreat.

That attack by a French army of 1,500 troupes de la marine (navy), Canadian militia, and Indians, under the command of the Canadian governor-general's brother, Pierre de Rigaud besieged the fort for four days, destroying outbuildings and many watercraft before retreating to Fort Ticonderoga.

Four months later, in August, French General Louis-Joseph de Montcalm-Grozon returned with an army of 6,000 French regulars and militiamen and nearly 2000 Indians, to lay siege forcing the Fort to surrender. The infamous Indian massacre following the surrender was forever imbedded in American lore in James Fenimore Cooper's *The Last of the Mohicans*.

Leland Powers performed a study of the Boston Public Library's files of the *Boston Evening Post* indicating that all issues were printed with stamped paper from May 5, 1755, through December 13, 1756. From that date a gap in stamping occurred until the issue of April 4, 1757. He surmised that the gap in stamping reflected an arrangement made between the publisher and the Commissioner of Stamps by which the tax was paid in cash to that office as an alternative to printing stamps on paper that covered regular circulation (Powers, 1941).

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II Pence Use

The II pence "codfish" stamp was impressed on paper used on writs issued by justices of the peace and on deeds and mortgages relating to small-value real estate transactions. Neither of these document types was kept in official files. They were kept in private hands and generally not preserved. They amount to less than one-fourth of the Massachusetts issue specimens found today. There is a significant disparity between both the number and percentage of documents with this II pence denomination found by Makepeace (38%) as compared to the lower relative numbers found in the current study (23%). Perhaps it is due to collectors' retaining numbers of copies due to the notoriety of the two "codfish" dies, and thereby, a relatively lower number of usages with this denomination entering the marketplace.

Because the surviving copies were kept in private hands, the great majority of the remaining examples are not in the best of condition. Most of the surviving copies are on

Know all Men by these Presents,
That *Ezekiel Turner of Hannover in the County of*
Albany in the Province of the Massachusetts Bay
Now my Lord Esquire

Have Constituted, Ordained and Made; and in my Stead and Place put, and by these Pre-
 sents do Constitute, Ordain and Make; and in my Stead and Place put my Loving

Wife Ruth Turner living in Hannover aforesaid

To be my true, sufficient and lawful Attorney,
 and in my Name and Stead, and to my Use, to Ask, Demand, Levy, Recover and Re-
 ceive of and from all and every Person and Persons whomsoever the same shall and may
 Concern, all and singular Sum and Sums of Money, Debts, Goods, Wares, Merchandize,
 Effects and Things whatsoever, and wheresoever they shall and may be found due, owing,
 payable, belonging and coming unto my Constituent by any Ways and Means whatsoever,
 nothing excepted or reserved. *to sell for the support of my part of my personal Estate.*

Giving and hereby Granting unto my said Attorney my full and whole Strength,
 Power and Authority in and about the Premises; and to take and use all due Means, Course
 and Process in the Law for the Obtaining and Recovering the same, and of Recoveries
 and Receipts thereof; in my Name to Make, Seal, and Execute due Acquittances and
 Discharges: And for the Premises to appear, and the Person of the Constituent to re-
 present before any Governor, Judges, Justices, Officers and Ministers of the Law whatsoever,
 in any Court or Courts of Judicature: And there on my Behalf to Answer, Defend and
 Reply unto all Actions, Causes, Matters and Things whatsoever relating to the Premises,
 with full Power to Make and SUBSTITUTE One or more Attornies under my said
 Attorney, and the same again at Pleasure to Revoke. And generally to Say, Do, Act,
 Transact, Determine, Accomplish and Finish all Matters and Things whatsoever, relating
 to the Premises, as Fully, Amply and Effectually, to all Intents and Purposes as I the
 said Constituent ought or might or could Personally, altho' the Matter should require
 more special Authority than is herein comprised. the said Constituent RATIFYING,
 allowing and holding firm and valid all and whatsoever my said Attorney

or his substitute shall lawfully Do, or cause be Done in and about
 the Premises, by Vertue of these Presents.

In Witness whereof, I have hereunto set my Hand and Seal the 27th Day of
September Annoque Domini, One Thousand seven Hundred and *fifty five*
 In the *Twenty third* Year of his Majesty's Reign.

Signed, Sealed, and Delivered
 in Presence of us,

Wm. Mordant

Joshua Barton

Ezek. Turner

Suppld for

*Boston the 27th Sept. 1755. Personal-
 ly appeared Ezekiel Turner the
 subscriber to the above power of attor-
 ncy and acknowledged it to be his free
 act and deed*

Before Wm. Mordant Esq. J. P.

Figure 2. 1755 Power of Attorney, from Mariner Ezekiel Turner to his wife, with 11 pence stamp.

real estate conveyances or deeds valued at less than £20 that survived as part of estates, representing about one-third of all the known usage. Even so, the “codfish” stamp has the most varied display of surviving usages. Before the Combs 2000 sale, the 1968 Makepeace sale (Siegel, 1968) had the largest recorded number of Massachusetts items in a single collection, twenty items in all of which eleven were II pence specimens, including four deeds. The 1970 Sheldon sale, however, listed only one deed (Mercury, 1970).

Writs of *capias* (arrest warrants), summons, and writs of execution issued by justices of the peace constitute another significant use of the II pence stamp, about one-third of the surviving documents. The Makepeace sale included two writs (sheriff’s summons, and writs of execution) from justices. The Sheldon sale listed four II pence items, of which two were justice of peace writs of execution. However, the 1991 Morton Dean Joyce sale listed no justice of the peace documents. A 1757 writ was listed in the 1982 John J. Gaudio sale (Kaufmann, 1982). A 1756 performance bond for adherence to an arbitration is also known originating with a suit before justices of the peace that includes a lengthy description of how the fish were delivered to the person being sued.

As noted in Table 2, bonds and other obligations, together with leases, receipts of legacy, letters of attorney, etc., are preserved. In the Sheldon sale, one bond was listed (Mercury, 1970). The Henry Tolman II sale (Siegel, 2000) listed 1755 and 1756 penal bonds. Examples of sealed documents with two-pence stamps are listed among the ten two-pence specimens in the Makepeace sale, including a 1755 lease, a 1756 obligation, a 1757 receipt of legacy, and a September 1755 power of attorney (Siegel, 1968). The Joyce sale included a specimen of a 1757 lease (Kelleher, 1991). The Combs sale, which listed 28 Massachusetts items, included both a 1755 bail bond and a 1756 lease with II pence stamps. Finally, the Antizzo sale included a 1755 obligation with the II pence (Siegel, 2019).

A September 27, 1755, power of attorney (Figure 2) illustrating the peril of going to sea is of interest. It is a power of attorney from Ezekiel Turner of Hanover in Plymouth County to his wife, Ruth. Turner was a mariner, and the power of attorney is to permit her to sell all or portions of his personal estate for her support, probably because he was soon destined to depart on a voyage from which he might not return.

III Pence Use

The III pence Massachusetts stamp is its most common denomination, accounting for three-fifths of surviving documents, but the usage displayed by the surviving copies is relatively mundane. It was used on writs issued by courts of record that were returned to the court after service, and hundreds survived into this century within the archives in the county files from the Common Pleas Courts. With the subsequent disposal of these unwanted legal papers, many have reached the hands of private collectors. As previously noted, most are arrest warrants (77% of the identifiable writs). About ten percent of the writs are dated after the expiration of the tax, indicating that writers of court documents were just using up stamped paper. The Combs sale, which listed 24 III pence writs, included a single lot of 23 writs. The Sheldon sale listed nine writs, the Makepeace sale listed five writs, and the Antizzo sale one. Only the Tolman sale reported one specimen of this denomination on other than a writ or warrant, a 1755 penal bond with the III

James, II. GEORGE the Second, by the Grace of GOD, of Great Britain,
France and Ireland, KING, Defender of the Faith, &c.

To the Sheriff of Our County of Suffolk

his Under-Sheriff or Deputy, Greeting.

WE Command you to Attach the Goods or Estate of *Eleanor Lindsey of*
of Salem in our County of the Gentleman

to the Value of *Twenty two* Pounds, and for want thereof to take the Body of the
said *Eleanor* (if he may be found in
your Precinct) and him safely keep, so that you have him before Our Justices of Our Inferiour
Court of Common Pleas next to be holden at *Salem* within and for Our said
County of Essex, on the *second* Tuesday of *July* next: Then and there
in Our said Court to Answer unto *Samuel Johnson of Lynn in the same*
County Inhabitant in a Plea of *trespass* the Case for that
the *Deft* on the *fifth* Day of *May* last being indebted
to the *Plt* the sum of *fifty* pounds over and above *a few pence*
half pence according to the account rendered at *Salem* after
promised the *Plt* to pay him the same on Demand yet he
has not paid it tho' requested but neglects it

To the Damage of the said *Samuel* as he saith
the Sum of *Twenty* Pounds, which shall then and there be made to Appear,
with other due Damages: And have you there this Writ with your Doings therein, Witnes
Thomas Bern Esq; at Salem, the *Sixth* Day of *May*
in the *twenty* ninth. Year of Our Reign, *Annae Domini, 1756*

Joseph Bowditch

M^{rs} Eleanor Lindsey To Sam Johnson *1756*

March 26 To *High* Lent good a Sunday Dinner for *John* and *John*
1756 To *High* Lent good a Sunday Dinner for *John* and *John* *29. 6*
To *Board* Liqueur for *John* *6. 12. 9*
To *D^o* for *Sam^r* *25. 18. 3*
To *D^o* for *James* *31. 6. 10*
To *D^o* for *Nathan* *1. 14. 6*
To *D^o* for *Joseph* *18. 19*
To *D^o* for *David* *7. 7*
To *D^o* for *Andrew* *3. 18. 6*
To *D^o* for *Andrew* *3. 18. 6*
Old Ten. *£113. 11. 0*
is in Lawful Money *£16. 1. 5. 1/2*
Errors Excepted
John May 5th 1756 *Samuel Johnson*

Figure 4. 1756 writ with III pence stamp, for debt owed an innkeeper, with a detailed list of charges in "Old Tenor" currency converted to "Lawful Money"

[illegible]

To the Damage of the said *Yathun as he saith*
the Sum of *fifteen* *Pounds*, which shall then and there be made to appear, with
other due Damages: And have you there this Writ, with your Doings therein, Witness
My Hand *Esq* at *26* the *first* Day of *December*
In the *third* Year of Our Reign. *Amory Deane, 175*

Figure 5. December 1757 summons with III pence stamp, for Sheriff of Suffolk County for damages resulting for failure to serve a warrant, issued to the County Coroner.

Writs for debts incurred for services also include one initiated by an innkeeper (Figure 4) with an account on the reverse of the sums owed by Eleazer Lindsey totaling £15.1.5, including “Cash Lent you at Sundry Times for ye [the] Enlistment of ye Soldiers,” and a detailed listing of the amounts of food, drink, and lodging spent on each of the individuals, dated March 26, 1756. Lindsey distinguished himself as a captain in the Seven Years War with his company and later in the Revolutionary War, again commanding a company of his own recruitment as a Colonel. Interestingly, the £15.1.5¼ “in Lawful Money” sued for was converted from actual charges totaling £113.0.10 in “Old Tenor” currency, a ratio of precisely 7.5 to 1. This reflected the British Parliament’s Currency Reform Act of 1751, whereby “Old Tenor” colonial currency, rated at 45 shillings per Spanish Dollar, was converted in New England to “Lawful Money” rated at 6s to the Spanish dollar. It also severely limited future currency emissions and effectively halted the rampant inflation that had plagued New England in the 1740s.

Writs of execution are of more than passing interest. In addition to being scarcer than arrest warrants, they often indicate the details and disposition of previous cases, including the amounts of costs. In this vein, there is reported a summons for the Sheriff of Suffolk County, Stephen Greenleaf of Boston, for damages for failing to serve such a writ of execution dated December 1, 1757 (Figure 5). Since the sheriff was the object of this latter writ, it was directed to the Coroner of Suffolk County. This usage is notable in that it bears a III pence stamp despite the fact that the stamp tax had expired April 30, 1757.

Finally, there is another interesting writ. It is an arrest warrant for a single woman, Mary Sweet, who it is alleged has repeatedly failed to pay a £4 debt that was purchased by different individuals to keep her out of jail (Figure 6). Women are infrequently mentioned as defendants in Massachusetts writs (about 10% of the time), while more frequently noted on deeds and conveyances. This warrant, dated December 6, 1757, after expiration of the tax, is another example of the continued use of previously stamped paper.

Many documents are found stamped and dated after the expiration date. The original act made no provision for redemption of unused paper after expiration of the tax (Powers, 1939). On March 22, 1758, a year after expiration of the tax, a resolution was introduced and passed in the Massachusetts House of Representatives. It allowed for the redemption of unused stamped paper stocks presented by holders under oath to the

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Commissioner of Stamps within six months. The resolution also needed the approval of the Governor's Council; however, it was not concurred with by that body. No further act(s) of remission were passed, and the paper was not redeemed. Thus, Powers concluded: attorneys, conveyancers, justices, and courts who had purchased inventories in advance of demand probably simply used up their stocks of stamped paper after April 30, 1757, even though the laws required no stamps. This later usage of stamped paper is known to have occurred through at least August 16, 1760, on printed writs, and December 1759, on deeds.

IV Pence Use

The IV pence is the scarcest surviving of the Massachusetts embossed stamps, though it was intended for a wide variety of documents. Less than one-eighth of the remaining examples of the Massachusetts issue are of this denomination. It appears that the extended variety of potential documents, including charter parties, insurance policies, protests, bills of lading, receipts, notarized or sealed documents, and documents of the vice-admiralty court that would make this an excitingly interesting denomination to collect have not survived at all. Powers (1941) stated that this denomination "is generally found on deeds or mortgages or sales of ships or vessels," indicating that probable usage is only on bills of sale and deeds. However, information or records of bill of sale usage for this denomination appears so far to be unknown.

As noted in Table 2, with one exception, the IV pence is probably found only on bills of sale and deeds and mortgages having a value over £20, but invalid usages after the tax expired are known on partially printed forms for transaction values both above and below £20. The Makepeace sale recorded five specific IV pence examples as well as one probable one in the "Exhibition Collection," all on 1755 and 1756 deeds, and similarly, the Sheldon sale listed four deeds. The Joyce sale recorded a single 1755 Essex County deed, the Combs sale recorded a 1756 deed, and the Antizzo sale a 1756 deed. Only the Tolman sale reported a document other than a deed, a 1755 bond.

Like the II pence stamped deeds, the IV pence stamped mortgages and conveyance deeds were recorded in registries of deeds, but the originals were returned to the owners, and only transcriptions were kept in the registry books. Thus, with time, most of the originals have been lost or destroyed. It should be noted that about fifty percent of the surviving deeds requiring the IV pence duty are also from Essex County, even though their survival was via private hands. Again, the surviving copies being stored in private files are generally in poor condition, being torn and stained.

There is an interesting Needham conveyance (Figure 7) from Suffolk County that covers the gifting of one-half of the real estate and buildings of an individual to his son, Timothy Kingsbery. It contains the phrase "in consideration of the Love and & good will that I doo bear to him my loving son. . . ." But as today, although a gift, it was taxed based on a clause of valuation of £66 "Law Money."

Female signatures are seen on about 50% of recorded Massachusetts real estate transactions bearing II and IV pence stamps. In all cases, they signed as spouses. In those cases where there is not a female signature, 75% of the remainder include a separate notation as to relinquishment of the women's dower rights in the real estate. No

To all people to whom these presents shall come greeting Knowe that I Timothy
 Kingsbury of Newham in the County of Suffolk & Province of the Masses Bay in New England
 a free man for and in consideration of the Love ^{and} good will I doo bare to him my loving son
 Timothy Kingsbury in the County & Province aforesaid have given & granted unto him & his
 heirs for ever the one half of my Home place or ^{about} half the buildings orchards & all upon the
 Lands & by these presents have given granted ^{and} conveyed & confirmed unto the said
 Timothy Kingsbury & his heirs the above said Land as it lies in Newham abutting upon Charles
 River east & south and one the Land of Jonathan Bay west & the highway north
 to the Land on the House sit upon the way south to Mr Jonathan Townsend west
 & east. And secured or whose due debt to be bounden to have to hold
 said granted Bargain for premises with all the Appurtenances thereto belonging or in any wise
 appertaining to him the said Timothy Kingsbury his heirs for ever to his and their only proper use
 benefit & behoofe and of the said Timothy Kingsbury for me my heirs Executors Administrators
 do Covenant promise & grant to & with the said Timothy Kingsbury my son his heirs & assigns
 that before the Enrolling & delivery of these presents I am the true sole Lawfull owner of the above
 Bargain premises and am Lawfully seized and possessed of the same in my own proper right as good possessor
 on absolute Estate of Inheritance in fee simple and have in my self good Right full power and
 authority to grant Bargain convey & confirm these premises in manner as aforesaid &
 that the said Timothy Kingsbury my son his heirs & assigns may by virtue of these presents shall
 peaceably quietly have hold use occupy possess and enjoy the said promised premises with all the
 appurtenances free & clearly acquitted from all & all manner of gift Leases entails Joynt Tenures
 or Encumbrances what so ever furthermore of the said Timothy Kingsbury for my self my heirs
 Executors Administrators do Covenant & Engage the above dimitted promises to him my son
 Timothy Kingsbury his heirs and assigns against the Lawfull Claims & demands of any person
 or persons what so ever here After to warrant secure & defend In witness whereof I have
 here unto set my hand and seal this twentieth day of August in the year of our Lord
 one thousand seven hundred and fifty six signed sealed & delivered in presence of
 us: Before signed & sealing this one half of the above named Home place which I have
 given to my son Timothy Kingsbury for possession & use at sixty six pound Law Money

Moses Kingsbury

Samuel Kingsbury

John

Copy

Figure 7. Rare use of the IV pence stamps on a 1756 gift of Conveyance valued for tax purposes at £66

instances are known of female signatures on bonds or bills of sale. This does not indicate definitively that women were not active in the business world even 250 years ago in the colonial era, as other documentation does so indicate.

Since more than two-thirds (69%) of the surviving Massachusetts documents are Essex County Common Pleas Court writs of various types, these many documents bear further detailed examination. This will be discussed in Part V, "Essex County Common Pleas Court -Massachusetts Bay."

Acknowledgment: This article and the following article covering America's Colonial Stamp Taxation are a collaboration based on the original research and unpublished writings of John C. Rowe. Some documents illustrated have been digitally enhanced for clarity.

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Postal History

The Making of a First Day of Issue: 1948 Rough Riders Commemorative

by Marjory J. Sente

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Figure 1. Press photo for the Rough Riders commemorative issued in 1948.

This year, we celebrate the 125th anniversary of the Rough Riders organizing in Prescott to fight the Spanish in Cuba and the 75th anniversary of the release of the commemorative to honor this First US Volunteer Cavalry. As you read this article, please keep in mind that it took longer to propose and issue the stamp than it did to raise the troops and fight the Spanish in Cuba. The Rough Riders were formed in Spring 1898 after Prescott Mayor Bucky O'Neill officially opened a recruiting office on April 27 and disbanded on September 15, less than six months later. Bringing the stamp to fruition took more than a year.

The Suggestion

In 1947, Spanish-American veteran and former Crown King, Arizona postmaster Robert S. Patterson wrote to Arizona's U.S. Senator Carl Hayden asking for his help in getting the Post Office Department to issue a stamp marking the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Rough Riders and the Battle of Las Guasamas. Always a mover and shaker, Patterson was living in Stafford, Arizona, in 1898 when he recruited fifteen men in addition to himself to join the Rough Riders.

Senator Hayden forwarded Patterson's proposal to the Third Assistant Postmaster General Joseph J. Lawler. After refining the scope for the subject of the stamp, Lawler promised to see that the First U.S. Volunteer Calvary, better known as the Rough Riders, would be considered when reviewing subject matter for the 1948 commemorative stamp program. Hayden then suggested that Solon Borglum's monument to these troops located in Prescott would be a fitting model for the stamp.

On January 21, 1948, Arizona Congressman Richard F. Harless, at the request of the Rough Riders Association, introduced House Resolution 305 to authorize the issuance of a special series of stamps to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Rough Riders. It passed both Houses of Congress, and President Truman signed the bill on June 29, 1948.

The Post Office Department announced on September 14 the description of the stamp and that Prescott, Arizona, would be the site of the FDOI on October 27, 1948, coincidentally Teddy Roosevelt's 90th birthday anniversary. The stamp's central design featured Borglum's statue. A press photo of the new commemorative accompanied the announcement (Figure 1).

Getting Ready for the FDOI

In a letter dated September 15, 1948, to Prescott Postmaster Gail I. Gardner, Third Assistant Postmaster General Lawler wrote that the Prescott Post Office had been designated "to have exclusive first-day sale of the 3-cent stamp to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the organization of the Rough Riders, on October 27, 1948." He described the Department's expectations of the Prescott Post Office and how a first-day of sale worked and indicated that as many as fifty additional clerks would be required for a week to process the requests for First Day Covers. Lawler underlined, "It is extremely important that you safeguard the Rough Riders stamps and allow none to be sold or removed from the local post office before October

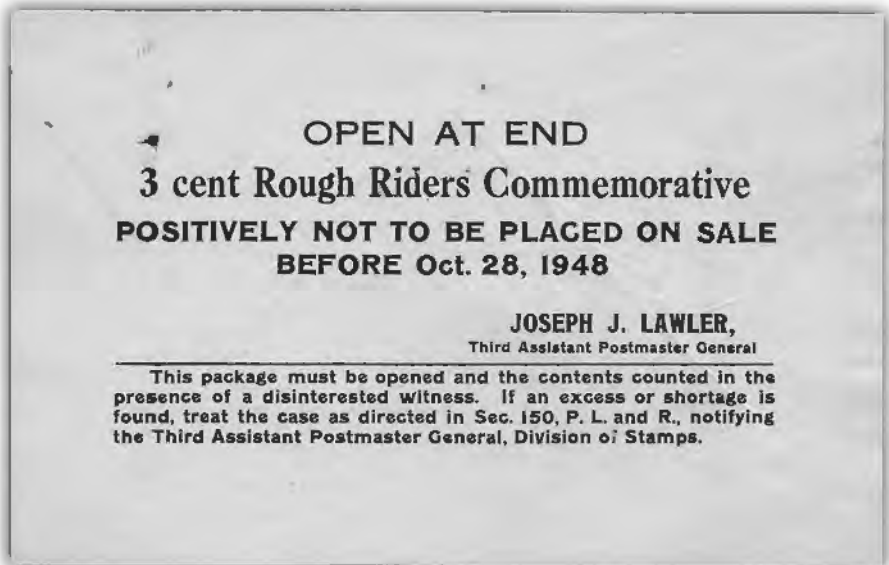


Figure 2. Instruction transmittal on a package of stamps forbidding postmasters to sell the Rough Riders commemorative prior to October 28, 1948.

27.” This admonishment was reinforced by the instructions accompanying the adhesives packages distributed before the FDOI to post offices throughout the country (Figure 2).

Prescott’s population in 1948 was about 6,500, so finding 50 temps might have been a challenge. The Post Office Department, however, was very specific, “It is preferred that overtime be kept to a minimum and that temporary employees be used whenever possible.”

First Day Activities

Processing Requests

More than 50 special employees worked behind the scenes to process the requests for first-day covers. Requests ranged from individual collectors seeking one or two covers to dealers ordering as many as 10,000.

This crush of work on the local post office was processed systematically due to the supervision of three employees dispatched by the Post Office Department from Washington, D.C.: John Dunnington, Section Chief, Division of Stamps; Mrs. N.L. Butcher, administrative assistant; and Miss N. Pearl Bond, Supervisor, Philatelic Agency.

An article in the October 27, 1948, *Prescott Evening Courier* described the system for processing the first day covers. Letters containing covers to receive the First Day of Issue cancellation were opened and sorted by the amount of postage to be affixed to each

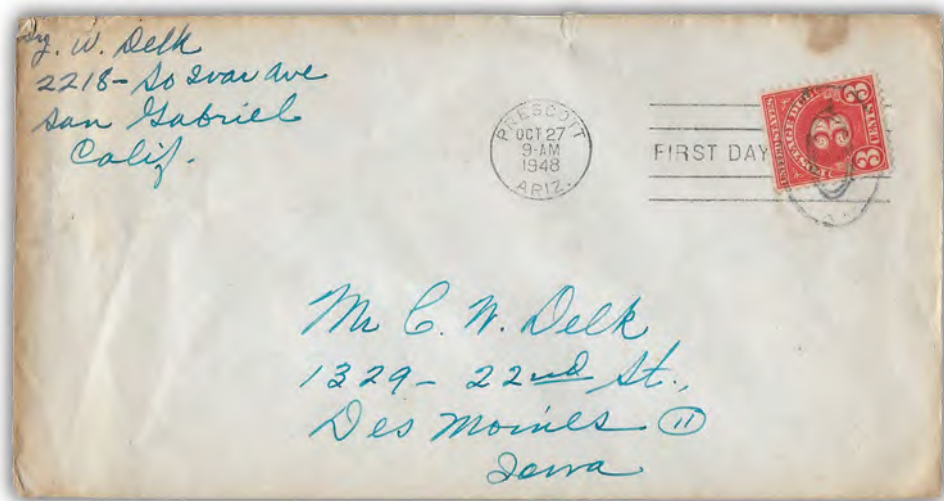


Figure 3. This cover received the FDOI cancellation but a stamps was never affixed to it.

cover. Requests were usually for a single stamp, block-of-four stamps, or a plate block.

These covers were then carried to the second floor of the federal building, where 38 workers seated at tables in the courtroom were busy affixing the stamps. Once the covers received the requested postage, they went back downstairs to be canceled by machines supplied with the special First Day of Issue postmark. The machines canceled

about 200 covers a minute. At least one cover (Figure 3) was canceled without having a stamp affixed to it, and the recipient had to pay the three cents postage due, too. From the canceling machines, the covers were sent to dispatchers, who sorted and bagged them according to their destination.

By the eve of the first day of issue for the Rough Rider stamp, 236,000 covers had been canceled. By the time the machines were turned off at the end of the day on October 27, according to statistics compiled by the Post Office Department, 399,198 covers received the special Prescott, AZ, cancellation. Stamps sold in conjunction with the First Day Of Issue numbered 790,030.

Over The Counter Sales

First day sales began early on the 27th when a line started to form at the Prescott Post Office at 7 a.m. Albert W. Evens, a retired Prescott mail carrier, was the first in line to purchase the new Rough Rider stamp. He bought a sheet of the three-cent stamps costing him \$1.50. Today, a sheet of 50 stamps paying the first class rate of 66 cents would cost \$33. Postmaster Gardner estimated that local patrons on the 27th spent \$2,700 for these stamps. The total sales for the First Day was \$23,000.90.

FIRST DAY CEREMONY

Two ceremonies for the Rough Riders commemorative were held. On October 25th, two days prior to its release, assemblies at the junior and senior high schools paid tribute to the Rough Riders and their commemorative stamp. Maurice O'Neill, Captain O'Neill's son, spoke to the assemblies, as did Prescott Rough Rider Harman Wynkoop. Leo Stephens, president of the Mile High Stamp Club, presided at the assemblies and predicted that the nation's 17 million stamp collectors would quickly buy this stamp.

As sponsor of the October 25th assembly, the Mile High Stamp Club paid for and wanted to present Mr. Wynkoop and Mr. O'Neill with a sheet of the new stamps and have a sheet sent to Bucky's widow, Mrs. Pauline O'Neill. (Yes, in 1948, any sheet of stamps given to dignitaries at a first day ceremony had to be paid for. The Post Office Department did not give away sheets of the new stamp.)

This did not happen on the 25th. In a letter from John Dunnington to R.E. Fellers, superintendent of the Division of Stamps, Dunnington wrote, "You probably received the postmaster's letter about the ceremonies planned. They have the idea that the albums should be presented on Monday the 25th. I told the postmaster that would not be possible. Unless I hear from you to the contrary, I shall hold to the policy that the stamps can not be released until the 27th."

The second ceremony was held in Postmaster Gardner's office on the 27th, the day the commemorative was issued. During the proceedings, three sheets of the Rough Riders stamps signed by the postmaster general were given to local dignitaries. Post Office Department Representative Dunnington presented the first sheet of the new stamps to O'Neill's son, Maurice. Prescott Rough Rider Harman Wynkoop and Mrs. Pauline O'Neill, Captain O'Neill's widow, each received a sheet, too. The ceremony was recorded and transmitted later by Station KOY in Phoenix.



Figure 4. Artmaster FDC franked with a plate block and canceled with a long-bar first day cancel.

FIRST DAY COVERS

The Fourth Assistant Postmaster General furnished the Prescott Post Office with canceling machines, special dies and several handstamps for the cancellation of all the FDCs. The hand cancel is referred to as the long-bar type (Figure 4). Machine cancels appear on the vast majority of the 399,198 covers canceled.

While it was reported that more than 100 cachets had been seen on the covers presented for canceling, collectors who have studied and recorded the cachets prepared for this stamp can account for about 50 different designs. Actually, 43 are listed in *Mellone's Specialized Cachet Catalog of First Day Covers of the 1940s*, 2nd edition. The designs fall into two broad categories. Some honor Teddy Roosevelt and the Rough Riders' feats



Figure 5. Artcraft FDC signed by Gail I Gardner, postmaster and J. W. Dunnington, POD representative is a nice example of an autographed FDC.

in Cuba, while many follow the lead of the Rough Rider stamp and feature Borglum's statue on Prescott's Courthouse Plaza.

Featuring a photo of Bucky O'Neill and a rendering of the Rough Riders' statue, Artcraft's design is one of the more common cachets for this issue. This Artcraft FDC (Figure 5) is signed by Gail I. Gardner, postmaster, and J. W. Dunnington, POD representative.

Let's look at some cacheted FDCs not included in Mellone's listing. The General Round-Up, Rough Riders of America sponsored a patriotic-looking cachet to honor Theodore Roosevelt, the original Rough Rider. The handsome design (Figure 6) was printed in red and black.

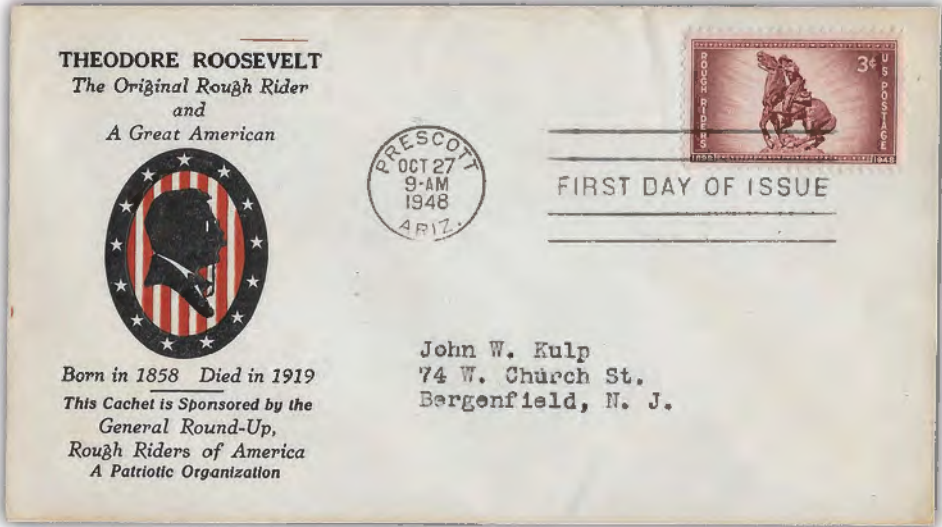


Figure 6. This Rough Riders of America cachet is seen on some FDCs for this issue.



Figure 7. Green and Low Paper Co., Inc. prepared a commercial cachet for this issue.

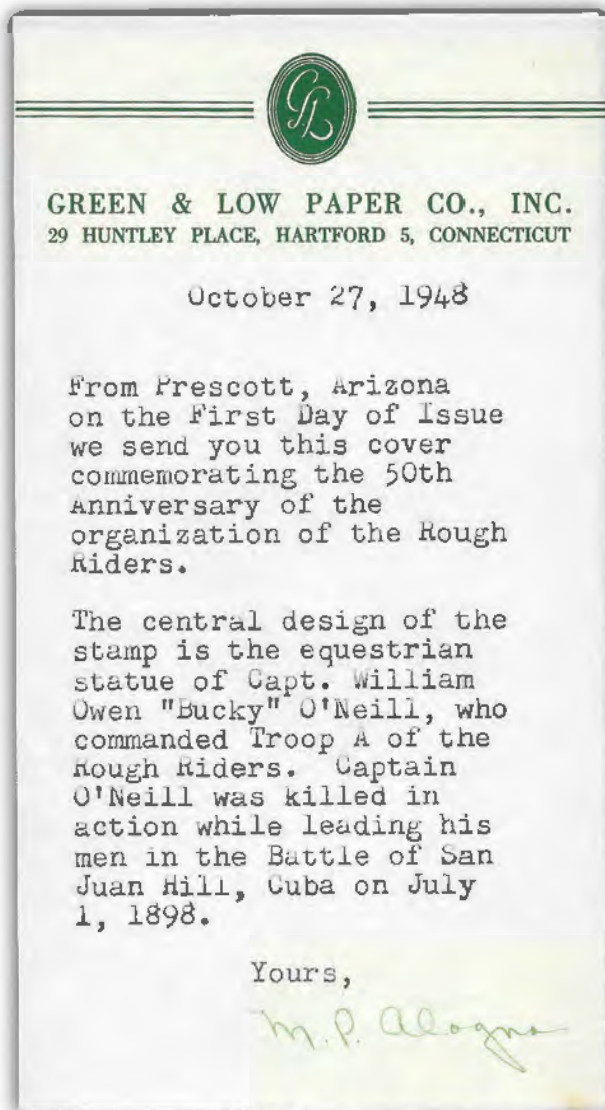


Figure 8. The insert from the Green and Low Paper Co., Inc. cachet shown in Figure 7.

11), while another features Borglum's statute (Figure 12) that was the model for the stamp.

Cachet #4, listed in Mellone as "Designer Unknown," is closer to being identified. At least we know that it was sponsored by a local Prescott entity. The October 15, 1948, *Yavapai County Messenger* reported, "Catchets suitable for mailing the stamps are on sale at the Prescott Pharmacy in the Elks building and also at The Messenger office. They carry a picture of the Bucky O'Neil monument and a brief history of its erection by the citizens of Arizona. The catchets[*] sell two for a nickel." (**This is how cachets was spelled in the article.*)

The Green & Low Paper Co, Inc. of Hartford, Connecticut, prepared a commercial cachet (Figure 7) with an insert (Figure 8) that talked about the new Rough Riders commemorative. The cachet and letterhead are printed in green.

Freedom Cachets features a headshot of Roosevelt with the simple text Teddy Roosevelt Rough Rider in a distinctive script. The same script was used on an unsigned cachet that includes a photo of Roosevelt and his troops. Could this be an unsigned Freedom Cachets? See the cachets in Figure 9.

At the time of the Spanish-American War, music was sold primarily as sheet music. The cover page of Charles Coleman's *The Charge of the Roosevelt Rough Riders* was reprinted as a cachet for the 1948 commemorative (Figure 10). The designer is unknown and not listed in Mellone.

Maximum cards were also prepared and received the FDOI cancel. One card is the reprint of Captain Bucky, O'Neill's photograph (Figure

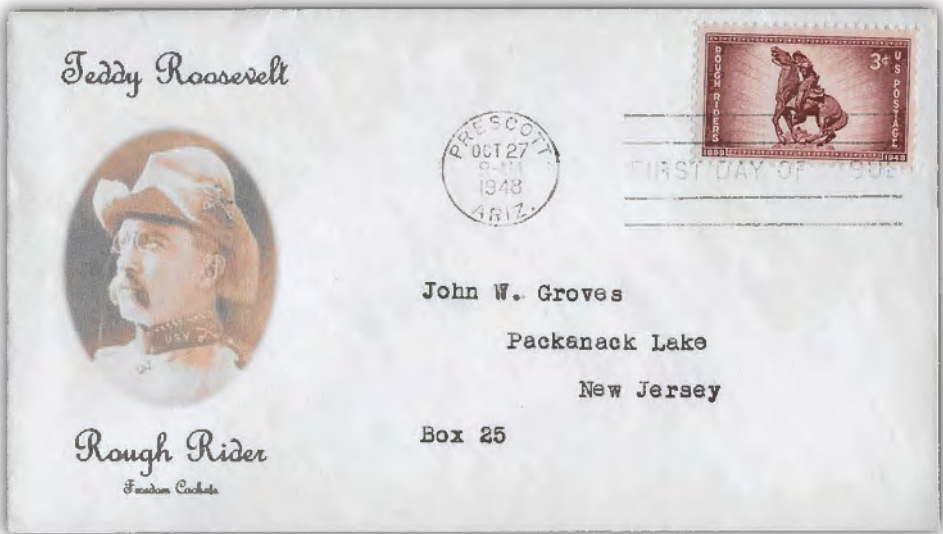


Figure 9. The cachet above is signed Freedom Cachet. Although the one below is not signed, similarities especially the unusual type font used for the two text raises the question whether these two FDCs are both Freedom cachets.

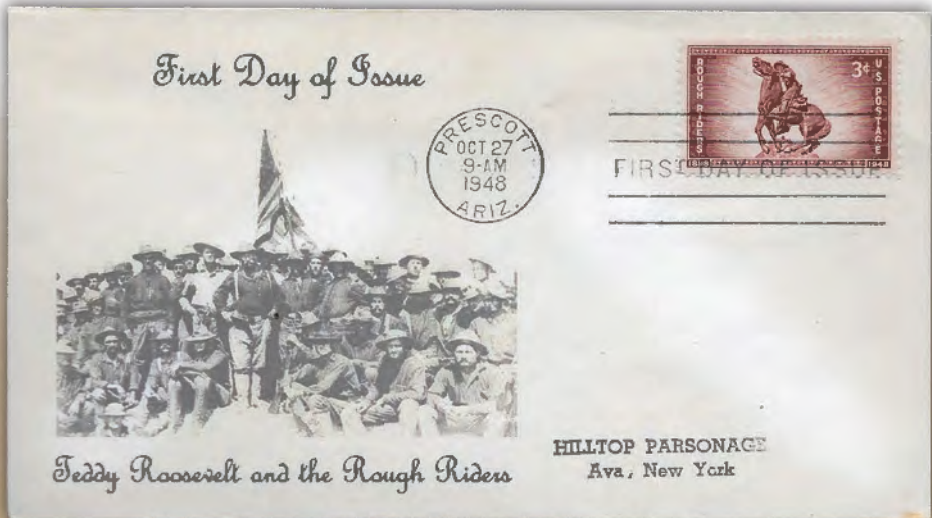




Figure 10. Unknown cachet with Rough Rider sheet music reproduced.



Figure 11. Maximum cards featuring Captain Bucky Neil. The designer is unknown.



Figure 12. Maximum cards featuring Borglum's statue. The designer is unknown.

The FDCs with this cachet that I have seen are addressed to people living in Prescott or their out-of-town relatives. One exception (Figure 13) is an unaddressed FDC with an insert stating, "This cover replaces yours ruined in process of cancelation."

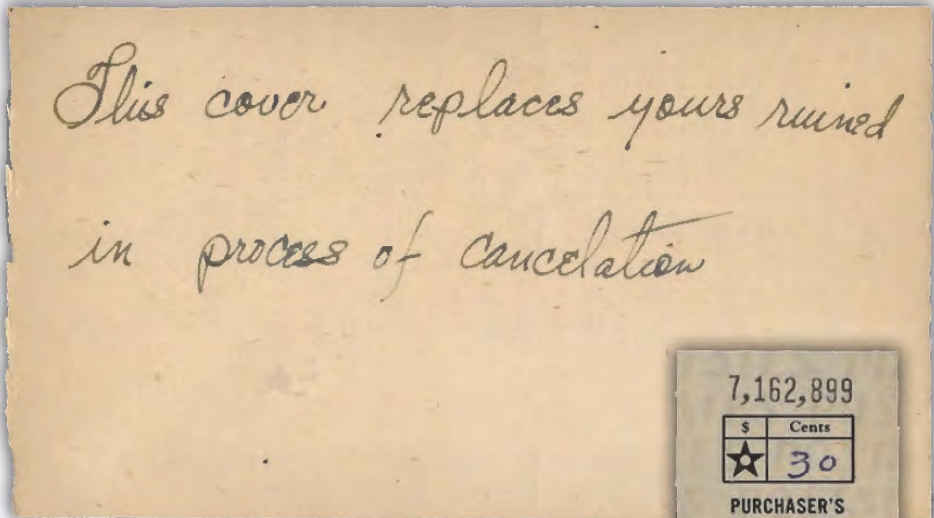


Figure 13. Local cachet produced in Prescott for the FDOI of the Rough Rider stamp.

Rough Rider Monument, Prescott, Ariz.





Figure 14. The Rough Riders commemorative was used on covers posted in Prescott well after it was removed from sale.

USAGE

A total of 53,875,000 Rough Riders stamps were delivered to the Post Office Department before they were removed from sale on April 13, 1949. This commemorative was popular in Prescott and used on mail after the issue was no longer available at post offices. One cover franked with the Rough Riders commemorative was posted in late 1949. While the stamp was used on a March 2, 1953 cover to marking the opening of Prescott's Miller Valley Rural Station.

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 Smithsonian National Postal Museum Library, 3rd Assistant Postmaster General Files, Folder 973.



Plate Number Report

compiled by **Kim D. Johnson**
 USSS #7335 | ✉westhome1@aol.com



▲ #???? (25¢) Bridges Coil
 ▲ Presorted rate
 P1111

▼ #5802 Life Magnified
 B1111 # # LL LR
 3r x 2c 1,2,3,4,5,6*





▲ #5803-07 Thinking of You

B111111111 UL UR LL LR
2r x 2c 1,2,3,4*

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- 17490 Helen Lampman, Des Moines, IA
- 17491 Joseph Kelley, Pittsburgh, PA
- 17492 Debbie Vilage, Rockaway, NJ
- 17493 Karl Edelmann, Ann Arbor, MI
- 17494 David Shrader, Latrobe, PA
- 17495 Daniel Weissmann, Baltimore, MD
- 17496 Claude Paquin, Peachtree City, GA
- 17497 Kent Sinson, Chicago, IL
- 17498 Mark Rose, North Canton, OH
- 17499 Rafael Blanco, Essex Junction, VT
- 17500 Kean Spencer, West Chester, PA
- 17501 William Youngerman,
Boca Raton, FL

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- 17482-17487

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- 17474-17481

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- 12848 James H. Kulwicki
- 13373 Gary B. Weiss

DECEASED

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- 15764 John J. Oliver

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July 31, 2023	1415
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New members	8
Reinstatements	2
Total	10
SUBTRACTIONS:	
Deceased	2
Total	2
NET CHANGE	8

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP

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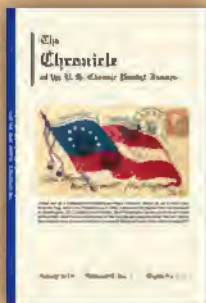


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