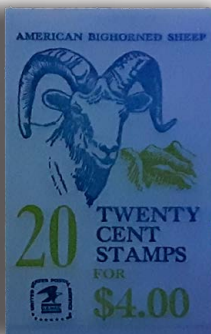
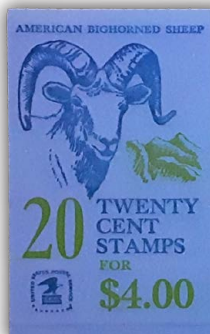




The United States SPECIALIST

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

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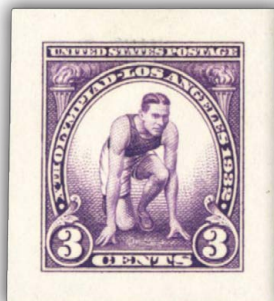
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— plus —

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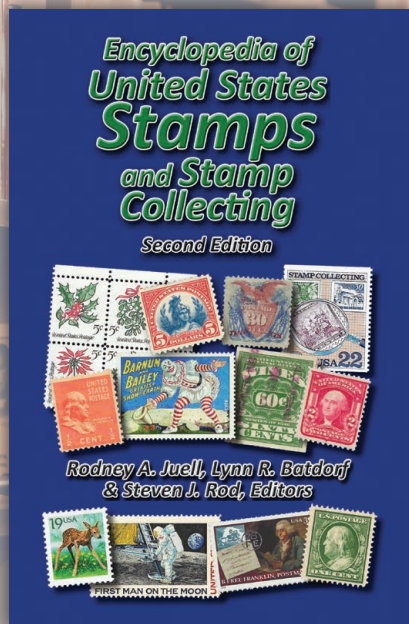
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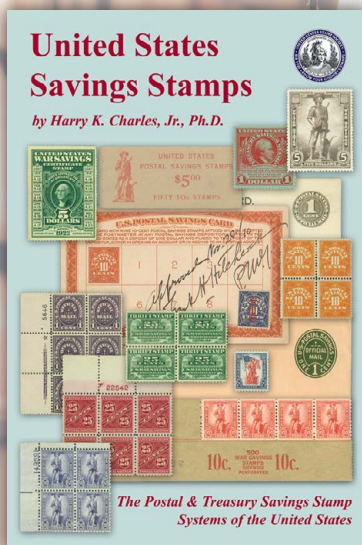
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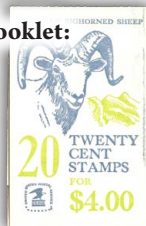
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Recent Winners of USSS Medals

United States Stamp Society medal winners that have been reported from recent shows:

Statue of Freedom Awards (WSP Shows)

Show	Winner	Exhibit
Philatelic Show (MA)	Anthony F. Dewey	<i>The U.S. Alphabet-Denominated Rate Change Series 1978-1998</i>
Westpex (CA)	William Snider	<i>The Beacon Airmail Stamp</i>
Pipex (OR)	John M. Hotchner	<i>20th Century U.S. Auxiliary Markings Documenting Delay of, or Inability to Deliver the Mail. The First 50 Years (1900-1950)</i>
Rocky Mountain Stamp Show (CO)	Gregory Shoults	<i>Washington & Franklin Coils: The Development of the Plate and Coil Waste Issues of 1908-1915</i>
Colopex (OH)	Gregory Shoults	<i>Washington & Franklin Coils: Flat Plate and Coil Waste Issues 1908-1915</i>
Okpex (OK)	Lester Lanphear	<i>U.S. Departmentals 1873-1884</i>

President’s Award (Local/Regional Shows)

Show	Winner	Exhibit
Springpex (VA)	Gannon Sugimura	<i>The Evolution of Hawaiian Circular Date Stamps</i>

Show Awards Chairs, please note: The USSS Gold Statue of Freedom Medal is sent automatically to all APS World Series of Philately shows. The USSS Silver President’s Award medal is available upon request to all local and regional shows.

For more information, to request an award or if you have won a USSS award and have not seen it listed in *Specialist*, please write to Denise Stotts, P.O. Box 690042, Houston, TX 77269-0042, or e-mail stottsjd@swbell.net. (Some shows fail to send in the follow up report.)



Letters to the Editor

Regarding the E18 Special Delivery Cover



E18 Cover that was the subject of John Hotchner's article in the July Specialist.

The question at the end of John Hotchner's introduction of the on-cover first-day-of-rate use of the E18 Special Delivery stamp intrigued me. [See the July 2024 *Specialist*, p. 296–97.] An online search found that an Arthur B. Jackson was the coauthor, along with Lawrence M. Merolla and Frank M. Crowther, of *Rhode Island Postal History: The Post Offices* (<https://www.librarything.com/work/27406672>; accessed July 4, 2024). So, it seems possible that a collector—and postal historian—may have had a hand in creating the cover.

David M. Frye
#16238

In response, John Hotchner notes that Arther B. Jackson was not a member of the American Philatelic Society. –Ed.

Correction

There were two errors in the quote references in the article “An Overview of the Great Americans Issue of 1989–1999” published on pages 244–248 of the June 2024 issue of the journal. The first quote in the article, on page 245 attributed to Michael Schreiber, was his, but the

date of the article in *Linn's Stamp News* was November 21, not November 24 as stated. The third quote in the article, on page 246, was attributed to Chad Snee of *Linn's Stamp News* who did write an article regarding the Great Americans for the December 16, 2002, edition, but the quote attributed to him is actually also from the Schreiber article of November 21, 1994. The author wishes to extend his apologies to Mr. Schreiber and Mr. Snee for the errors.

Send your letter to the editor via email to editor@usstamps.org. You may also mail your letter to The US Specialist, 9038 East 25th Dr., Denver CO 80238.



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The Great Americans

Great Americans Issue Part III— The Dorothea Dix Stamp

by Jay Stotts

USSS #10921 | ✉ stottsjd@swbell.net



Figure 1. USPS Publicity Photo for the Dorothea Dix stamp.

After the early morning fire of March 5, 1982, in the Bureau of Engraving and Printing's (BEP) Annex, enough damage was done to the BEP's four Cottrell presses to discourage further printing of new Great Americans stamps on those presses.

The next stamp planned in the series was a 1¢ value featuring Dorothea Dix, an advocate who acted on behalf of the mentally ill. Figure 1. shows a publicity photo released by the United States Postal Service (USPS) to announce the upcoming Dix stamp.

BEP documents indicate that four Dix plates were made for Cottrell press 801 and that 2,250 impressions were printed from plate number two on July 8, 1983, but collectors believe that these stamps were never issued.

The A Press

Production for new Great Americans designs moved to the Bureau's "A Press" after the switch from the Cottrell presses. The A Press was a combination gravure and intaglio press that was first specified and quoted in 1971. This was a press conceived to print stamps 24 hours per day (three shifts of eight hours), six days per week.

Specifications included those listed below:

- Four primary printing formats: 400-subject definitive sheets, 200-subject commemorative sheets, 360- and 400-subject booklet formats
- Capability for printing five gravure colors
- Capability for printing three intaglio colors
- Capability for overprinting phosphorescent (tagging) ink by dry offset process
- Capability for precanceling with a letterpress unit
- Inline perforator
- Capability for cutting into sheets and stacking them into units of 100

The BEP took delivery of the press, which was built by Koenig and Bauer, a German Company, in 1973. The Bureau struggled to work out the various bugs in the unit. The first stamp printed on the press was one of the 13¢ Christmas issues for 1976 (Scott 1703) which used only the gravure portion of the press. The first stamp printed utilizing both the gravure and intaglio stations of the press was the 1982 commemorative for the Touro Synagogue (Scott 2017). The A Press is shown in Figure 2.

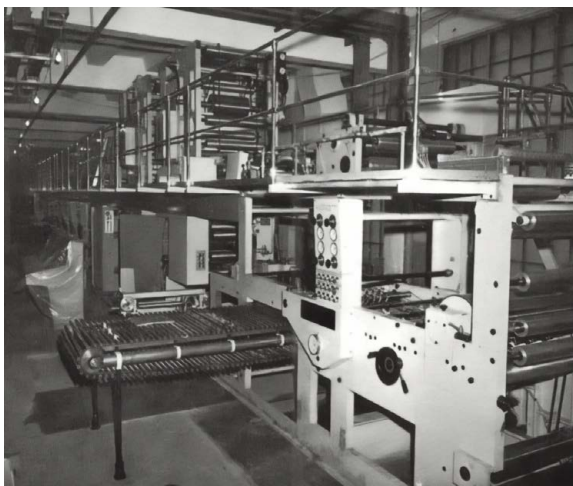


Figure 2. The BEP's A Press



Figure 3. The Dix stamp.

Dorothea Dix stamps went to press on the A Press on August 3, 1983. They were printed on the intaglio station, which used a sleeve for printing rather than a pair of curved plates like the Cottrell presses. The sleeve had a steel core covered with an electro-formed copper jacket. The stamp design was transferred onto the jacket and then the cylinder was electroplated with chrome to provide wear and corrosion resistance. Figure 3 illustrates a block of Dix stamps. Specifications indicate that the sleeve was 39.64 inches in circumference, but "normal" stamp sheets were 20.42 inches high (according to the BEP), so one revolution of the printing drum was going to print more than one sheet of 400-subjects, but less

than two sheets. What the Bureau decided to do was wrap 46 stamp images around the sleeve with no accounting for top or bottom margins. For ordinary stamps such as the Great Americans, the sleeve would be 20 stamps wide and there would be margins on both the left and right side selvage, but there would be no margins, selvage or markings on the top or bottom of the panes of stamps after they were cut from the printed web.

The Printing Sleeve and Marginal Markings



Figure 4. ZIP Code marginal marking.

Somewhat understanding the value to collectors of plate numbers, the ZIP Code marking and the copyright marking, the BEP's goal was to make sure all three markings fell on each post office pane of 100 stamps as side margin markings. They decided to add each of the three markings on the sleeve so that they would print on both the left and right selvage frequently enough that every pane of 100 stamps would have at least one full set of the three markings in the selvage.

Their solution was to add each of the three markings to each side of the sleeve six times. Each marking would be adjacent to a stamp design as shown in Figure 4.

Spacing to place these marks around the 46 positions also became irregular. Figure 5. shows a schematic of how the six plate numbers were spread over the 46 stamp positions. This schematic is patterned after one originally provided by G. William Patten and illustrated as Figure 5. in an article titled "Web 8-Color Gravure/Intaglio Press" by Russell E. Tyler of the BEP in *The United States Specialist*, pages 149–156 of the April, 1982 issue.

In the schematic, we have assigned stamp position "6" of the 46 stamp images as the first location where a plate number occurs in the margin. Since the stamp images around the sleeve are continuous and there are no horizontal margins, it is completely arbitrary which number position we picked. The designs are continuous around the circumference, so there is no way to designate a definitive starting or stopping point.

Once we have designated stamp "6" as an arbitrary point for a plate number, then we

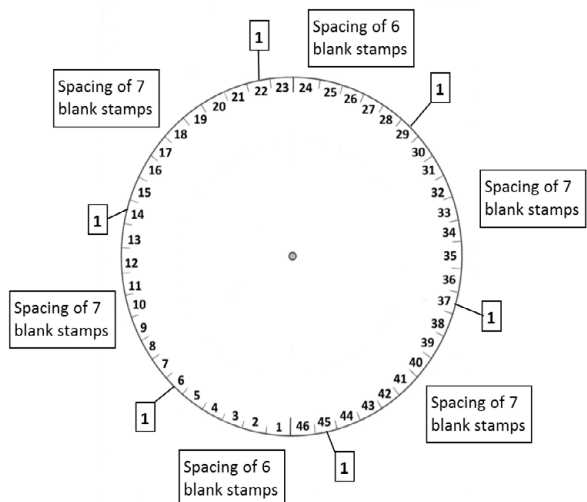


Figure 5. Schematic showing the relative location of the six plate number markings.

can show the spacing sequence that the BEP used for placing the rest of the markings. Figure 6. Shows the relative locations for ZIP Code markings and Figure 7 shows the relative locations for copyright markings.

The inline cut-off sheeter, for separating the web's roll into sheets, needed electric eye markings for guidance and these were set further out than the other markings so the electric eye would not be triggered by the previously mentioned three marking types. Collectors have referred to these markings as a "Crow's Foot" because of their resemblance to the namesake. They have also been referred to as Hurletron marks. They were added twice around the circumference of the sleeve and were only in the left margin. A portion of the design was cut off during the trimming operation. Figure 8. shows the two locations of the Crow's Foot and they were adjacent to one of the copyright markings as shown in Figure 9.

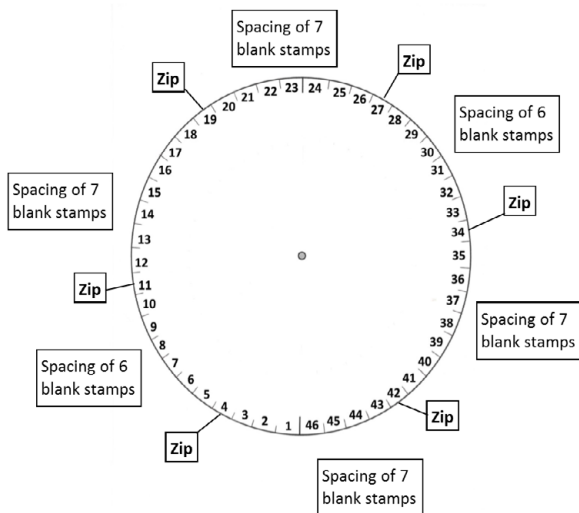


Figure 6. Schematic showing the relative location of the six ZIP Code markings.

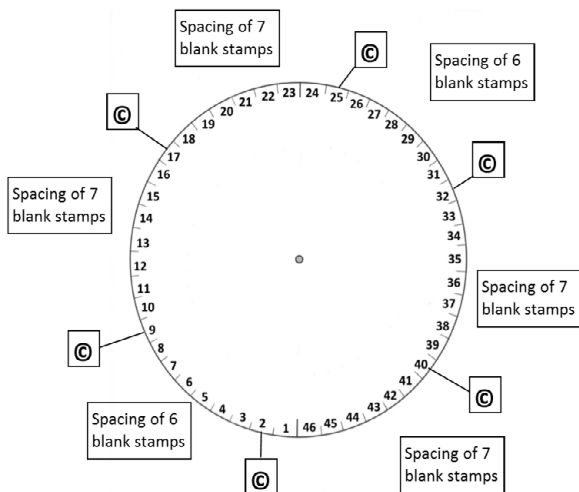


Figure 7. Schematic showing the relative location of the six copyright markings.

Floating Plate Blocks

The printing spacing pattern coupled with the sheeting operation produced 23 marginal marking combinations before the entire pattern starts to repeat. Two of the combinations are repeated, so there are 21 collectible combinations of a marginal block of 20. Figure 10 illustrates a schematic that shows the first 12 panes of stamps printed from our conceptual sleeve where we select stamp position "6" as our first plate number position. Start at the upper left corner of the schematic and read from left to right to see where the markings fall on the first three panes, then look at the second row and, reading from left to right, see where the markings fall on panes four, five and six. The next two rows continue the sequence. The dark vertical bars indicate where one revolution of the

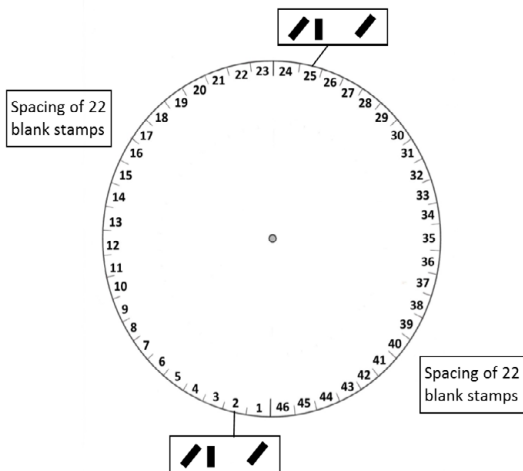


Figure 8. Schematic showing the relative location of the two Crow's Foot electric eye markings.



Figure 9. Crow's Foot and copyright markings.

sleeve has completed 46 images and then the pattern repeats. Note that the printing pattern repeats after every 46 stamp images are printed, but the cutting operation repeats after every ten stamp images have passed.

For collectors, this pattern meant that when they purchased a pane of 100 stamps at the post office, the plate number could fall anywhere from adjacent to the top row of stamps to adjacent to the bottom row of stamps. Sometimes the plate number could

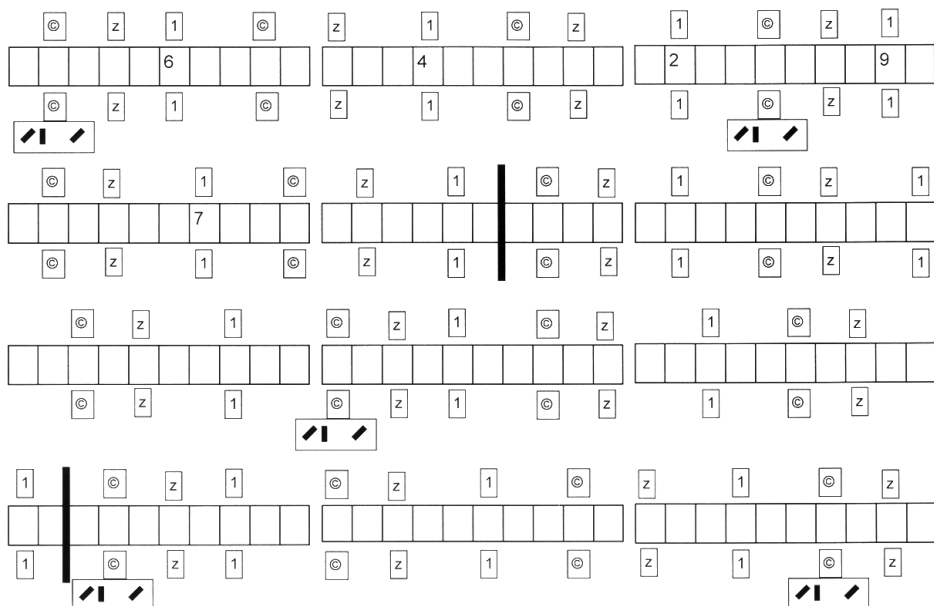


Figure 10. Schematic showing the first 12 panes of stamps produced using the marking locations designated in the text.



Figure 11. Several plate blocks overlaid to show the impact of the floating marginal markings.

appear twice on the pane, once near the top and once near the bottom. And this was true of the ZIP Code and copyright markings as well. These “plate blocks” became known as floating plate blocks because the position of the plate number floated anywhere from the top to the bottom of the pane of stamps. Collectors were confused, not sure what should constitute a plate block, so, for the most part, saved the entire edge of the pane and two stamps wide, creating floating plate blocks of 20.

Figure 11. shows several random strips of 20 of the Dix stamps overlaid on each other to show the impact of the floating markings. Today, the Scott *Specialized Catalogue* lists both plate blocks of 20 and plate blocks of 6.

Tagging

Tagging on the A Press was applied by a tagging mat at a dedicated printing station. By this time, the Bureau believed that the taggant was abrasive to the male perforating pins and the pins' life could be extended if the area where the stamps were perforated was free of taggant.

Instead of overall tagging, a block of taggant, measuring approximately 16 x 19 millimeters was applied to the center of each stamp by a rubber roller. A representative illustration is shown in Figure 12. Over time, the edges of the rubber block that printed the taggant deteriorated and crumbled away, creating irregular blobs of tagging on each stamp. These irregular shapes were smaller than the original 16 x 19 mm block, so the tagging areas, during the life of a printing mat, produced a smaller pattern for the canceling machine to find. Later the size of the block was enlarged, so the 16 x 19 mm block is referred to as a "small block tag."



Figure 12. Illustration of 16 x 19 mm block tagging.

Perforating

The A Press had an integral perforator, which is shown in Figure 13. In the photo, the female perforator die is shown in the foreground and the male pin cylinder is shown behind it. The specified speed of the unit was 500 feet per minute.

This machine produced what are called harrow perforations because the single male cylinder had pins for making both the horizontal and vertical perforations as it rotated. The harrow pattern produced what are called "bullseye" corner perforations because the vertical and horizontal perforations meet perfectly at each corner as shown in Figure 14. Perforations extended one hole into the selvage, maintaining strong margins and

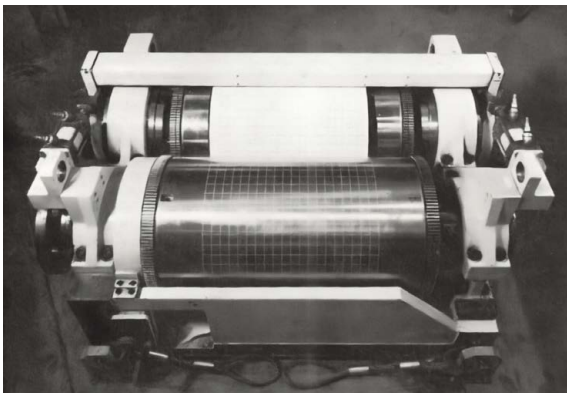


Figure 13. A Press integral perforator.



Figure 14. Bullseye perforations produced by the A Press integral perforator.

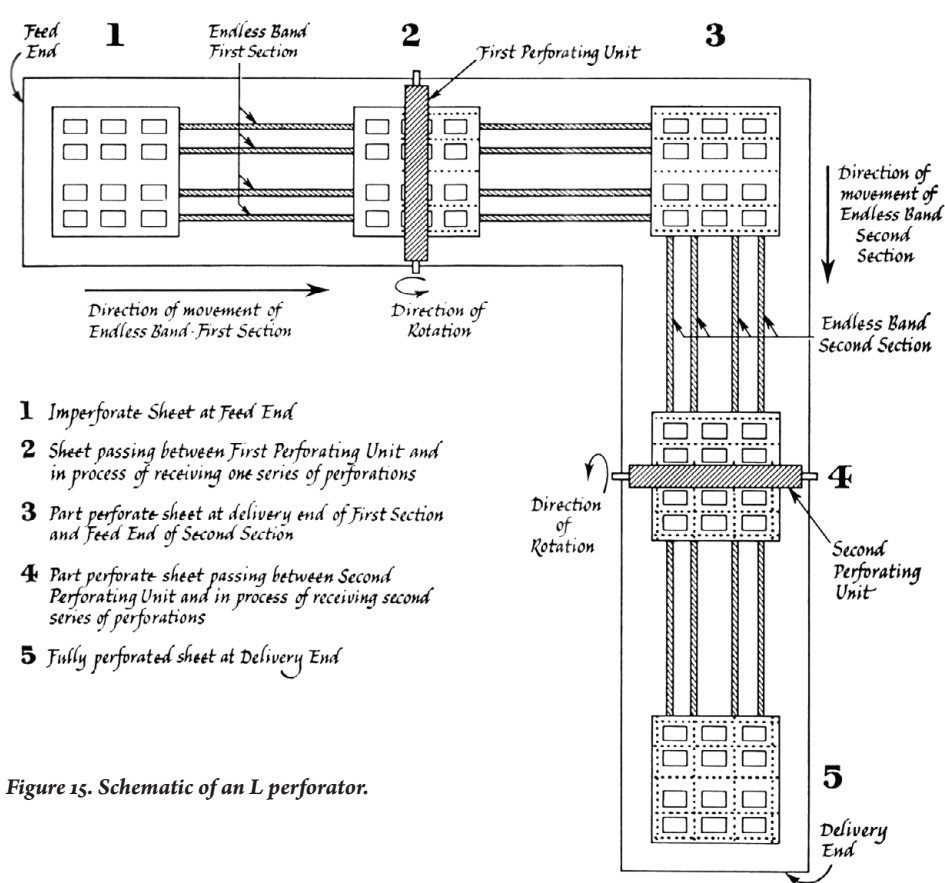


Figure 15. Schematic of an L perforator.



Figure 16. The Bureau's L perforator.



Figure 17. Perforations produced by the L perforator.

Since this perforator executed vertical and horizontal perforations in separate operations, the corner perforations don't match perfectly and the horizontal perforations cross the selvage as shown in Figure 17. The gauge for this machine is 10.9 x 10.9.

Although these two Dix stamps can be differentiated by the perforation characteristics (bullseye versus mis-matched corners and gauge 11.2 versus 10.9), the Scott *Specialized Catalogue* lists the former as number 1844 and the latter as a minor variety, 1844c. Two additional perforating varieties exist. Scott 1844a is an imperforate pair and is shown in Figure 18. Scott 1844b is a vertical pair, imperforate between, with a natural straight edge at the bottom.



Figure 18. Scott 1844a, imperforate pair.



Figure 19. Low horizontal cut.



Figure 20. High horizontal cut.

minimizing the chances of stamp separation during the production process. The perforator produced a gauge of 11.2 x 11.2.

The integral harrow perforator broke down during the production of the Dix stamp in December, 1983. Perforating was shifted to the off-line "L" perforator after the malfunction. The name of the perforator reflects the shape of the footprint of the machine. The web of printed stamps had to be cut into sheets of 400 prior to perforating on the L perforator. A schematic of how the "L" perforator works is shown in Figure 15. The schematic is taken from *Fundamentals of Philately* by L.N. Williams, revised 1990 edition, published by the American Philatelic Society. Figure 16 shows the BEP's "L" perforator. This photo is taken from *The Giori Press* by George W. Brett, published in 1961 by the BIA.



Figure 21. Correct horizontal cut splitting the perforations at bottom.

The stamps were cut into panes of 100 after the stamps were perforated. Since there were no top, side or bottom sheet margins provided between panes of 100 stamps, the cutting edges sometimes produced straight edges or ragged sheet edges when the cut edges just missed the perforations at the top or bottom. Ideally, the cut would have been right through the center of the row of perforations. Figures 19 through 21 show bottom edges of panes of stamps that could typically be produced.

The Bureau later created a second printing sleeve for the Dix stamp (plate or sleeve number two), knowing that these stamps would be perforated on the L perforator. To better accommodate the perforator, the Bureau added electric eye markings all along the right side in the margin of the sleeve similar to those used on the Cottrell plates. Figure 22 shows a plate strip of 20 printed from sleeve 2 that shows the electric eye markings.

The Dix stamp was released on September 23, 1983, and produced two collectible perforation varieties during 1983. It would appear later in yet another collectible version as we'll see in the next part of this series.



Figure 22. Plate strip from sleeve two showing electric eye marks added to accommodate the L perforator.



From The Booklets and Booklet Pages Committee

The Monthly Random Booklet: BK142

by Dieter R. Kohler, Ph.D.

USSS # 12538



Figure 1. Light cover and Dark cover varieties of BK142, fronts and backs.

Introduction

Over 40 years ago, John Gulka introduced the readers of this journal to the 20¢ Bighorn Sheep booklets of 1981.¹ As with the other booklets issued during that time period, BK142 features many of the same varieties that have been described in previous articles like the one on the Wildlife booklet BK137.⁴

At the time, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP) was constantly experimenting with improving the printing procedures, the Bighorn sheep booklet shows some new, unique features (some purely as test features) not seen before. Over time, articles about BK142 appeared in various journals, usually dealing with one particular aspect the author was interested in. This article summarizes all the aspects of this rather complex booklet issue, as the Bighorn sheep booklet has the most collectible varieties of all booklets ever issued—likely from any country that has ever issued stamps in booklet form. It is up to the collector on where to draw the line of what can be considered collectible.

Getting Through the Grades,³ One At a Time

The Bighorn sheep booklet BK142 was produced shortly after the Wildlife booklet BK137 was issued.⁴ It had the same plate layout, 12 panes wide by 4 panes high with plate numbers on the tabs of the two middle rows only. One major change was introduced, though. Due to the problems with the large plate numbers that tended to misfire the perforator mechanism, the size of the plate number digits was significantly reduced.

Only one cover layout was used but with two sets of color hues. The differences are particularly visible in the olive color shade which is a light yellow shade on the first cover (“Light cover”) while the second cover has a dark olive shade (“Dark cover”). The blue (as per Scott catalog assignment) color is all over the place on the Light cover. It can range from light gray to dark bluish gray (almost like on the Dark cover), while it is mostly dark bluish gray on the Dark cover. The difference is most noticeable on the back cover. The light yellow color has considerable spread in its intensity and hue.

Plate number	Light cover	Dark cover
One of the 26 plate numbers	□	□

Table 1. Grade 1 level of collecting BK142.

Table 1 gives us the first look at the minimum collectible varieties. Disregarding the different plate numbers, just two booklets fulfill grade 1 collecting targets.

The whole Bighorn issue has some contradictory data as far as printing quantities are concerned which has not been resolved to this day. Table 2 shows the technical data from the BEP files for all plates used. From the plate impression data, we can roughly estimate the scarcity of each plate number (two plates were used together on a cylinder, except the final plates 34 and 35 which used a different press). Plate 35 is excluded in all the following data. While the BEP records show a sizable number of sheets were printed (comparable to plates 16 and 17), no plate number 35 booklet pane has ever been seen so the entire print run must have been destroyed.

For most of the time when the booklet was on sale, roughly equal batches of booklets were reordered, slowing down production numbers as time went on. Hence plates 20 to 29 (excluding 24 which was paired with two plates) are much scarcer than the other plates. A final large batch was made with plate 34 to fulfill the expected remaining demand. Plate 35 printings apparently way overshot the expected demand (it is not known if booklets were made at all from the web rolls). As usual, as the BEP did not record spoilage, impression data may not directly translate into absolute numbers of panes and booklets shipped.

The glaring outlier is the data for plates 9 and 10. Although the plates were paired on the press, BEP records show that plate 10 had almost eight times more impressions than plate 9. In reality, plate number 9 booklets are as plentiful as plate number 10 booklets, so the data for plate 9 is assumed to be a mistake in the BEP books and values reported in Table 2 assume equal numbers for plates 9 and 10.

Plates	Certified	On Press	Impressions*	Percentage (each)
1 and 2	Nov 13, 1981	Nov 29, 1981	811,308	3.9
3 and 4	Nov 16, 1981	Nov 24, 1981	652,192	3.1
5 and 6	Jan 26, 1982	Jan 27,1982	872,166	4.2
9	Mar 8, 1982	Mar 26, 1982	338,250 (?)	12.4
10	Mar 8, 1982	Mar 26, 1982	2,583,713	12.4
11 and 12	Mar 25, 1982	Mar 29, 1982	791,093	3.8
14 and 15	Jun 15, 1982	Jun 18, 1982	758,802	3.7
16	Sep 1, 1982	Sep 10, 1982	460,100	2.2
17	Sep 1, 1982	Sep 10, 1982	587,600	2.8
18 and 19	Oct 12, 1982	Nov 8, 1982	817,700	3.9
21	Jan 31, 1983	Jan 31, 1983	190,050	0.9
24	Jan 31, 1983	Jan 31, 1983	571,550	2.8
20	Feb 26, 1983	Feb 28, 1983	381,500	1.8
22 and 23	Mar 4, 1983	Mar 4, 1983	271,750	1.3
25 and 26	Mar 8, 1983	Mar 15, 1983	126,000	0.6
28 and 29	Mar 21, 1983	Mar 25, 1983	140,350	0.7
34	Apr 15, 1983	Apr 19, 1983	2,923,500	14.1
35	July 8, 1983	Oct 8, 1983	504,500	—

Table 2. Recorded data in the BEP files for plate numbers 1-35.

* Numbers for paired plates usually vary by 1-2 impressions, the lower number is used.

Covers and Pane Papers Seen Under UV light

Soon after the booklets were issued, collectors noticed there is a difference in the cover cardboard stock. Many covers do not react to long wave uv light, while some show a bluish-white glow. The same was found when looking at the panes inside the booklets. Figure 2 shows a comparison of the two cover and pane brightnesses.



Figure 2. At left: High-Bright and Dead cover stock under 365nm uv light. At right: Bright and dead pane paper stock.

Paper brightness can vary from no reaction to a bright bluish-white glow under long wave UV light. This variance can likely be found within all plate numbers (no census has ever been done). This gives us Table 3, so every plate number can already have eight collectible varieties:

Plate	Dead cover stock		Hi-Bright cover stock	
	Light cover	Dark cover	Light cover	Dark cover
Any plate number, Dead paper	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Any plate number, Hi-Bright paper	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Table 3. Grade 2 level of collecting BK142.

The next collecting grade introduces us to joint lines. Booklet pane collectors know that when two plates are joined together on the printing cylinder, a small gap exists between the plates at either joint. These gaps can fill with ink during the printing process and can deposit a line on booklet panes along either edge, called a “Joint Line.” Depending on the size of the gap and ink spill, the lines can be very prominent or barely visible. The same is true for the covers. Usually the cutting knife missed the line so the line ends up on a pane or cover along one of its edges.

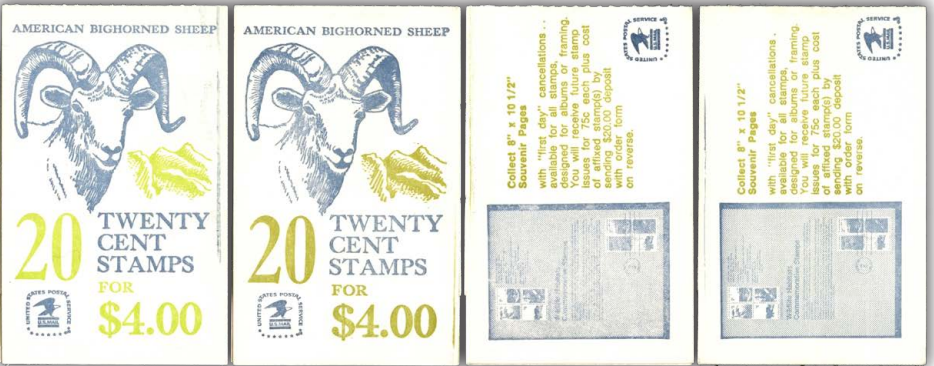


Figure 3. Partial cover joint lines at right of two front covers and at left of two back covers.

Since we have two colors, we can have a multitude of joint lines on the covers. These gray/blue or olive/brown joint lines can appear at either edge of the cover, on the front side, back side or on both sides, but often are only partially visible along the edges. Cover joint lines are uncommon on this issue as there actually is very little ink used for the covers so there wasn't much ink left to wipe into the plate gaps to start with.

Figure 3 shows a series of partial joint lines (JL), from left to right: A partial blue JL center right, a partial yellow JL at bottom right, a partial blue and yellow JL at center left and a partial yellow JL at top left. Panes inside booklets can also contain (full) joint

lines, except panes from plate 34 which were printed on a different press that did not create joint lines.

Reverse Order Booklets

Very recently, several reverse assembly booklets from the Wildlife BK137 issue⁴ have been reported: one from plate five and several from plate six. It was previously thought that no reverse assembly Wildlife booklets were made. For some of the BK142 plates, some panes were assembled in reverse order into the booklets, starting with plates 9 and 10. This means that in the booklet, the plate number is located on the bottom pane and the tab of the top pane does not show the number. As was described in the article on BK131,⁵ the pane collating mechanism in the Goebel booklet forming machine required to toggle a switch when the other half of the web strip (also containing two panes but with the plate number on the other row) was fed into the machine. This seems to have been overlooked for some plate numbers, but this oversight was usually discovered and corrected at an early printing stage.

Except for plates 14 and 15, reverse order booklets are scarce and some numbers have not been reported. Due to the extremely low number of reverse order booklets found by collectors, we must conclude that these booklets are flukes. Currently known are reverse assembled booklets with plates 9, 10, 14–20, 22–26 and 34. Given the long time that has passed since the booklet was issued, unreported numbers likely don't exist.

Panels may or may not contain brightener in the paper	Dead cover stock				Hi-Bright cover stock			
	Plain cover		Cover Joint line		Plain cover		Cover Joint line	
	Light	Dark	Light	Dark	Light	Dark	Light	Dark
Plate number on top pane, no joint lines	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Plate number except 34, joint lines at left or right	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Plate number on bottom pane, no joint lines	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Plate number on bottom pane, joint lines at left or right	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Table 4. Grade 3 level of collecting BK142.

What can be deduced is that something must have happened in the production process between the press runs of plates 5 and 6 and the following press runs with plates 9 and 10 onward (plates 7 and 8 were not used). Not only reverse assembly booklets started to appear, but also the number of surviving pane freaks almost exploded in numbers. Many

miscut, misperforated up to fully imperforate between panes are known in collector's hands. This might indicate that inexperienced pressmen took over booklet production on the Goebel printing machine after the print runs with plates five and six ended.

Tagging on Panes

With the exception of plate 34, all panes in BK142 are overall tagged, meaning the panes are entirely covered with taggant. Any wandering of the tagging mats did not create any freaks or errors. What did create minor varieties was the overextended use of the tagging mats, and the use of two different taggant amounts that shows up as panes either glowing very strongly or glowing rather weakly.

In Figure 4, four different tagging varieties are shown. At top left, a heavily tagged pane shows a grainy pattern under UVC light, while at top right, the glow is weaker but appears more uniform, likely due to less taggant used. At bottom left is a block tagged

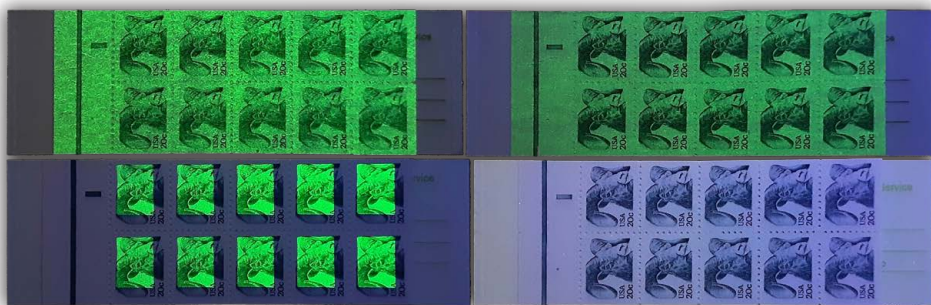


Figure 4. Tagging varieties under short wave UV light. At top: Speckled and smooth tagging. At bottom left: block tagging, at bottom right: Untagged plate six pane.

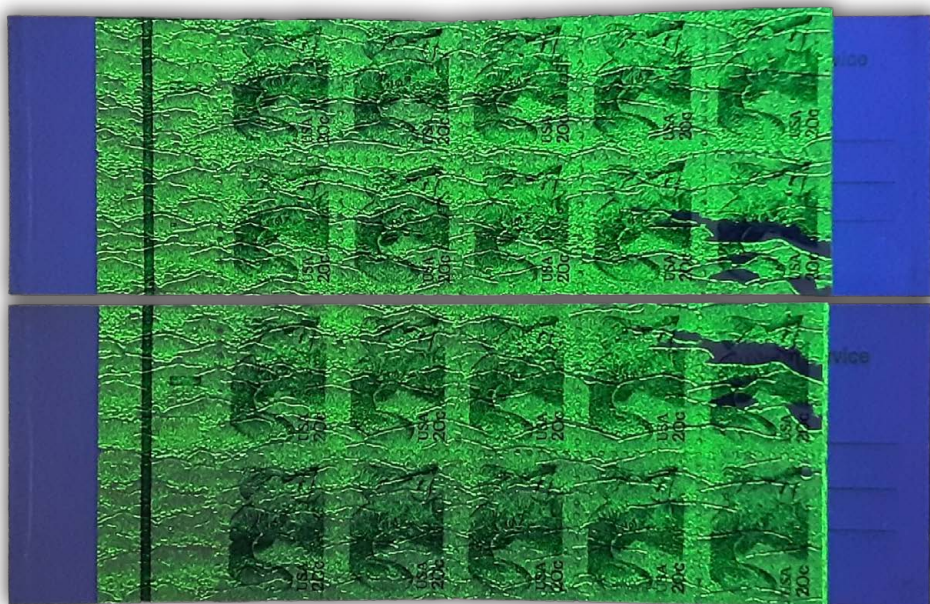


Figure 5. The same massive tagging crack on plate nine and ten booklet panes

pane with plate 34 (slightly shifted in top right direction), and finally a completely untagged pane as seen under UVc light. There is a small bluish glow visible, as the stamp paper contains a small amount of brightener. With short wave UV light, the brightener would usually be completely hidden under the green taggant glow.

One advantage of overall tagging is the fact that the tagging mats or cylinders do not have to be synchronized with the stamp designs on the two plates. They simply cover the whole web, unlike with block tagging where small blocks of tagging rectangles have to match a part or the entire stamp vignette while the stamp web passes under the tagging mats.

Figure 5 shows an identical massive tagging mat crack within two different booklets (plate 9 top, plate 10 bottom). This proves that even heavily degraded tagging mats were (re-)used to the last moment. The massive crack also moved an entire stamp column between the different panes (that were paired on the same press) which also proves that tagging mats for overall tagging did not need synchronization with the printing plates.

Now for the “flyspeck” booklet specialist on grade level 4, things get a little more intriguing. Starting with plates 16 and 17, experimental electric eye markings on both the long horizontal line (CRL, Cross Register Line) and the short vertical bar (LRM, Length Register Mark over the top right stamp) were introduced. The bars were re-engraved to produce a combination of one third solid bar and two thirds lighter engraving. This was done in an attempt to reduce the misregistration of the perforator. However, the results from the production of plates 16 and 17 were inconclusive. The subsequent plates were again uniformly engraved. However, plates 28 and 29 again show the experimental markings.

As usual, the printing plates contained fine layout lines that helped the siderographer to place stamp designs and plate markings at the right locations. For the BK142 issue and identical to the BK137 issue, there is a central horizontal layout line, and each booklet pane has two layout lines that help to correctly position the LRM and the plate number. These fine lines were usually removed by the plate finishers so they do not show up during the printing process. Occasionally not all these fine lines were completely removed (particularly the horizontal layout line through the middle of the plate) and can show up on panes as fine lines since ink could have been wiped into the fine grooves.



Figure 6 Re-engraved LRM and CRL on plates 16 and 17.

The Freak Show

BK142 is known to harbor a large number of freak cutting and perforation mishaps, mostly with plates 9 and 10.



Figure 7. Typical misperforations and miscuts in BK142.

In Figure 7, we see from left to right:

A pane miscut by one column. The LRM is over the wrong stamp, and the pane is also misperforated to the left (!). (item pictured from eBay).

A pane miscut by half a column, correctly perforated. The LRM is in the center of the tab. The plate number 19 is split in half at the edges of the tab.

A pane misperforated to the extreme left, but the perforations touch the stamp design.

A pane misperforated to the right by about 55%.

A pane misperforated to the extreme right, the perforations are just barely touching the stamp design.

A pane (without tab) miscut vertically approximately half a stamp row, showing the CRL of the next pane at the bottom.

The vertical perforation on misperforated panes is known to be all over the place, from the pane edges to almost the correct middle position.

In the strictest definition, only when the perforation column does not touch the stamp design then a pane would be considered a true imperforate between pane. However, both extremely misperforated panes above are usually considered imperforate between panes and are sold as such.

Where Do you Draw the Line?

The final table 5 gives an idea of just how many collectible varieties exist (without counting errors and freaks).

Obviously no one is going to ever have a complete collection of all these varieties or is even trying to. Even booklet specialists are happy to get a booklet for every plate number and an assortment of varieties as an additional bonus. Even getting all the booklets with bottom plate numbers is extremely challenging.

Description	Number of varieties
Plain panes	1
Joint line on panes left or right, with or without EEye mark	4
Dead or Hi-Bright paper	*2
Total pane varieties	10
Plain booklet cover	1
Joint lines on cover, left or right, yellow, blue or both	6
Dead or Hi-Bright cover stock, light or dark cover	*4
Total cover varieties	28
Total varieties for a single plate number	10*28 = 280
25 plates in total + plate 34 (29 varieties)	25*280 + 29 = 7,029

Table 5. Variety count (not counting plate numbers on bottom panes or efos).

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- 1. John Gulka, The 18c Wildlife and 20c Bighorn Sheep Booklets, *The United States Specialist*, Vol 53 No 5, May 1982.
- 2. John Gulka, Booklet Pane Production Switches to “B” Press, *The United States Specialist*, Vol 54 No 9, September 1983.
- 3. For the grades, see the introduction in Dieter R. Kohler, The Monthly Random Booklet, *The United States Specialist*, Vol 93 No 10, Oct. 2022.
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*Vintage Photo of the Month*

Mail at the White House

by **Rodney A. Juell**

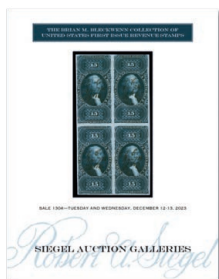
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This month's photo, circa 1924, shows a postman picking up mail from the West Wing of the White House. Shown nearby is a cover sent from the White House by Major Ora Mathias Baldinger, an aide both to President Harding (who had died in August, 1923) and his wife Florence. Baldinger assisted Mrs. Harding in burning a great many of the president's personal papers. Baldinger also served as an aide to the new president (Coolidge) and his wife, who Baldinger called "a peach" in the letter enclosed in this cover. Because the letter is personal in nature and not official, Baldinger franked it with a Harding memorial stamp.

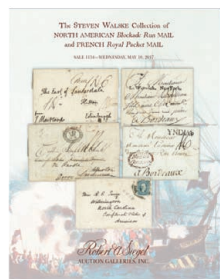
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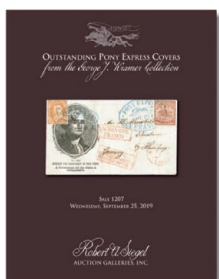
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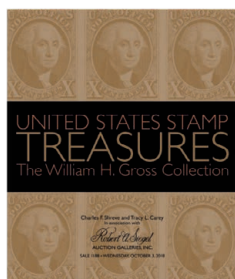
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FDR Era Stamps

FDR and Stamps of the 1932 Olympic Summer Games

by **Paul M. Holland**

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Note: The period from June through August 1932, when stamps for the 1932 summer Olympics were released and the games were held in Los Angeles, also set the stage for one of the most important presidential elections in American history.

The original Olympic Games were held in Greece at Olympia every four years, and are traditionally dated to 776 BC, when a foot race of about 180 meters was the only event. This corresponded to the distance across the Stadion (or stadium). Over time other events were added, including longer distance foot races, the pentathlon (with its five events of running, javelin throw, discus throw, long jump and wrestling), boxing, and then in the 25th Olympiad, four-horse chariot racing. Chariot racing soon became the most popular spectator sport with the original Olympic games continuing well into Roman times. The most infamous scandal in the history of the Olympics occurred under the rule of the Emperor Nero (AD 54–68) who wishing to become an Olympic champion, was thrown from his chariot but still claimed victory after bribing the judges. The Olympics continued for three more centuries, ending only during the reign of the Emperor Theodosius I in the year 393.

The Olympic Games remained a subject of academic interest for over a thousand years afterwards. My 1706 second edition of *Archæologia Græca: or, The Antiquities of*



Figure 1. Original copper plate engravings from the author's 1706 edition of *Archæologia Græca* showing the ancient Olympic sports of boxing and throwing the discus.

Greece by John Potter, has copper plate engravings illustrating various ancient Olympic events including boxing and the discus throw, as shown in Figure 1.¹ Oxford-trained Potter was later to become the archbishop of Canterbury from 1737–47. Interestingly, these engravings show two current Olympic events that were also depicted on 1896 Greek postage stamps issued to commemorate the inauguration of the modern Olympic games. Examples from my representative worldwide stamp collection featuring boxing and Myron's famous statue of the discus thrower (Scott 117 and 119) are shown in Figure 2.



Figure 2. 1896 Greek stamps depicting Olympic boxing and Myron's discus thrower.

Interest in reviving the Olympic Games was led by Pierre de Coubertin, a Frenchman now celebrated as the father of the modern Olympics. At a meeting in Paris in June 1894, representatives of sports organizations from eleven countries accepted Coubertin's proposal, and the first modern Olympic Games were

held in 1896 in Athens, Greece. As in the present day, hosting the Olympic Games can be an expensive proposition and the idea of issuing a set of commemorative postage stamps to help provide funding was adopted. The designer of these stamps was Emile Gillieron, a Swiss artist who had previously worked for Heinrich Schliemann as an archaeological illustrator during the excavation of Troy. Dies were engraved by the famed French engraver Louis-Eugène Mouchon, whose name appears in the bottom margin of each stamp. The stamps themselves were printed in Paris.

The United States was selected to host the 1932 tenth modern Olympiad, and in the summer of 1931 Postmaster General Brown was approached by members of the Olympic Committee, who requested that a series of commemorative stamps be issued for the upcoming games in Los Angeles.² Brown was initially in favor of only a single 2¢ stamp paying the then current first class postage rate, however the committee pointed out that there would be many foreign guests in attendance who would like to mail letters home, requiring a 5¢ stamp. Consequently, plans were made to issue two Olympic stamps, and an unusually large number of essays were developed in planning for these stamps.



Figure 3. Classic statues employed for 1932 Olympic Stamp essays.²

At the time, postage rates were in flux and there was uncertainty as to when Congress would finalize an increase of the domestic first class postage rate to 3¢. Meanwhile the rate remained at 2¢ and thus all of the lower value essays were prepared showing this rate.

Generally, two different types of stamp essays were produced at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP). These included classic designs based on ancient sculptures depicting Nike, the winged goddess personifying victory, Pancrastinae or the wrestlers, and Discobolus or the discus thrower (by Myron). In addition, a wide range of more modern designs depicting various Olympic sporting events were considered.

Classic Nike designs in both values with various frames are shown in Figure 3. Note that the Roman numeral X is used to designate that these stamps are for the tenth Olympiad and that the base of the statue is labeled "NIKE" on the two essays at the top. At the bottom right the Pancrastinae depicts classic Olympic wrestling. None of these were used.

The famous Discobolus or discus thrower by Myron, as in the earlier Greek Olympic stamp, turned out to be important. This classic design was the basis of an especially influential drawing submitted in early 1932 by Everett A. Vordenbaum, Postmaster of Randolph Field, Texas. An essay derived from this is shown in Figure 4, along with three similar BEP essays in Figure 5. Note that Vordenbaum was inspired to place the discus thrower in front of a world globe, emphasizing the international scope of the Olympic Games. In a modified version of this design the discus thrower is shown in white silhouette. The frame of the final BEP essay at the right was ultimately employed for both stamps, with the discus thrower in front of a world globe chosen for the 5¢ value. According to Max Johl, the 5¢ value was

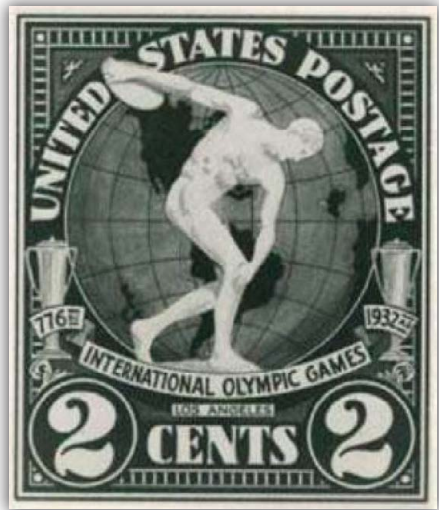


Figure 4. Essay based on sketch by E. A. Vordenbaum for 1932 Olympic Stamp.²

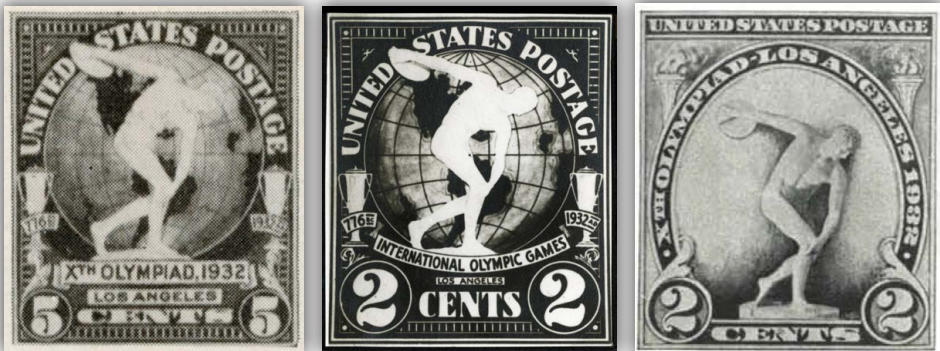


Figure 5. Classic discus thrower essays for 1932 Olympic Stamps.²

selected for the discus thrower design in part due to the fact that various foreign countries had previously used this on equivalent value Olympic stamps, and further because the classic white statue would look especially attractive against a blue background.²

BEP essays showing modern Olympic runners can be seen in Figure 6. At the left is a design with the runner between a classical pillar and Olympic torch. Another shows the runner in black silhouette as an analog of the discus thrower essay in white silhouette. The BEP essay at the right shows a modern day Olympic sprinter in starting position. Again, this frame was used on the final issued stamp but with the 2¢ value changed to 3¢. The image of the runner used on the final stamp was adapted from a photograph of J. A. LeConey, an Intercollegiate Sprint Champion, with some facial alterations made to disguise his features.²



Figure 6. Essays showing modern runners for 1932 Olympic Stamps.²

Nine other essays showing modern Olympic athletes competing in a variety of other sports are shown in Figure 7. These were prepared but not used. Among the different types of stamp frames explored was a version with side pillars decorated with garlands, as shown in the top row. These essays show a runner going over a hurdle, and modern athletes throwing a javelin and discus, respectively. The next row, with a variety of different frame styles, shows the shot put, the javelin and discus throw. The bottom row of essays shows yet other frame styles, featuring the long jump, javelin throw and modern Olympic wrestling. Curiously, while boxing had been a prominent theme on Olympic stamps issued by other countries, no essays for boxing were prepared for the 1932 summer Olympic Games.

The final design of both stamps was by Victor McCloskey, Jr., with the vignette of the Olympic runner engraved by J. Eissler and that of the discus thrower by L. S. Schofield. The frame and lettering were engraved by E. M. Hall. Because of uncertainty as to when a postal rate increase to 3¢ would come into effect, the original approved master die for the lower value was first engraved as a 2¢ stamp. Six plate numbers had been assigned for these stamps and the first four printing plates were prepared using the 2¢ design.² These plate numbers would have been 20680–20683, although they were not put to press for printing stamps. A modified design for the 3¢ stamp was then entered on the two remaining plates 20684 and 20685, with four more 3¢ plates (20906–20909) added later. According to Johl, six plate numbers were also assigned for the 5¢ stamp of which only four (20868–20871) were used for printing stamps.² Thus, the two unused

plate numbers originally assigned for the 5¢ stamps would have been 20866 and 20867, completing the picture.

Die proofs for the Olympic Stamps are shown in Figure 8, along with closeups showing the lower right corner of the approved plate proofs at the National Postal Museum. Note that the 5¢ stamp plate number 20868 was approved on May 5, 1932, a day before plate number 20864 for the 3¢ stamp. Both plates were chromed, and they would have been mounted in pairs on a rotary press for stamp printing.

Although the first day of issue for the Olympic Stamps had originally been planned for May 15, it was then postponed until June 1st pending resolution as to when the postage rate would be increased to 3¢. Finally, the issue date was set for June 15, 1932, and on



Figure 7. Wide variety of essays produced for the 1932 Olympic Stamps.²

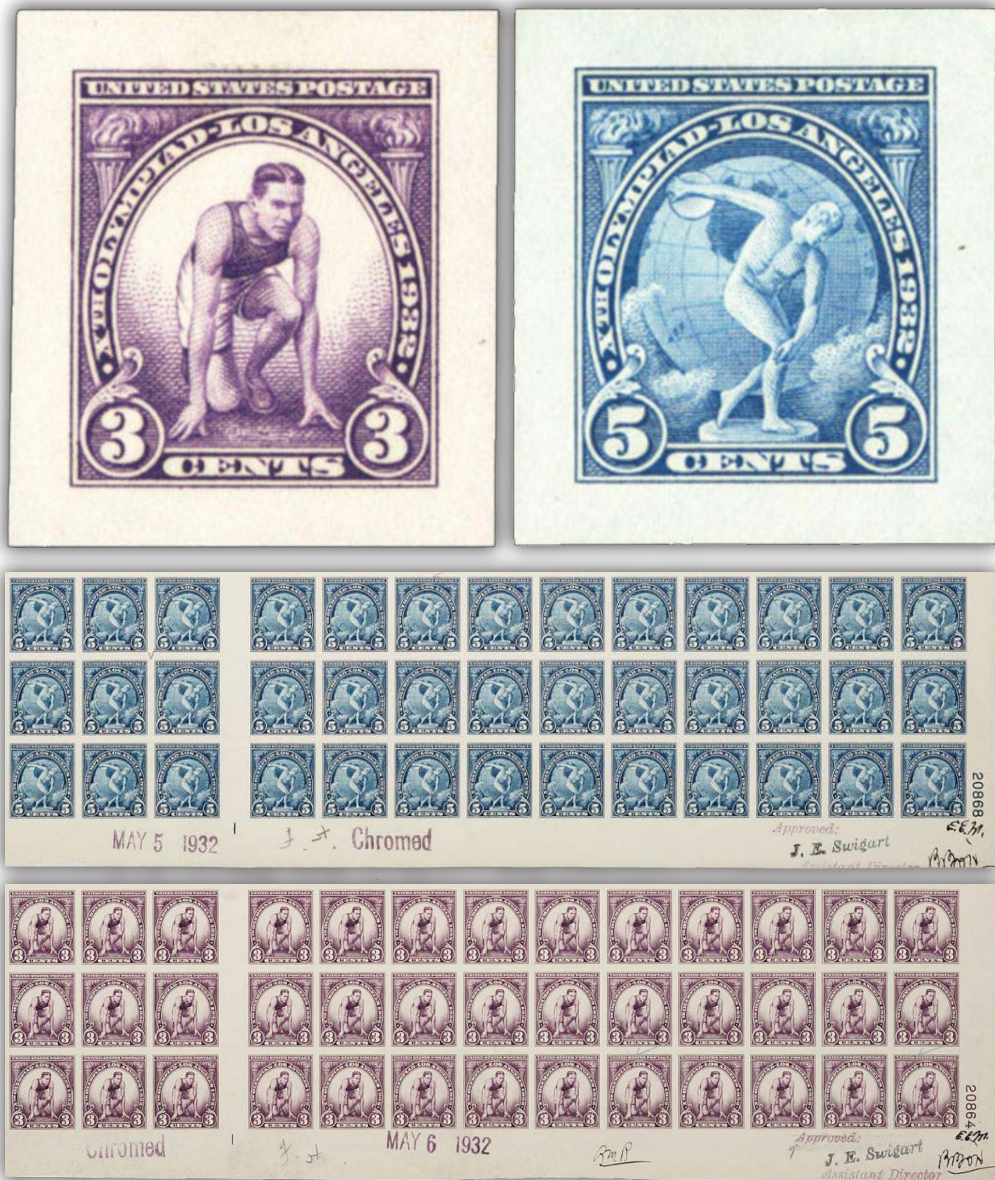


Figure 8. Die proofs and plate proofs for the Olympic Stamps (National Postal Museum).

June 6th, President Herbert Hoover signed the bill increasing the postage rate with an effective date of July 6, 1932.

The first day of issue for the new stamps was in Los Angeles, California. Unlike Farley, Hoover's Postmaster General Walter F. Brown did not send out favor first day covers (FDCs) with letters, so in lieu of these I'll show two typical FDCs with blocks of four from my collection in Figure 9. The first with 3¢ stamps and an air mail cancellation, has a bi-color Linprint cachet showing an Olympic runner (Mellone 718-14) and was produced by George Linn of Linn's Weekly Stamp News. Linn became an ardent supporter

of Franklin D. Roosevelt (FDR) during the 1932 presidential campaign, as we shall see. The other FDC with 5¢ stamps and Arcade Station 10 cancellation, has a special bi-color loor cacheted airmail envelope with a variety of Olympic events shown in silhouette (Mellone 719–5).



Figure 9. FDCs with 1932 Olympic Stamp blocks of four.

I'm fortunate in having four covers that were sent to FDR franked with 1932 Olympic Stamps. Shown in Figure 10, is an FDC addressed to Governor Franklin D. Roosevelt in Albany, New York. This is postmarked Los Angeles Station G and is franked with a 5¢ Olympic Stamp. It has a multicolor printed and perforated Bennett label (M-8a) with hand stamped Xth Olympiad cachet below (Mellone 719–34a).

As the Governor of New York State running for president, FDR had personally opened the 1932 winter Olympic Games in Lake Placid, New York, but President Herbert Hoover, although invited to open the summer games in Los Angeles, curiously later declined, sending his Vice President instead. The 3¢ postage rate took effect on July 6, 1932 and the Los Angeles Olympic games took place from July 30 to August 14, 1932. In the meantime, both the 1932 Republican and Democratic presidential conventions were

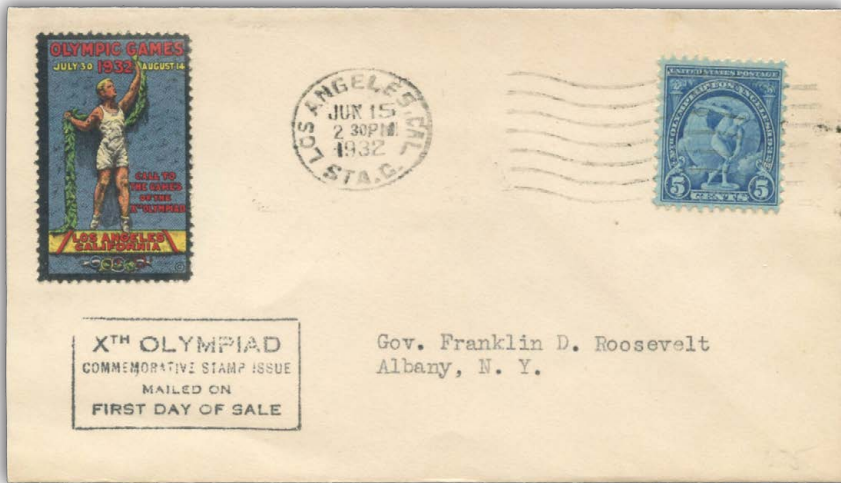


Figure 10. FDC sent to Governor Roosevelt with 5¢ Olympic Stamp.

held in Chicago. Hoover was re-nominated as the Republican candidate on June 14–16, and FDR was nominated on the 4th ballot at the 1932 Democratic National Convention June 27–July 2, 1932.

This is where George Linn stepped into the political fray, and a week after FDR was nominated, the front cover of the July 9, 1932, issue of *Linn's Weekly Stamp News* featured the bold headline “A Million Stamp Collectors Want a Stamp Collector for President.” Furthermore, labels and cacheted envelopes in support of Franklin D. Roosevelt’s 1932 presidential campaign had been rushed into production by Linprint at extremely low prices to encourage their use during FDR’s presidential campaign. This was during the Great Depression with postpaid prices set at 25¢ for 240 labels, 50 envelopes at 25¢ (one color type) or 45¢ for a larger size in two colors, with discounts for larger quantities. All these items highlighted FDR’s membership in the American Philatelic Society.^{3,4} Besides my original copy of this issue of *Linn's Weekly Stamp News*, I’m fortunate in having examples of both these labels and envelopes from FDR’s own stamp collection, as shown in Figure 11. Note that the “Stamp Collector for President” cover shown here is franked with a 3¢ Olympic Stamp and was posted to FDR during his presidential campaign from Madison, Wisconsin, on October 15, 1932.

Together, these items reveal that as an avid stamp collector FDR must have been aware of George Linn’s “A Stamp Collector for President” campaign, but when did he first know? I was unable to find any information about this during my 2019 visit to the FDR Library in Hyde Park, and 1930s era files from *Linn's* no longer exist. However, sometimes when doing philatelic and historical research you get lucky and find a “smoking gun.”


As a long-time collector of autographed letters of the FDR era, I came across the original July 14, 1932, letter shown in Figure 12 from a rare book dealer in Columbus, Ohio. This signed note to a Mr. William G. Fountaine on Governor Roosevelt’s official intaglio-printed “Executive Mansion Albany” stationery, states unequivocally: “I was delighted to have your letter of the seventh, with the enclosed copy of *Linn's Weekly Stamp News*. It was very interesting and I appreciate all that you are doing for me.” In the letter, FDR can only be referring to the July 9, 1932, issue of *Linn's Weekly Stamp News*,

LINN'S WEEKLY STAMP NEWS

VOL. 4, No. 36 COLUMBUS, OHIO, SATURDAY, JULY 9, 1932 Whole No. 193

A Million Stamp Collectors

Want a
Stamp
Collector
for
President



FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT
Member American Philatelic Society


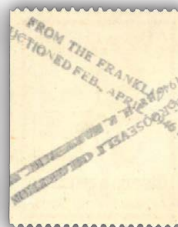
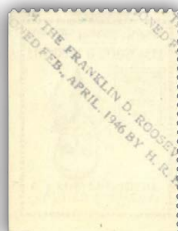




Figure 11. George Linn's "A Stamp Collector for President" campaign illustrated by items from FDR's own stamp collection, including cover sent to him with 3c Olympic Stamp (not to scale).

A Stamp Collector FOR PRESIDENT



THE STAMP OF APPROVAL

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT
member
American Philatelic Society

MADISON
OCT 15
2 PM
1932
WIS.

211
PRINT
Columbus, O.

Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt,
Governor of New York,
Albany, N.Y.

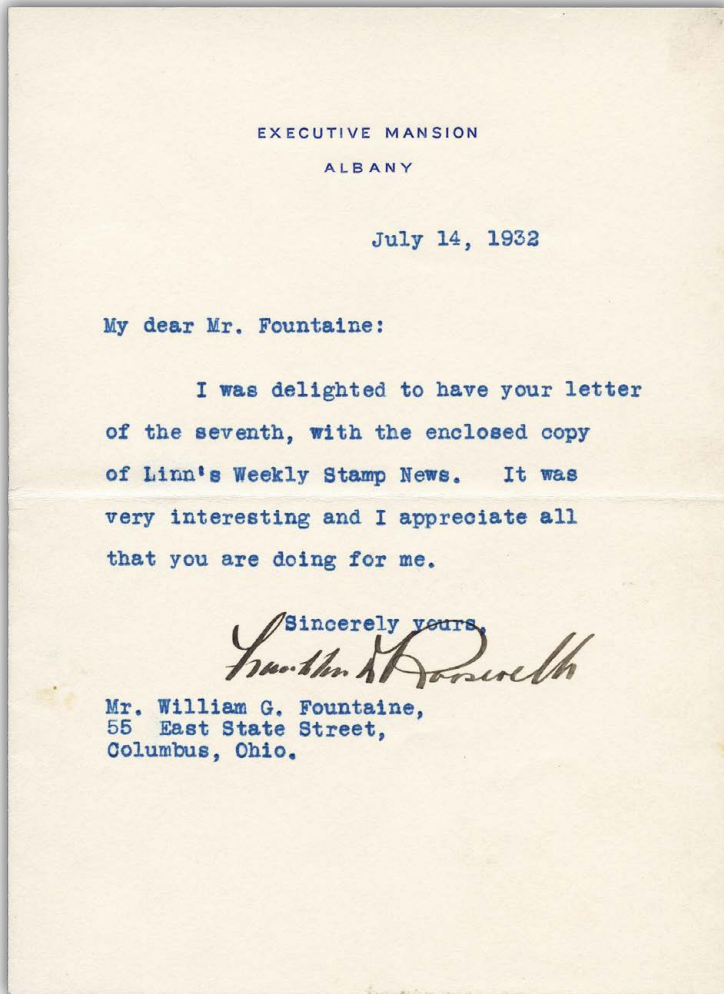


Figure 12. Signed 14 July 1932 FDR letter acknowledging receipt of Linn's Weekly Stamp News about Linn's "A Stamp Collector for President" campaign.

shown in Figure 11. In other words, FDR was aware of the "Stamp Collector for President" campaign virtually from the start. Fountaine himself was a bookseller and stamp collector in Columbus, Ohio, where *Linn's Weekly Stamp News* was published, and he surely must have had early access to printed copies of this publication. As an aside, while this letter is signed "Franklin D. Roosevelt," the exaggerated loop of the "R" in Roosevelt, etc. suggests that this is likely one of the secretarial signatures employed before FDR became president. Nonetheless, FDR would certainly have been aware of this correspondence.

Both of my other covers sent to FDR with the 3¢ Olympic Stamp were also mailed during the 1932 Presidential Campaign. The first from Charleston, South Carolina is shown in Figure 13. This was mailed on September 26, 1932.

The second, unusually, was posted aboard the battleship *USS Pennsylvania* on Columbus Day, October 12, 1932. This is franked with a 3¢ Olympic Stamp. Note especially the bicolor printed Ioor Columbus Day cachet and the Locy Type 3 Naval Postmark

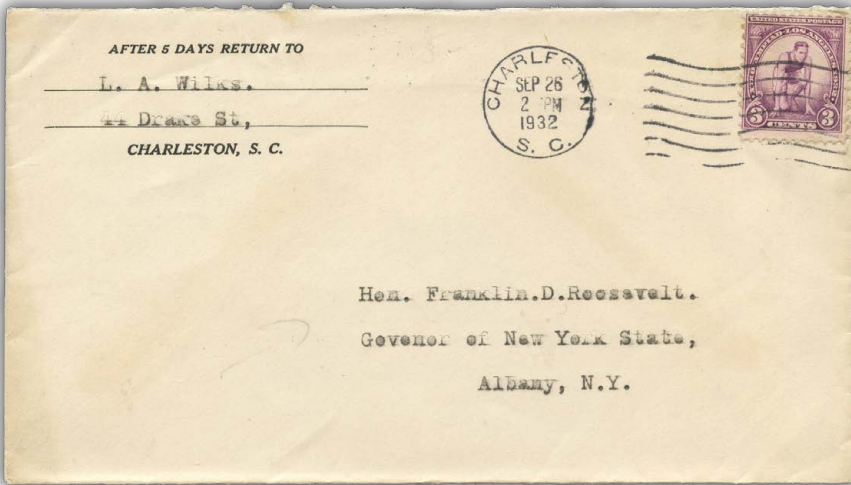


Figure 13. Cover sent to FDR with 3¢ Olympic Stamp during the 1932 Presidential Campaign.

(as classified by the Universal Ship Cancellation Society). This ship cancellation type allows words and small symbols to be inserted between the three killer bars to denote holidays, special events or locations.

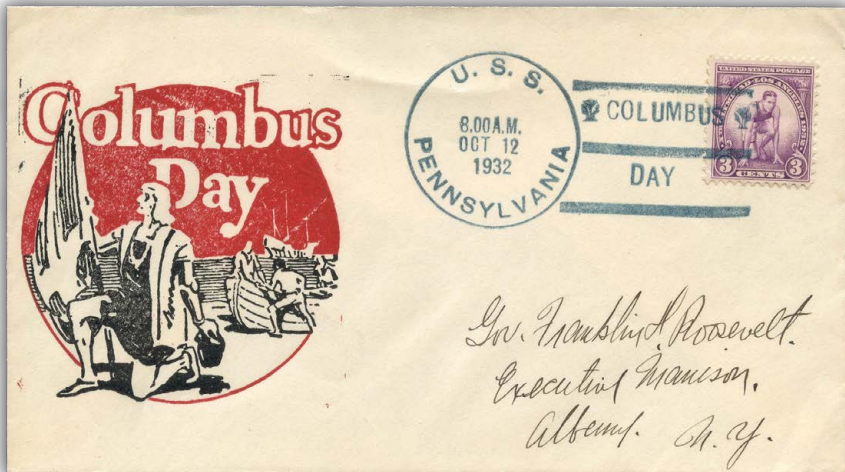


Figure 14. Cover sent to FDR with 3¢ Olympic Stamp from the battleship USS Pennsylvania on Columbus Day during the 1932 Presidential Campaign.

When it was launched in 1915, the USS *Pennsylvania* was the largest and most powerful US Navy warship ever built, having twelve 14-inch guns. During the 1930s it was based on the West Coast at San Pedro (near Los Angeles) and thus those serving aboard would likely have been able to visit the 1932 Olympics Games. A photograph of the *Pennsylvania* in San Diego harbor on June 7, 1932, is shown in Figure 15. Interestingly nearly a decade later, she was in dry dock at Pearl Harbor at the time of the Japanese surprise attack on December 7, 1941, and while her sister ship the USS *Arizona* was destroyed,

the *Pennsylvania* suffered relatively minor damage. Following repairs, the *USS Pennsylvania* participated in numerous naval operations against the Japanese during the rest of World War II.

Another event cover franked with examples of all three 1932 Olympic Stamps is shown in Figure 16. This includes the 2¢ stamp issued for the winter Olympic Games held in February in Lake Placid, New York. The cachet on this airmail cover is for the 30th National Ski Meet in Salisbury, Connecticut. Curiously this was posted on President-Elect Franklin Roosevelt's birthday on January 30, 1933, the same day that Adolf Hitler was named chancellor of Germany.



Figure 15. *USS Pennsylvania* in San Diego harbor (June 1932).



Figure 16. Event cover with all three 1932 Olympic Stamps sent January 30, 1933.

The higher value 5¢ Olympic Stamp had been specifically designed to pay the international postage rate, and in Figure 17, I show my Sea Post cover with this stamp on United States Lines stationery. This was posted aboard the *SS Washington* on June 13, 1933, to an address in Berlin, Germany. Note the boxed “S.S. WASHINGTON” and the “U. S. GER. SEA POST” circular date stamp cancellations. The *SS Washington* was a fast and luxurious ocean liner launched in August 1932 that operated on the New York-Hamburg route.

By the time this cover was sent, Adolf Hitler was chancellor of Germany and FDR president of the United States. Interestingly, the next summer

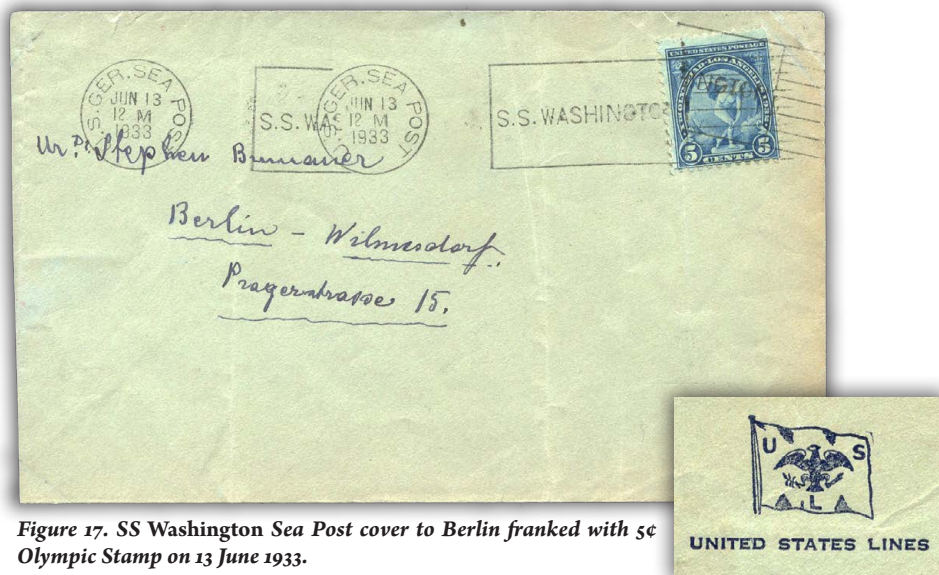


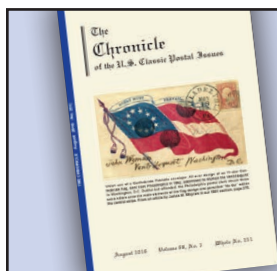
Figure 17. SS Washington Sea Post cover to Berlin franked with 5c Olympic Stamp on 13 June 1933.

Olympic Games were to be held in Berlin in 1936. Determined to outdo the 1932 Los Angeles Games, Hitler had a massive new 110,000 seat Olympic stadium built, the 1936 games were the first ever to be televised and Leni Riefenstahl created *Olympia*, a lavishly produced and innovative film of the games that pioneered many of the techniques now used in sports coverage. The 1936 games were to be the only Olympics to take place during FDR's presidency, since World War II later caused both the 1940 and 1944 Olympic Games to be canceled.

The luxury ocean liner SS *Washington* from United States Lines itself continued to operate on the New York-Hamburg route until December 1939, when FDR invoked the 1939 Neutrality Act against Germany. Then in June 1941, the *Washington* was requisitioned by the US Navy, mounted with guns, and renamed the USS *Mount Vernon* after George Washington's home in Virginia, becoming a troopship during World War II.

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4. Paul M. Holland, "A Stamp Collector for President' Campaign; 1933 Inauguration Covers," *Linn's Stamp News*, January 18, 2021, pages 34–40.



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B11 1

B11 1

▲ #???? **Carnival Nights**
B1 † † **LL LR**
3r x 3c **1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9***



▲ #???? **Protect Sea Turtles**
P1111 † † **LL LR**
3r x 2c **1,2,3,4,5,6***



▲ #???? **Flags Coil (100)**
P1111
B1111



▲ #???? **Flags Coil (3000, 10000)**
(spaced)
P1111



▲ #???? **Flags Booklet**
P1111
B1111



▲ #???? **Horses**
B11111 ‡ ‡ LL LR
2r x 3c 1,2,3,4,5,6*



▲ #???? **Shaker Designs**
P11111111 ‡ ‡ LL LR
3r x 3c 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9*

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17562 Pierfranco Longhi, Lecco, Italy		Reinstated	0
17563 Michael Schnee, Medford, OR		Total	+ 7
APPLICATIONS PENDING		SUBTRACTIONS:	
17555-17558		Total	0
NEW MEMBERS		NET CHANGE	+ 7
17548-17554		TOTAL MEMBERSHIP	
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