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Great Americans Issue Part II— The Cottrell Press Printings

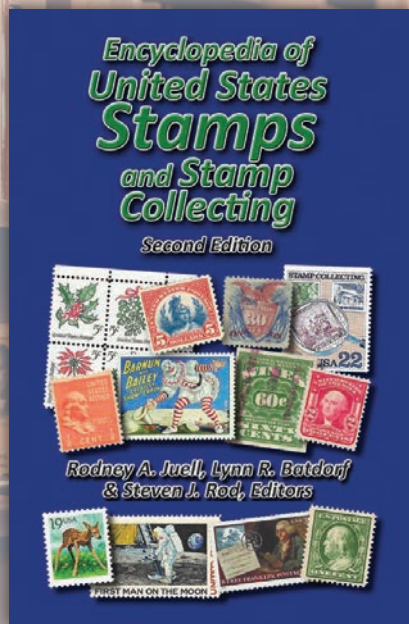


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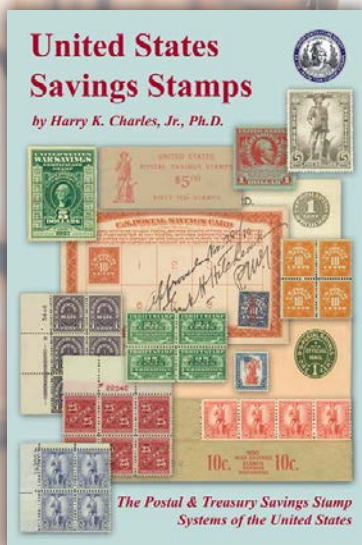
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American Philatelic Society Affiliate No. 150

Prologue

292 Society News

294 Vintage Photo of the Month

by Rodney A. Juell



Epilogue

332 Plate Number Report

by Kim D. Johnson

334 Executive Secretary's Report

by Robert Rufe

336 Classified Advertising

336 Index of Advertisers

Features

**296 A New Scott E18 Discovery,
With a Nice Surprise**

by John M. Hotchner

**298 Great Americans Issue Part II—
The Cottrell Press Printings**

by Jay Stotts



309 A Tale of Two Cities

by Kevin G. Lowther

**311 FDR and the Byrd Antarctic
Expedition II Stamps**

by Paul M. Holland

**329 Stamp Collectors Are Not
Immortal; Why They Need
to Have an Endgame**

by Kevin G. Lowther



Andrew S. Kelley, Editor
9038 East 25th Drive
Denver, CO 80238
(720) 839-5848

email: editor@usstamps.org

www.usstamps.org

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THE UNITED STATES SPECIALIST
Founded 1930 as The Bureau Specialist

EDITOR

ANDREW S. KELLEY

9038 East 25th Drive
Denver, CO 80238
email: editor@usstamps.org

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

P.O. Box 1602
Hockessin, DE 19707-5602

CHAIRMAN

Roger S. Brody

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

PRESIDENT

Nicholas Lombardi

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

VICE PRESIDENT

Jeffrey Shapiro

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

SECRETARY

Joel Cohen

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

TREASURER

David S. Sugar

4045 N. Harvard Ave.
Arlington Heights, IL 60004
email: david-sugar@wsdd.com

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Kim Johnson

Mike Lampson

Leonard Piskiewicz

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Jay Stotts

Steven Unkrich

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Robert Rufe

P.O. Box 1602
Hockessin, DE 19707-5602
email: execsecretary@usstamps.org

— Committees —

AWARDS

Denise Stotts

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

BOOKLETS & BOOKLET PANES

Michael O. Perry

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

DURLAND EDITOR

Kim D. Johnson

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

ESSAY-PROOF

James Patterson

1850 North Central Avenue, No. 1400
Phoenix, AZ 85004
email: jhpatterson@yahoo.com

EXHIBIT PDFs

Chris Steenerson

P.O. Box 1818
Westminster, CO 80038-1818
email: Chris@RxStamps.com

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Paul M. Holland

email: pholland.thorleaf@gmail.com

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LIBERTY SERIES

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MARGINAL MARKINGS

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Westminster, CO 80038-1818
email: Chris@RxStamps.com

MODERN POSTAL HISTORY

Douglas B. Quine

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email: uss2010@quine.org

PLATE NUMBER &
CHECKLIST SERVICE

Kim D. Johnson

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

PRECANCELS

Lynn R. Batdorf

6005 Kingsford Road, Bethesda, MD 20817
email: hollykids@comcast.net

PRESIDENTIAL ERA

Jeffrey Shapiro

P.O. Box 3211, Fayville, MA 01745-3211

RECRUITING

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email: scrippe@gmail.com

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email: pmartin2525@yahoo.com

SECOND BUREAU ISSUE

Nicholas Lombardi

P.O. Box 1005, Mountainside, NJ 07092
VENDING AND AFFIXING
MACHINE PERFORATIONS

Dan Ryterband

40 Carolyn Place, Chappaqua, NY 10514
email: djuryterband@fwcook.com

WASHINGTON-FRANKLIN
HEAD ISSUES (Co-Chairmen)

Greg Shoults

11248 Frederick Lane
Twinsburg, OH 44087
email: coilcollector@hotmail.com

Andrew S. Kelley

9038 E 25th Dr, Denver, CO 80238
email: stamps@andrewkelley.net

WEBMASTER

Mike Lampson

P.O. Box 471963, Charlotte, NC 28247
email: lampson@usstamps.org

— Study Groups —

DUMMY STAMPS

Terry R. Scott

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

FIRST BUREAU ISSUE

Kent Wilson

1005 Toole Circle, Billings, MT 59105
email: turgon96@bresnan.net

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705 Forest Glen Circle, Prairie du Sac WI
53578
email: wystamps@gmail.com

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email: cbtkschilling@yahoo.com

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Ron Blanks

email: rblanks_stamps@yahoo.com

REGISTERED MAIL

Mike Ludeman

P.O. Box 2024, Denton, Texas 76202-2024
email: mike@ludeman.net

— Affiliates —

POSTAL LABEL STUDY GROUP

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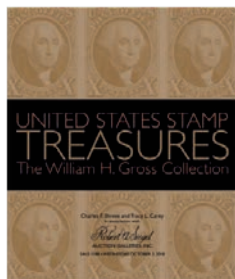
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Society News

Nominating Committee Approved for 2024 Election

In accordance with Article V, Section 2, of the Society By-Laws, President Nicholas Lombardi recommended to the Board of Governors that the Nominating Committee for the 2024 United States Stamp Society election consist of members Wade Saadi (Chairperson), Stephen Reinhard and Edward Grabowski.

Wade is well known to everyone in philately as the past president of the American Philatelic Society. He is also a past president of the United States Philatelic Classics Society and was president of New York 2016, our most recent international show in the United States.

Stephen is a past president of the American Philatelic Society, The Collectors Club, and the American Airmail Society.

Edward is a past president of The Collectors Club and received the prestigious APS Luff Award for Distinguished Philatelic Research in 2014.

The Board approved the recommendation, and the Committee has begun the task of assembling a slate of candidates. The Committee will present the complete slate to the President, who, in turn, will notify the Executive Secretary so that ballots can be prepared for distribution to the membership. The names and background information of the nominees will be published in *The United States Specialist* prior to the mailing of the ballots, which will be included with the annual dues mailing in the fall. The Executive Secretary will then tabulate the ballots and report the results to the membership. Those elected will serve a three-year term beginning January 1, 2025.

The elective offices include the Chairman, President, Vice President, and Secretary, as well as the Board of Governors. The Treasurer, Editor, and Executive Secretary are not elected but rather are paid employees of the Society appointed by the Board.

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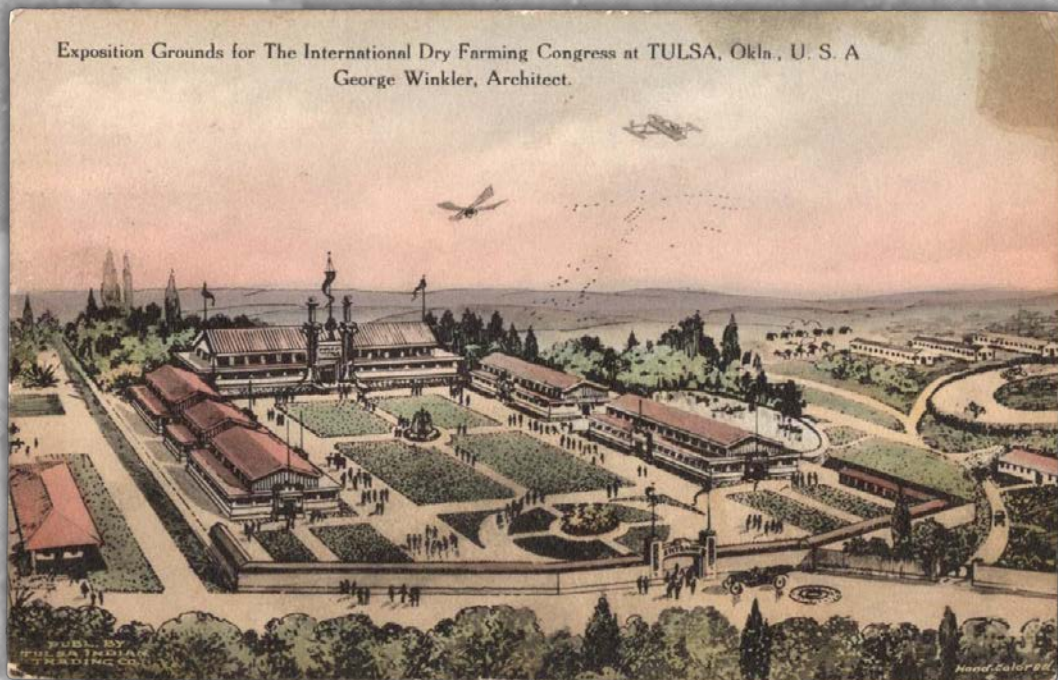
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*Vintage Photo of the Month*

International Dry Farming Congress

by **Rodney A. Juell**

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



The International Dry Farming Congress was founded in 1906 for the purpose of promoting effective farming methods, soil conservation, and irrigation techniques. The Tulsa, Oklahoma, venue for the 1913 Congress is shown in the picture on this post card. The Columbia machine slogan cancel from Tulsa celebrates the event.



Oct 19-1913
Hello Mattie and all I will
write a card this eve it is like
winter to day I think it will
freeze to night
TULSA, OKLA.
OCT 20-12
10—AM
one of the neighbors
borrowed a heating stove
Gleason is sitting by the
stove. Mildred is asleep
they are cooking the store
and they had Gleason
I jumping around when
the gas big on to puff.
we are all well and
doing well and hope you
the same Nora & Frank
823 S. Lansing Tulsa OK

Post
THE INTERNATIONAL
DRY FARMING CONFERENCE
OCT 22-NOV 1, 1913
THIS SIDE FOR ADDRESS



Mrs Mattie Carey

Rich Hill

Mo



Special Delivery

A New Scott E18 Discovery, With a Nice Surprise

by John M. Hotchner

USSS #6569 | ✉ jmhstamp@verizon.net



Figure 1, Newly-discovered E18 Special Delivery stamp on cover, canceled on the first date of the new 17¢ special delivery rate

A new discovery (Figure 1) is a follow up to two articles concerning the 17¢ Special Delivery (Scott E18) in prior issues of *The United States Specialist*, by Robert Markovits¹ and Ken Lawrence.²

Shown here in Figure 1 is the upper right corner cut from a larger envelope. It was found in a dealer accumulation of Presidential covers at Philatelic Show 2024, just concluded, at Foxboro, Massachusetts. Thanks to dealer Labron Harris!

Genuine usages of this stamp for its intended purpose are scarce. Relying on the earlier articles, the new find is easy to explain.

It shows a “SPECIAL DELIVERY FEE PAID 17 CENTS” marking, confirming that the stamp is properly used. The 4½¢ of postage equates to between four and six ounces of printed matter; at 1½¢ per two ounces, up to 20 ounces.

The 17¢ Special Delivery stamp was issued on October 30, 1944, for a rate that went into effect on November 1. What makes the Figure 1 piece extra special is its cancellation

date: November 1, 1944, the first day of rate. The Markovits article, cited above, extensively illustrated, makes no mention of a reported first day of rate use.

The dated cancel and address are both Centerdale, Rhode Island, a village within North Providence, Rhode Island. The Centerdale to Centerdale mailing apparently went through the Providence, Rhode Island, post office as there is a hand cancel on the 2¢ joint line coil pair that was missed by the original cancel.

We will never know, but I have to wonder whether the addressee was also the sender; possibly a collector (note the 2¢ joint line pair) who created the mailing to document the new rate?

References

1. Markovits, Robert L. "The 17¢ Special Delivery Stamp of 1944—The Strangest Special Delivery Stamp Value." *The United States Specialist* 86, no. 2 (February 2015): 64–74.
2. Lawrence, Ken. "Finally, a 17¢ Special Delivery Stamp on an Entire Cover." *The United States Specialist* 88, no. 10 (October 2017): 461–62.



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The Great Americans

Great Americans Issue Part II— The Cottrell Press Printings

by **Jay Stotts**

USSS #10921 | ✉ stottsjd@swbell.net



Figure 1. Cottrell Press from an earlier period.

The Great Americans Issue (GA) began production on a series of presses at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP) called Cottrell Presses. They were named for the manufacturer, the Cottrell Co. of Westerly, Rhode Island. The Bureau took delivery of five presses in late 1955, and by the start of printing of the Great Americans, the presses had been the standard stamp presses at the BEP for almost 25 years.

The Cottrell Presses

The presses were rotary presses like their predecessors, the Stickney presses, and they printed stamps with plates mounted on a rotating drum as a web of paper passed

by the printing unit. The stamp images were impressed into the steel printing plates on a transfer press. After the plates were installed on the printing press, these impressed designs accepted ink and the images were printed onto the paper web, leaving a raised design. This produced the intaglio or engraved images that the BEP regarded as the most secure type of printing against the risk of counterfeiting.

After the plates were made, they were curved into a semi-cylinder that fit halfway around the press' printing drum. A pair of 400-subject plates were coupled to the press at one time to complete the process, so the press printed 800 stamp images per revolution. The roll of pre-gummed paper was approximately 28 inches in diameter, and the press printed 5,400 sheets of stamps per hour, consuming the roll of paper in about 1½ hours. Figure 1 shows a press as it appeared in the 1950s.

The method of printing used slightly dampened paper to draw the ink out of the plates as the paper passed by. Although the paper was damp, the method was called "dry" printing rather than "wet" printing. The moisture content for dry printing was 5–10% by weight versus 15–30% for the wet printing process used on the Stickney presses of the previous era. Dry printings are sharper-appearing than wet printings, so they are perceived to have better image quality.

By 1980, four of the Cottrell presses were still active at the BEP, and they were designated as presses 801, 802, 803, and 804 by the Bureau. Physically, they were located in the BEP Annex building.

The Twelve Cottrell Stamps Subjects and Values

Our aim here is not to go into great detail introducing each of the "Great Americans" as portrayed on the stamps. As indicated in the introduction to this series, some subjects are certainly well known, while others are obscure to most Americans. The internet now allows quick access to a wealth of information about the subjects, so we'll provide only a brief historical mention.



Figure 2. Great Americans Stamps issued in 1981.

The first value was a 19¢ stamp depicting Sequoyah, a Native American who is known for developing a written language for the Cherokee Nation. The stamp was issued on December 27, 1980. The 19¢ value was needed to fulfill a new international surface post card rate effective January 1, 1981.

Three stamp designs were added to the series in 1981 and are shown in Figure 2. They were all tied to the domestic letter rate increase, which became effective on March 22, 1981. The single-ounce letter rate increased from 15¢ to 18¢, so a new 18¢ stamp in the series featuring George Mason, often referred to as the “Father of the Bill of Rights,” was issued on May 7. The second ounce of a two-ounce letter now cost 17¢ to mail, so a 17¢ stamp showing Rachel Carson was issued on May 28. Carson was an advocate for preserving nature against the dangers of man-made chemicals. For an advanced look at her role in this series, see Joel I. Cohen’s article in the March 2019 *United States Specialist*. The third value issued in 1981 was released on June 3 and featured Dr. Charles Drew, a medical surgeon and researcher. The value of this stamp was 35¢, the total charge for a letter weighing between one and two ounces.



Figure 3. Great Americans Stamps issued in 1982.

A few months later, effective November 1, 1981, the domestic letter rate was increased again, this time to 20¢ for the first ounce. On January 12, 1982, a 20¢ stamp honoring Ralph Bunche was released. Bunche was a Nobel Peace Prize-winning academic and U.N. diplomat known for his peacekeeping efforts in the Middle East. A new 37¢ Robert Millikan stamp was issued on January 26 to meet the one to two-ounce domestic letter rate because the 17¢ second-ounce rate remained unchanged. Also effective on January 12 was an increase in the domestic post card rate from 12¢ to 13¢, so a stamp featuring Crazy Horse, a Lakota war leader, was released to meet that rate.

The Postal Service also issued a 2¢ stamp for the primary purpose of making up the 2¢ difference between the 18¢ and 20¢ domestic letter rates. Patrons could continue to use up remaining 18¢ stamps by adding a 2¢ stamp to their envelopes. The 2¢ stamp

featured Igor Stravinsky, a noted composer and conductor. The stamp was issued on November 18, 1982. The values released in 1982 are illustrated in Figure 3.

During a 1982 speech at Gallaudet College in Washington, DC, Postmaster William Bolger promised a Gallaudet first-class rate stamp. The Postal Service had indeed been planning to issue a stamp to recognize Thomas Gallaudet, an advocate for educating the deaf and the man who the University was named after, but it was originally intended as a 3¢ stamp. After Bolger's premature announcement, the second 20¢ stamp in the series was issued. The lapse was just 17 months between the Bunche and Gallaudet releases, the latter coming on June 10, 1983. The Gallaudet stamp is shown in Figure 4.

After the group of rate change definitive were issued, the Postal Service set about issuing a group of lower valued make-up rate stamps. First was a 4¢ stamp to honor Carl Schurz, a reformer and statesman, issued on June 3, 1983. On June 25, a 5¢ stamp appeared, recognizing Pearl Buck, a Pulitzer Prize and Nobel Prize-winning author. Finally, on July 13, a 3¢ stamp showing Senator and statesman Henry Clay was released. The last of the Cottrell stamps are illustrated in Figure 5.

These twelve stamp designs were the extent of the Great Americans printed on the Cottrell presses. All the features we'll cover in the next sections apply to all these issues, with exceptions as noted.



Figure 4. Thomas Gallaudet stamp issued in 1983.



Figure 5. Great Americans Stamps Issued in 1983.

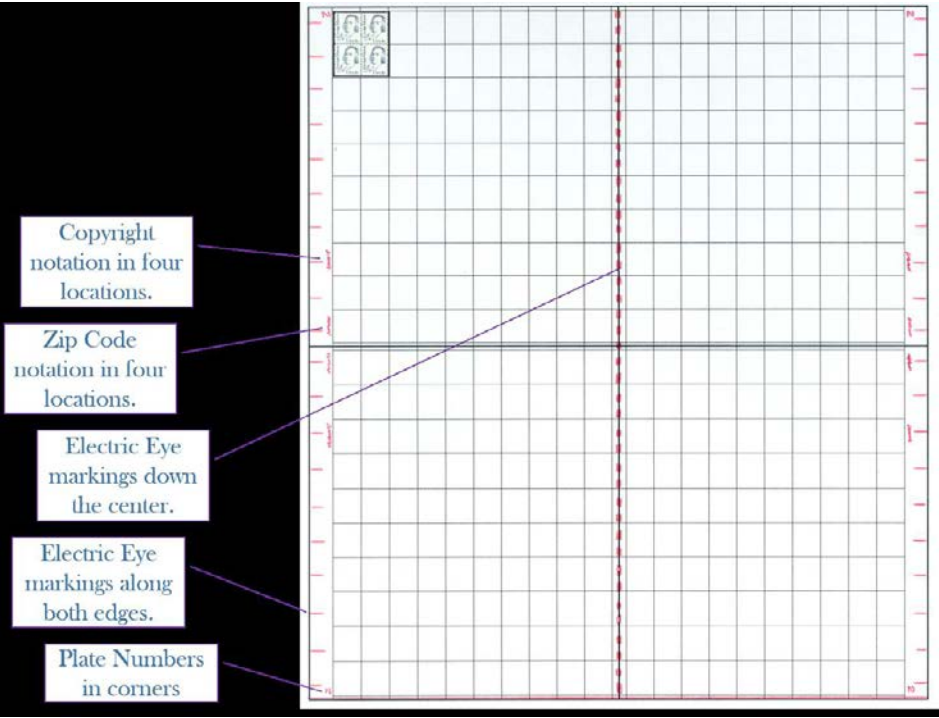


Figure 6. 400-subject Cottrell press plate layout.

Plate Layout and Markings

Figure 6 shows a 400-subject plate layout for Cottrell-press printed Great Americans. The annotations describe the markings included when the plate was made. The plate number is a logical place to start the discussion. With the issue of the 19¢ Sequoyah value, the plate numbers resembled all those from the rotary presses of earlier decades. Two plates, 39529 and 39530, were combined on the press to print this stamp, and plate blocks bear these two numbers. See Figure 7. The practice of including plate numbers ceased at the end of 1980.



Figure 7. Sequoyah plate number compared to Mason plate number.

In 1981, the actual plate number no longer appeared on the printed product. In its place, a representative number was inserted. The first plate prepared for a new issue was assigned the number “1,” the second a “2” and so on. Since these were all single-color intaglio prints, the new numbering systems for the Great Americans was that simple. The numbering system was changed because multi-colored stamps and the use of multiple printing runs was incompatible with the space required to print multiple plate numbers on a single pane of stamps. Figure 7 also shows the new numbering system as it appeared on the next GA stamp issued, the 18¢ Mason stamp.

The stamps were perforated on the Bureau’s electric eye perforators, so electric eye marks were placed along the center of the plate and the margins. When looking at a pane of 100 stamps, the dashes will appear on both vertical edges. The center dashes will appear as vertical dashes on the right side of a left-side pane or on the left side of a right-side pane. Figure 8 shows these dashes. The outer dashes appear as horizontal dashes and are shown in Figure 9.



Figure 8. The center electric eye dashes normally appear on the left side of a right-side pane or the right side of a left-side pane.

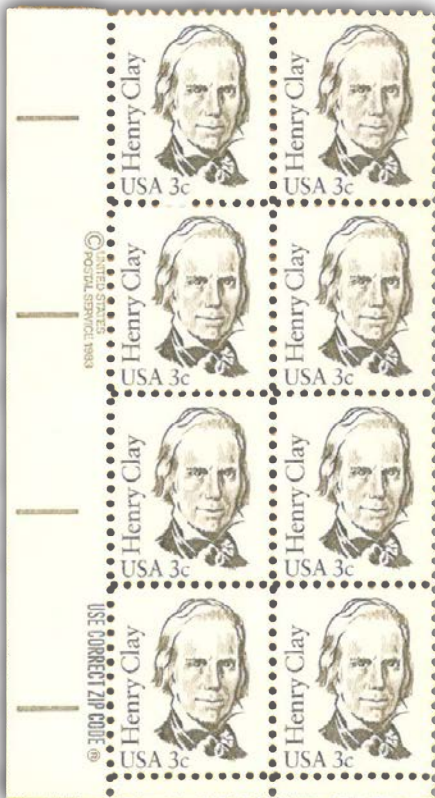


Figure 9 Block showing the outer electric eye dashes.

“USE CORRECT ZIP CODE” and the copyright phrase were printed in the margins, but when the plate numbering policy changed, the direction for reading the two markings also changed. In the early months, this caused some confusion for siderographers (plate makers) at the BEP. For instance, the 37¢ Millikan stamp had plates that produced markings that read both up and down. Figure 10 compares these markings from Sequoyah and Stravinsky plates.

In addition to the intentional markings printed from the plate markings, a joint line was printed across the web after every 400 images. This was caused by the inking rollers depositing ink in the seam between the two plates on every rotation. Typically, during the perforating and sheeting operation, the sheets are cut at or about where the joint line is printed. Figure 11 shows a Stravinsky piece that was mis-perforated and mis-cut, leaving the joint line clearly exposed where the sheet cut should have been made.

Another unintentional plate mark that has received ink and reprinted on a pane



Figure 10. Comparison of reading orientation for the Zip and copyright inscriptions in the selva.



Figure 11. Miscut shows the joint lines that fill with ink between plates.

of stamps is shown in Figure 12. The upper right pane from plate one of the Gallaudet stamp shows evidence of what is called a corrosion stain. Between the corrosive nature of the green ink and a local weakness in the chrome plating (which is intended to extend the hardness and the wear resistance of the steel plate), a small pit developed, which accumulated ink and then transferred it to the printed image. The Gallaudet stamps are known for at least two of these corrosion stains.

Papers and Gums

The papers and gums of the GA Cottrell press period are extensively studied and described in the eighth edition of *The 1995 Plate Number Coil Catalog* compiled by the Plate Number Coil Study Group and edited by Richard Nazar.¹ The catalog is viewable online. For extensive coverage of the papers and gums, consider spending some time viewing the paper and gum information in this reference.

Here are some observations about the vast array of paper and gums of the short four-plus year period. The BEP was using

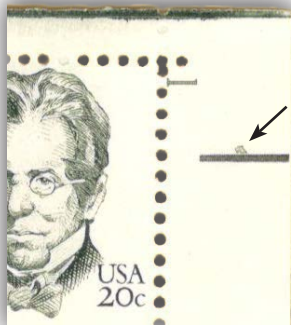


Figure 12. Corrosion stain (indicated by arrow) just above the electric eye dash.

pre-gummed paper on the presses after about 1970. Paper suppliers were often changed because the BEP solicited cost-based bids. They often ran experimental runs, especially with new suppliers, and if the product was acceptable, it was delivered to the Postal Service for sale to patrons. The BEP seemed to be casual about paper usage, so if there were three rolls of paper on hand, all from different suppliers or with different characteristics, any role might be the next on the press. They changed paper on the fly, that is, while the press was running, which could produce mixed paper and gum types from the same press run.

Most suppliers were brokers or subcontractors, so they also made undocumented changes. A paper broker might change paper suppliers, who, in turn, might change their gumming subcontractor.

The catalog referenced above has identified six paper and gum combinations. In the January 1991 issue of *The Plate Number* (a Stephen Esrati publication concerned primarily with Plate Number Coils), he published a graph showing the PNC group's best estimate of when these papers were used in conjunction with the Cottrell presses; it is reproduced here as Table 1.

| Year | 1981 | | | 1982 | | | | 1983 | | | | 1984 | | | | 1985 | | | | 1986 | | | | |
|-----------|------|---|---|------|---|---|---|------|---|---|---|------|---|---|---|------|---|---|---|------|---|---|---|--|
| Quarter | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | |
| Type I | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Type Ia | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Type II | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Type IIa | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Type III | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Type IIIa | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Table 1. Summary of paper usage for Cottrell Press issues.

Tagging

Tagging was the addition of phosphor onto the face of the stamps to allow mail sorting and handling machines to scan the eight corners of an envelope (four on the front and four on the back), looking for the phosphor and subsequently applying a cancel in the appropriate place.

The Cottrell presses had a letterpress printing station downstream from the intaglio station, which was originally intended as a precancel printing station. The tagging was done at the letterpress station. The taggant, probably a zinc orthosilicate-based



Figure 13. Representation of overall tagging

green-emitting phosphor, was suspended in varnish. The concoction was printed on top of the stamp images and dried clear.

The tagging, called overall tagging, was printed entirely across the width of the printed web. Figure 13 shows a representative illustration of what overall tagging resembles, but it is not a photograph. Throughout this series of articles, mockups will be used rather than photographs to illustrate tagging aspects.

When the tagging fountains ran dry, sometimes stamps were printed that received no taggant. Since the taggant dried clear, a simple visual inspection, without using a shortwave ultraviolet light source, couldn't detect the error. Consequently, unintentionally untagged error stamps exist for almost all of the values. Table 2 lists the various denominations as well as the 2023 Scott Catalog value for these untagged errors. It is important to understand that not a single speck of taggant can be on a stamp designated as an untagged error.

| Scott No. | Value | Subject | 2023 Scott Cat. Value |
|-----------|-------|------------------|-----------------------|
| 1845a | 2¢ | Igor Stravinsky | \$125.00 |
| 1846a | 3¢ | Henry Clay | \$9.00 |
| 1847a | 4¢ | Carl Schurz | \$9.00 |
| none | 5¢ | Pearl Buck | — |
| 1855a | 13¢ | Crazy Horse | \$22.50 |
| 1857a | 17¢ | Rachel Carson | \$17.50 |
| 1858a | 18¢ | George Mason | \$15.00 |
| none | 19¢ | Sequoyah | — |
| 1860a | 20¢ | Ralph Bunche | \$12.50 |
| 1861a | 20¢ | Thomas Gallaudet | \$225.00 |
| 1865a | 35¢ | Charles Drew | \$85.00 |
| 1866a | 37¢ | Robert Millikan | \$30.00 |

Table 2. Untagged Cottrell Press issues.

Perforating

Like the printing process, the perforating process was the same one used for many years at the BEP. An electric eye perforator, probably updated but similar to the one shown in Figure 14, was used. It was called an electric eye perforator because electric eyes, guided by the dashes printed from the plate markings, controlled the perforating operation. The vertical and horizontal perforations were applied separately, so the perforation operations did not meet in perfect holes at each corner of the stamp.

The vertical perforations were applied by wheels with male pins and mated with female wheels with sockets. If a male wheel was not locked in place, wide or narrow stamps could be produced by a wandering male wheel. The female wheels were

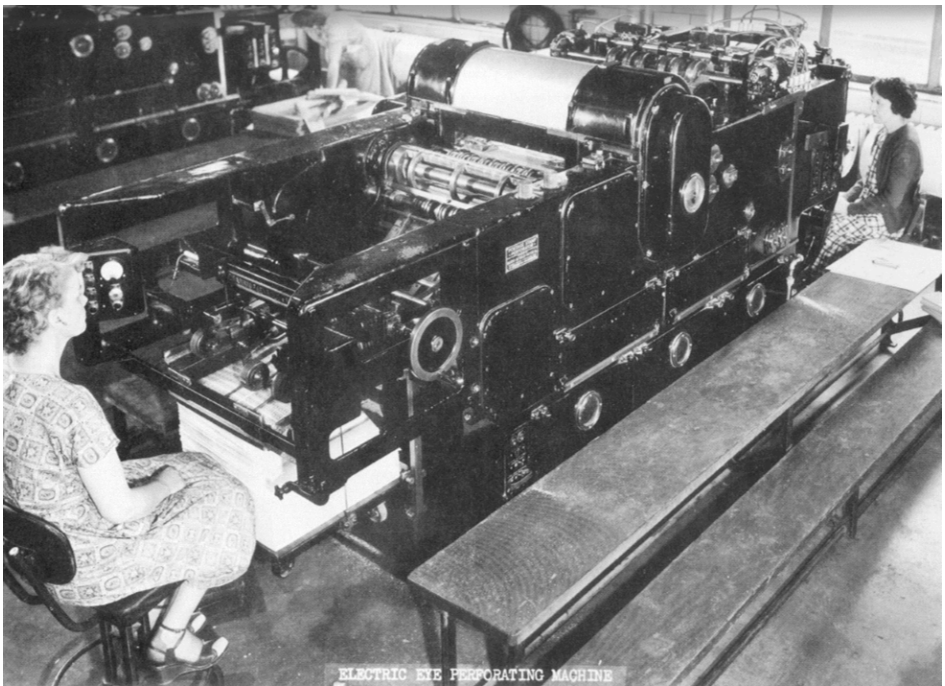


Figure 14. BEP electric eye perforator.



Figure 15. Vertical perforation shift due to wandering male perf pin.



Figure 16. Millikan stamp is shown at top as designed and at bottom with horizontal perf shift.

free-rotating and followed the male wheels if they wandered. Figure 15 shows a piece that was produced as the result of wandering male wheels. Wandering vertical perforations have created examples of what some refer to as design changes, the most famous of which is shown in Figure 16. Here, the vertical perforations have shifted Millikan's name from the left side of the portrait to the right side of the portrait, not what the designer intended.

The horizontal perforations were added from a single rotating cylinder with horizontal rows of pins. Web registration errors produced shifted rows of horizontal perforations such as those previously shown in Figure 11.

Scott listed the perforation gauge as $11 \times 10\frac{1}{2}$ for these issues. Specialists report that the BEP's electric eye perforators actually produced 11.2×10.5 gauge perforations.

The End Came Quickly

So what happened that caused the well-proven system of printing stamps on the Cottrell presses to come to a sudden end for new additions to the Great Americans series?

Early in the morning of March 5, 1982, a spontaneous flare-up of dust and ink in the BEP Annex's pressroom exhaust system created a fire that damaged the Bureau's four Cottrell presses. Press 801 was printing 20¢ Consumer Education coil stamps (Scott 2005). This press received damage but was back in service within 72 hours. Press 803 suffered the same fate. It was printing 10.9¢ Hansom Cab Transportation Coils (Scott 1904) at the time. Press 802 was destroyed, and press 804 was damaged beyond repair. Ironically, the 20¢ Fire Pumper Transportation Coil (Scott 1908) was on press 802. The 13¢ Crazy Horse of the GA series was being printed on press 804.

The short-term effect on the GA was a four-to-six-week delay in replenishing the stock of 17¢ Carson stamps. Post Offices were encouraged to order 37¢ Millikan stamps

as an alternative. The Carson stamp paid the second-ounce postage for a double-weight letter, but the Millikan stamp paid the full postage on a double-weight letter.

Longer term, Great Americans stamps already existing with Cottrell press plates were allocated to press 803, which became the tagging press after the fire. This required the making of some special tagging mats to be used at that press' letterpress station. These mats have tagging breaks that have been attributed to the way the mats were attached to the press. Figure 17 shows a tagging mockup of these breaks. Plates 5 and 6 of the 2¢ Stravinski stamp went to press in February 1985, and examples from those plates demonstrate the break.



Figure 17. Representation of a tagging break on Stravinsky stamp

Printing plates had already been made for a 1¢ value in the Great Americans series when the fire broke out, but the BEP didn't take the plates to press, and this was the end of new values in the Great Americans series printed on Cottrell presses.

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1. Nazar, Richard J., ed. *The 1995 Plate Number Coil Catalog*. Eighth Ed. Somerset, NJ: Nazar Publications, Inc., 1994. http://www.usastamps.com/references/1995_Plate_Number_Coil_Catalog.pdf.



A Tale of Two Cities

by Kevin G. Lowther

USSS #14367 | ✉ klowther5@gmail.com



The first thing you notice about this cover is that someone tried to use an 1870s Internal Revenue documentary stamp (Scott R152) to pay 2¢ postage. The attempt to mail the letter occurred on August 25, 1916, in West New York, New Jersey. A postal clerk wrote “Void” above the stamp—without, it should be noted, defacing it. Perhaps, he thought, it’s too pretty to damage. For good measure, he applied a duplex cancel beneath the stamp and gave the letter back to the sender.

The second thing you notice is that the sender, having subsequently affixed a pair of 1¢ stamps (Scott 424), mailed the letter three days later in Weehawken, New Jersey.

How many covers do you see postmarked in two different cities?

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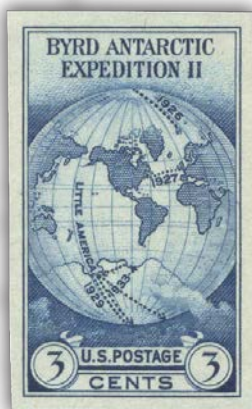
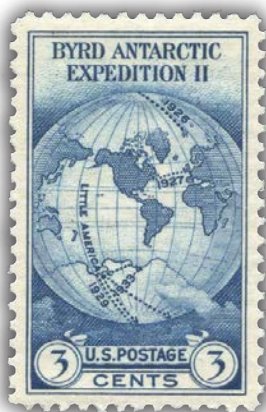


From The Farley Era Committee

FDR and the Byrd Antarctic Expedition II Stamps

by **Paul M. Holland**

USSS #16849 | ✉pholland.thorleaf@gmail.com



“ The special postage stamp on this letter commemorates the second Byrd Antarctic Expedition now enroute to the territory of the South Pole for further exploration and research work.

The stamp will be used on mail matter dispatched at Little America, the first regular post office of any Nation to be established within the realm of the Antarctic. In preparing the design for the stamp, signal honor has been paid the intrepid commander of the Expedition, Admiral Byrd.

As the purpose of the Expedition is to add to scientific and geographic knowledge of the little known region of Antarctica, the Department is grateful to cooperate with the undertaking by issuing this special postage stamp and establishing the Little America post office. ”

—From a signed October 9, 1933, letter sent with a Favor First Day Cover of the 3¢ Byrd Antarctic Expedition stamp by Postmaster General James A. Farley

Franklin D. Roosevelt (FDR) first met Richard E. Byrd in 1914, when as a young Naval officer Byrd was assigned to the USS *Dolphin*, a gunboat that served as the yacht of the Secretary of the Navy. Byrd was descended from an old Virginia family and at the time FDR was Assistant Secretary of the Navy. They became friends and later hunting companions.

In 1917, Byrd went into Naval Aviation, and was appointed to plan the flight path for the Navy's famed NC-4 transatlantic crossing in May 1919, the world's first transatlantic flight. In May 1926, Byrd and a co-pilot attempted a flight over the North Pole from Spitzbergen, Svalbard, Norway and although they claimed success, there is controversy over whether they actually reached the pole. Byrd also completed a non-stop transatlantic flight (with four-man crew) on July 1, 1927, less than two months after Lindbergh's famous solo flight.

Byrd then turned his attention to the Antarctic and the South Pole. To raise funds for his first Antarctic Expedition, Byrd used his connections with wealthy benefactors including Henry Ford, Edsel Ford, John D. Rockefeller Jr., Vincent Astor and others. This support allowed for an expedition lasting two years, during which "Little America" was set up as a base on the Ross Ice Shelf and Byrd successfully made the first flight to the South Pole in late November 1929. For this achievement Congress gave him the rank of Rear Admiral, making Byrd the youngest admiral in the history of the United States Navy at the age of 41. Paramount Pictures even produced a film, *With Byrd at the South Pole*, which in 1930 won the Academy Award for cinematography, becoming the first documentary to ever win an Oscar.

The idea for a special stamp for the second Byrd Antarctic Expedition is said to have arisen when Admiral and Mrs. Byrd were overnight guests at the White House on September 6, 1933. During a discussion about Byrd's upcoming second Antarctic Expedition, the question about sending mail from Little America was discussed, FDR told Byrd "Don't forget to send me a cover from Little America for my stamp collection."¹

Realizing that other stamp collectors might also like to receive covers mailed from Antarctica, FDR then suggested to Postmaster General James A. Farley that a special stamp honoring Admiral Byrd's upcoming expedition might be issued for this purpose. Furthermore, FDR suggested that such a stamp might show a summary of the routes of Byrd's important flights.¹ Since there was no mail service to or from Antarctica, an idea was hatched to contract this out to Byrd's Antarctic Expedition, thus providing a way to help raise funds for this Antarctic exploration effort.

The original plan was to charge 25¢ for mail sent to the United States from Little America in Antarctica, so essays were prepared for this amount, initially as horizontal stamps in the regular size of US Commemorative stamps. The first two drawings prepared at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP) are shown at the top of Figure 1. The top drawing, by Alvin R. Meissner, suggests an influence of his Winged Globe airmail stamp design, with Antarctic ice, one of Byrd's support ships, an airplane, and a southern view of a globe showing the location of Little America. The one below it, by E. M. Weeks, shows north and south polar views of the earth with routes and the dates of Byrd's previous important flights highlighted. Victor S. McKloskey's two horizontal designs at the bottom show an airplane flying over Little America with the continent of Antarctica below. In each case, an image of one of the expedition support ships, the



Figure 1. Horizontal format essays for the Byrd Antarctic Expedition II stamps by Alvin R. Meissner, E. M. Weeks and Victor S. McKloskey.¹

Bear of Oakland, a dual steam-powered and sailing ship with thick wooden plank sides, is shown at the lower left. This was a forerunner to modern icebreakers.

The four BEP essays as horizontal stamps were rejected, with FDR making the rough pencil sketch shown in Figure 2. His suggestion was to use a vertical design for the stamp instead, with a world map showing the routes and the dates of Byrd's previous flights. It should be noted that FDR's signature and the 4/25/35(34) date were clearly added well after the original sketch was made since the design and initial printings of the Byrd Antarctic Expedition II stamp were completed in September 1933 and the stamp was issued on October 9, 1933.

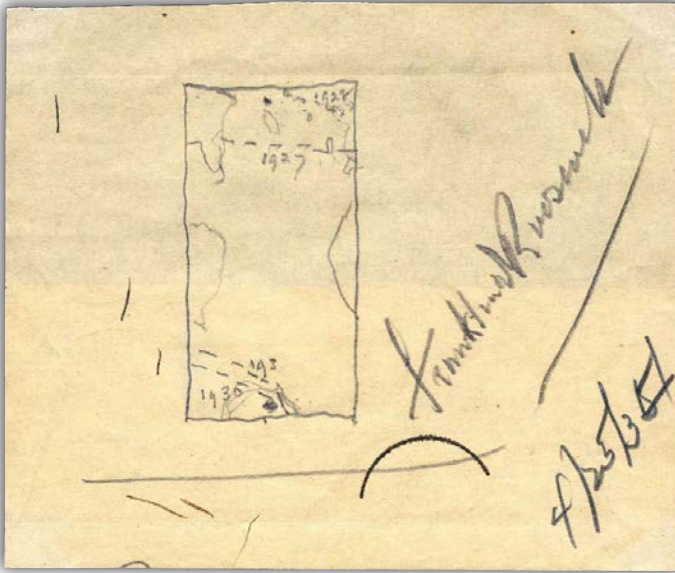


Figure 2. FDR's pencil sketch for a vertical format Byrd Antarctic Expedition II stamp (Smithsonian National Postal Museum).

Following the suggestion in FDR's rough sketch, McKloskey prepared three essays for vertical Byrd Antarctic Expedition II stamp designs, as shown in Figure 3. These show a map of the earth projected onto a globe with dashed lines showing the routes of important Byrd flights. The location of Little America is also indicated. Note that in going from left to right, the first essay also shows the route from southern New Zealand from which the Byrd expedition was staged. In the other essays, routes and dates are more boldly indicated, with some additional details for the 1933–34 expedition plans shown. The one on the right closely resembles the final stamp, except for the value, with the label for Little America extending well into the Pacific Ocean.

For the final version of the Byrd Antarctic Expedition II stamp, it was decided to reduce its value to 3¢ and impose an additional mailing service charge of 50¢ for each cover to provide for transporting it to Antarctica and returning it to the United States for ordinary delivery. Because the Post Office had no means for this service, this was contracted out to the Byrd Antarctic Expedition, with the fee providing a source of funds supporting the exploration effort.



Figure 3. Vertical format essays for Byrd Antarctic Expedition II stamps by Victor S. McKloskey.¹

The vignette for the Byrd Antarctic Expedition II stamp was engraved by J. C. Benzing, with the lettering and frame by Frank La Masure and W. B. Wells.¹ The collection at the Smithsonian National Postal Museum shows that the plate proof was approved on September 27, 1933. Unusually, the color chosen for printing this 3¢ stamp was dark blue rather than the more typical shade of violet.

Of special interest, Admiral Byrd was apparently present at the ceremony at the BEP when the stamps were first printed by flat plate, along with Postmaster General James A. Farley. This is indicated by a full perforated press sheet of 200 stamps, signed and dated by Richard E. Byrd and James A. Farley on September 29, 1933. Now in the collection of the National Postal Museum, it is shown in Figure 4, with closeups of the signatures. Clearly this is one of the original Farley's Follies stamp sheets, similar to that for the Mother's Day stamp.³ Note that this Byrd Antarctic Expedition II stamp sheet was also later signed in green ink by FDR, with an added dedication in green ink by Farley: "To Betty, Ann and Jimmy Farley From their Dad." It seems likely that FDR borrowed Farley's pen for this, and both men seem to have had some trouble writing clearly in the lower (perforated) sheet margin.

The official issue date for the Byrd Antarctic Expedition II stamp was October 9, 1933. Figure 5 shows a favor first day cover (FDC) on official Postmaster General stationery that contained a letter signed by PMG Farley in his trademark green ink. The letter states that "The stamp will be used on mail matter dispatched at Little America, the first regular post office of any Nation to be established within the realm of the Antarctic."

Byrd Antarctic Expedition II stamps were only made available for purchase at the Philatelic Agency in Washington, DC, as they were originally intended for use on mail to be sent from a special post office to be established at Little America in Antarctica. In fact, a September 22, 1933, notice from the Third Assistant Postmaster General states that "the new Little America 3-cent stamp is being issued solely for use on mail matter of the Antarctic Expedition." As a result, only about 5.7 million Byrd Antarctic Expedition II stamps were sold, far fewer than other commemorative stamps, even though it later became clear that these stamps would also be valid for domestic mail.

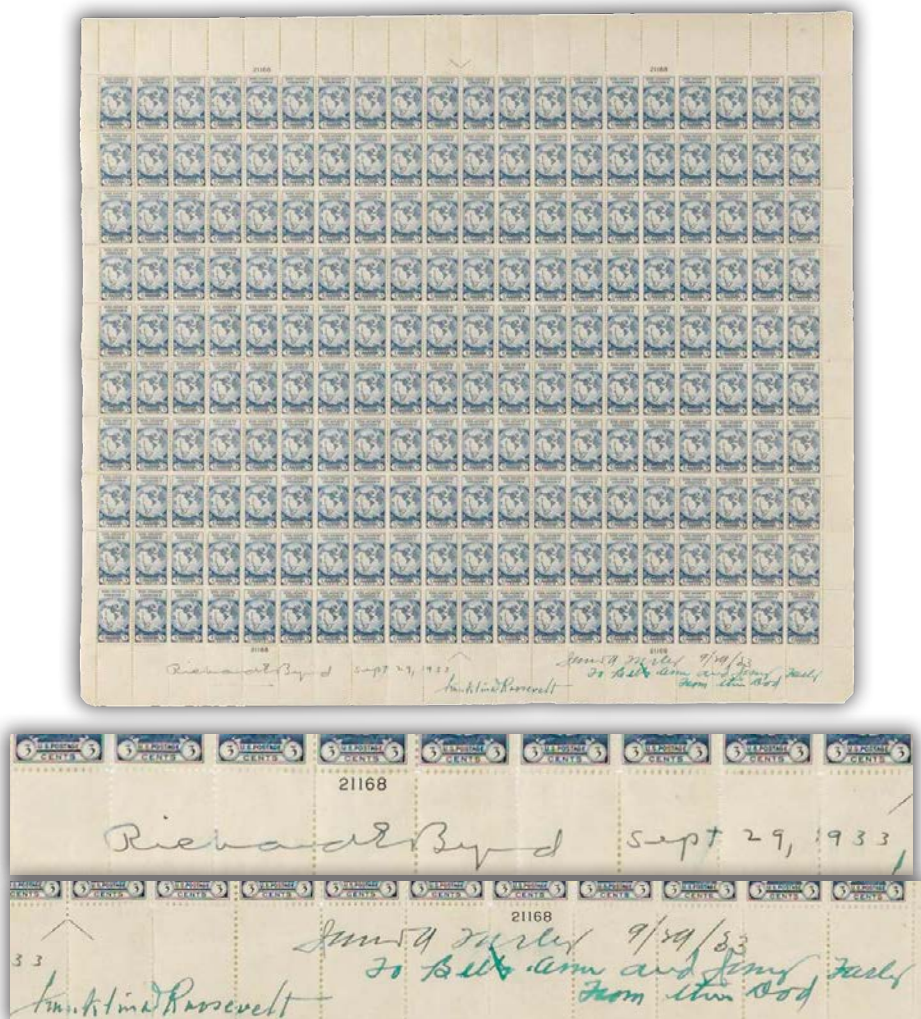


Figure 4. Perforated press sheet of 200, signed by Byrd and PMG Farley, and later by FDR.

On January 14, 1934, it was announced that a special imperforate souvenir sheet of six Byrd Antarctic Expedition II stamps would be issued in compliment to the National Stamp Exhibition to be held at Rockefeller Center in New York City from February 10–18, 1934.¹ An example from the collection at the National Postal Museum, later signed by Admiral Byrd, who was already with the expedition in Antarctica, is shown in Figure 6.

I'm fortunate in having signed favor FDCs of the Byrd Antarctic Expedition II souvenir sheet on official Postmaster General stationery sent to FDR's Secretary of Agriculture Henry A. Wallace and to FDR's Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes. Both are signed by James A. Farley in green ink on the corner card, as shown in Figure 7.

Of special interest is the Farley signed letter to Henry Wallace enclosed in the favor FDC for Byrd Antarctic Expedition II souvenir sheet. As shown in Figure 8, the letter to Wallace states:

The special sheet of six Little America commemorative postage stamps affixed to this letter was issued in compliment to the National Stamp Exhibition of 1934, and is being first offered for sale at the Branch Philatelic Agency, Rockefeller Center, New York, N. Y., today, the opening date of the Exhibition.

The letter bears the postmark of the special postal station which was established to facilitate the dispatch of this mail matter.

These souvenir sheets of Little America stamps are being printed on a special postage stamp press included in the Bureau of Engraving and Printing display at the Exhibition. They will be valued by stamp collectors, and will add to the public interest in the scientific exploration of the Byrd Antarctic Expedition II.

In fact, as part of its display at the National Stamp Exhibition, the BEP had set up a special hand-operated printing press to demonstrate stamp printing for collectors. This utilized a small printing plate with plate number 21187 instead of the full-size plate used

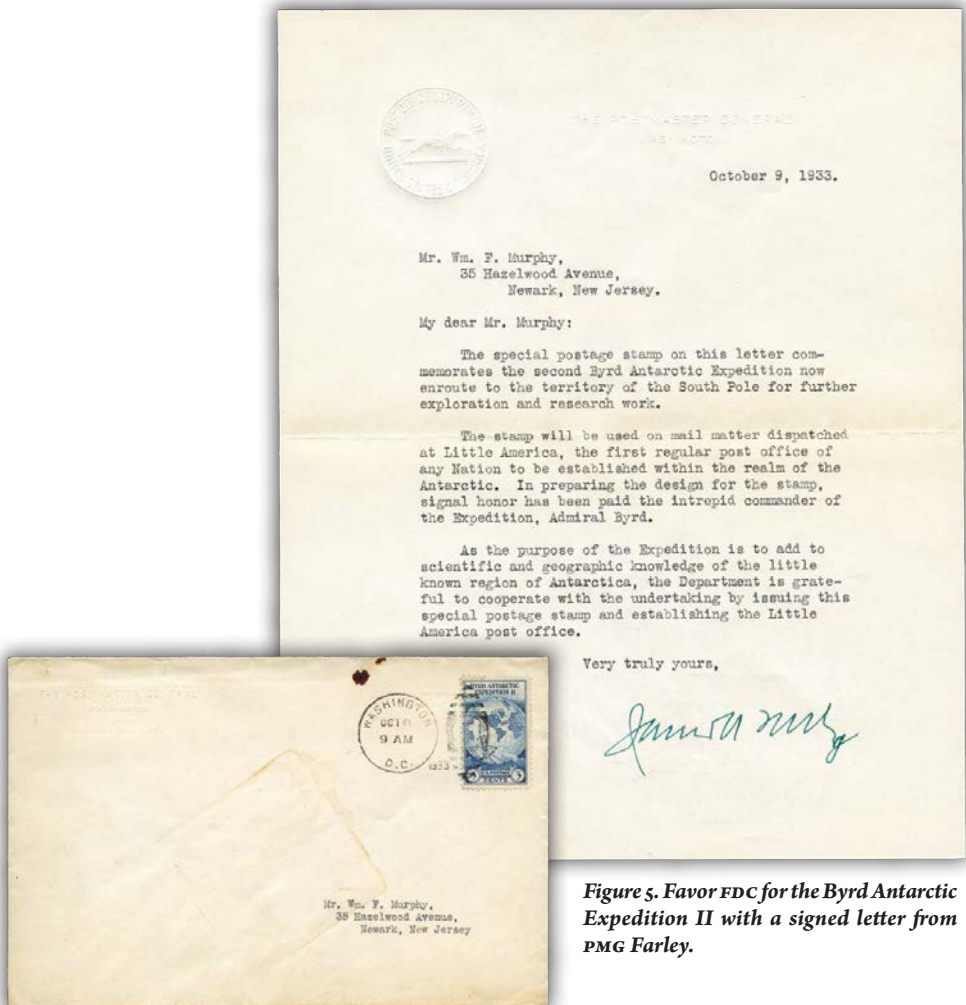


Figure 5. Favor FDC for the Byrd Antarctic Expedition II with a signed letter from PMG Farley.

for printing 25 souvenir sheets, arranged 5 x 5, with plate number 21184.² As far as is known, all souvenir sheets printed using plate number 21187 during this special demonstration by the BEP were destroyed, with all Byrd Antarctic Expedition II souvenir sheets released at the exhibition or sold later being from plate number 21184.

Besides FDCs, a special postal station at the week-long exhibition could be used for mailing other items, such as the cover in my collection addressed to FDR shown in Figure 9. Curiously, the printed corner card is for "Will Rogers, Beverly Hills, California," although there is no reason to believe that Rogers actually attended the exhibition in New York City. Interestingly, Will Rogers was briefly the mayor of Beverly Hills in 1926.

The postal history of Byrd Antarctic Expedition II mail is somewhat complex, involving long distances and substantial delays. There were two Byrd Antarctic Expedition II support ships. Byrd's flagship, the *Jacob Ruppert*, was a freighter named after Byrd's most important wealthy backer. Ruppert was a beer baron and the owner of the New York Yankees, who, in 1919, famously purchased Babe Ruth's baseball contract from Boston,



Figure 6. Byrd Antarctic Expedition II souvenir sheet, later signed by Admiral Byrd (courtesy Smithsonian, National Postal Museum).



Figure 7. Favor FDCs for the Byrd Antarctic Expedition II souvenir sheet sent to Secretary of Agriculture Henry A. Wallace and Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes by PMG James A. Farley.

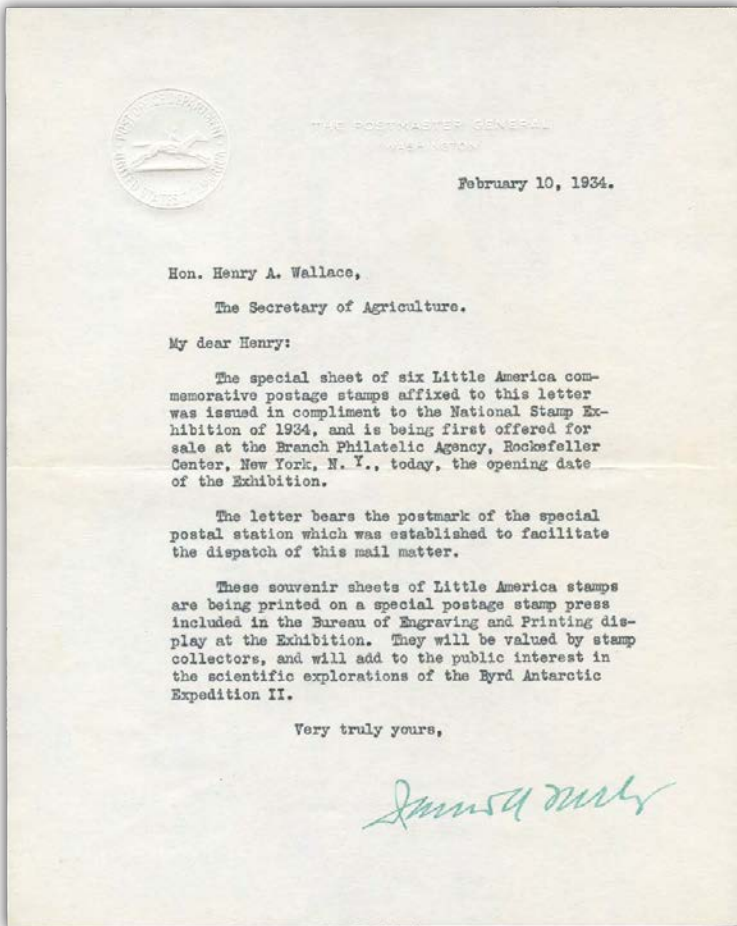


Figure 8. Signed letter sent to Secretary of Agriculture Henry A. Wallace with favor FDC for the Byrd Antarctic Expedition II souvenir sheet by PMG Farley.



Figure 9. Cover with Byrd souvenir sheet addressed to FDR from the National Stamp Exhibition.

news of the expedition. This nationwide radio show was sponsored by General Foods, the makers of Grape-Nuts breakfast cereal. The small inset map at the upper left shows the planned routing for the Byrd expedition to Antarctica and how short-wave radio transmissions were to be relayed from Little America to New York City via Buenos Aires for rebroadcast across the United States. Closeups from the map below show details of the Ross Ice Shelf and Little America. It should be noted that in Antarctica, seasons are reversed compared to the Northern Hemisphere, so that January in Little America would correspond to summer.

Progress of the Byrd Antarctic Expedition II was filmed by John L. Herrmann, a cinematographer from Paramount Pictures. An image from his film showing the unloading of the *Jacob Ruppert* at the Bay of Whales in January 1934, where ice sloped down from the Ross Ice Shelf, is shown at the top in Figure 11. This was some miles from Little America, and dogsleds were required to haul expedition supplies the rest of the way, as it was simply too dangerous for the *Ruppert* to proceed closer. Interestingly, it was necessary to dig down through the snow to find the Little America base from the previous expedition, as it had been completely buried. During the expedition's return



Figure 11. Images of the *Jacob Ruppert* and *Bear of Oakland* being unloaded in January 1934 and loaded in February 1935 at the Ross Ice Shelf.

in February 1935, conditions were even worse, and only the *Bear of Oakland* could be directly used for loading mail and other items being transported from Little America as shown at the bottom of Figure 11. These were then transferred to the *Ruppert* further out.

Byrd Antarctic Expedition II covers canceled in Little America can be divided into two broad categories. First Cancellation covers needed to reach Washington, DC, no later than November 10, 1933, to arrive in Antarctica by January 1934. Originally, it was expected that these Byrd Antarctic Expedition II covers would be delivered to the United States by early summer 1934. Second Cancellation covers were those that were received by postal authorities by November 1934, allowing for their arrival at Little America, Antarctica, in January 1935.

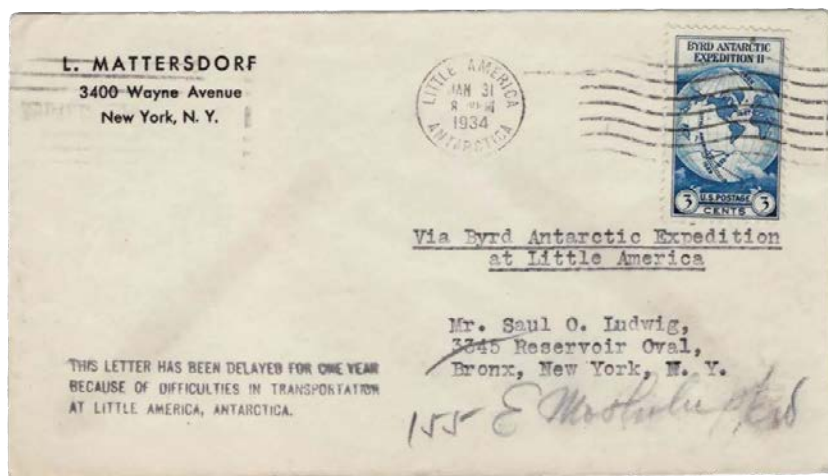


Figure 12. Little America First Cancellation cover with Clark's seven-bar machine cancel.

However, significant problems arose. Although a Postmaster of Little America had been appointed, this was strictly an honorary position, and duties fell to a member of the expedition, Leroy Clark. Clark had no experience with handling mail, and initially, the Little America "post office" was set up in a tent on the ice under freezing conditions. Furthermore, while it had been originally planned that the cancellation date on all covers mailed from Little America would correspond to FDR's birthday, January 30th, in using the portable hand-cranked machine canceler Clark somehow altered the date to January 31, 1934, resulting in only a fraction of the covers he canceled having the "correct" date. Clark covers can be identified by a seven-bar machine cancel. An example of Clark's poorly applied seven-bar "error" cancellation from my collection is shown in Figure 12. Note that by the time this much-belated cover arrived in April 1935 (as shown by the backstamp), the recipient's address had changed, causing it to be forwarded. Details of the philatelic complexity of Little America covers, with their various cancellations, attempted date corrections, etc., is something beyond the scope of this article.

Once this date error became known, there was concern that it might lead some collectors to request a refund of the fee they had paid, potentially affecting Expedition finances. Also, since only a portion of the covers had been processed, Admiral Byrd decided to delay sending any Little America covers until the following year. A handstamp

was created that states: "This letter has been delayed for one year because of difficulties in transportation at Little America, Antarctica." As a result, both First Cancellation and Second Cancellation covers were returned to the United States at the same time. In the meantime, the Post Office Department decided to send Charles F. Anderson, a top troubleshooter, to Little America to sort things out. Shown in Figure 13 are my examples of both First Cancellation and Second Cancellation covers with machine cancellations. These Anderson canceled covers show a six-bar machine cancel. Note the delay notification and January 31 date on my 1934 cover and the special Second Cancellation Mail



Figure 13. Little America First and Second Cancellation covers with Anderson's six-bar machine cancel. The San Francisco receiving mark is found on the back of both covers.

penguin cachet on the cover from January 30, 1935. Also, the second cover has been franked by a stamp cut from an imperforate Byrd Antarctic Expedition II souvenir sheet. "Little America Mail" receiving backstamps show that both covers were processed through San Francisco on their return to the United States on March 25, 1935.

If there is a philatelic hero of the Byrd Antarctic Expedition II, it wouldn't be Admiral Byrd, but rather Charles F. Anderson, the special representative of the Postmaster General who was assigned to the Post Office at Little America in Antarctica. When he arrived in January 1935, he found that the canceling machine had been incorrectly assembled and the canceling ink had frozen. Working virtually around the clock, Anderson somehow managed to properly process both the large backlog of First Cancellation covers and the many Second Cancellation covers that had arrived with him.²



Figure 14. Charles F. Anderson at work in the Little America Post Office.

A photograph of Charles F. Anderson working in the Little America Post Office, now located under the ice, is shown in Figure 14. Fortunately, a portion of Anderson's official report is reproduced in Lena Shawen's book,² where Anderson describes how "as the mail was canceled, we tied it up in packages in waterproofed paper and packed these into cartons" which were then "encased in double mail sacks" for protection. Going without sleep, Anderson was notified less than four hours after the last of the mail had been processed that "the time had come when the mail must start toward the barrier." To save time, a train of dogsleds pulled by a tractor was improvised. By then, conditions were worsening, and the *Bear of Oakland* was still fighting sea ice that had broken off from the barrier. Mail was unloaded from the sleds and Anderson was left alone on the ice (without food or water) to guard it. It was more than 24 desperate hours before the *Bear* was finally able to force its way through the sea ice and reach the barrier so that the mail could be loaded. In Charles Anderson's own words "it was the greatest feeling of thankfulness I have experienced for many a year."² Ten miles out, the mail was then transferred to the *Jacob Ruppert* for the journey to Dunedin, New Zealand. From Dunedin, the mail was loaded aboard the *SS Mariposa* for return to the United States. Following a brief stop in Los Angeles, the ship then docked in San Francisco, where Anderson

himself supervised the unloading of the Byrd Antarctic Expedition II mail at the Ferry Annex Post Office, and the arrival stamp of March 25, 1935, was applied.



Figure 15. Hand-canceled cover with Admiral Byrd portrait and souvenir sheet.

While machine cancellations were used for most Little America covers, hand-cancellers were used for larger items, such as the cacheted cover shown in Figure 15. This Second Cancellation cover is franked with a full Byrd Antarctic Expedition II souvenir sheet hand-canceled with four long bars. Since the large printed portrait of Admiral Byrd on the front of the cover does not allow enough space, the official Second Cancellation penguin cachet was applied to the back instead, along with the “Little America Mail” receiving backstamp (not shown).

However, my favorite hand-canceled cover sent from the Little America Post Office is the one shown in Figure 16. This was apparently self-addressed in pencil by one of the members of the Byrd Antarctic Expedition, John L. Herrmann, cinematographer from Paramount Pictures to Paramount News in New York City (Figure 17). Furthermore, this cover bears a special Paramount Pictures cachet “Commemorating the Opening of Paramount Penguin Theatre Little America, February 24, 1934.” Note also that this

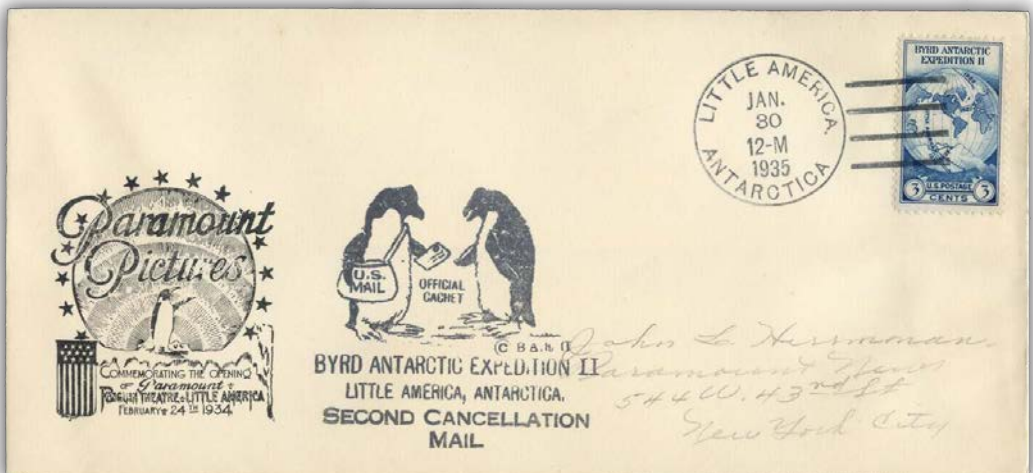


Figure 16. Self-addressed cover by John L. Herrmann, cinematographer from Paramount Pictures.

Little America hand-stamp has four short bars.

John Herrmann's documentary footage from the Byrd Antarctic Expedition was then combined with some key re-created scenes filmed later at the Paramount studio using Admiral Byrd and other original expedition members. This allowed Paramount to release the film as a motion picture in 1935. A Paramount Pictures movie poster is shown in Figure 18.



Figure 17. John L. Herrmann, cinematographer from Paramount Pictures, posing with movie camera.

During the long return voyage, covers from the SS *Jacob Ruppert* were also posted. Figure 19 shows an example from my collection franked by a stamp cut from a Byrd Antarctic Expedition II souvenir sheet. This was postmarked aboard the *Ruppert* on March 6, 1935, while in the Caribbean Sea after passing through the Panama Canal.

In the meantime, shortly before the return of the Byrd Antarctic Expedition II mail to San Francisco on March 25, 1935, Farley Special Printings press sheets of both perforated Byrd postage stamps and souvenir sheets were released to the public on March 15, 1935. However, it was too late for any of these special Farley items to be used on expedition mail.



Figure 18. Movie poster from Into Little America: Capitol of the Unknown (courtesy Heritage Auctions).

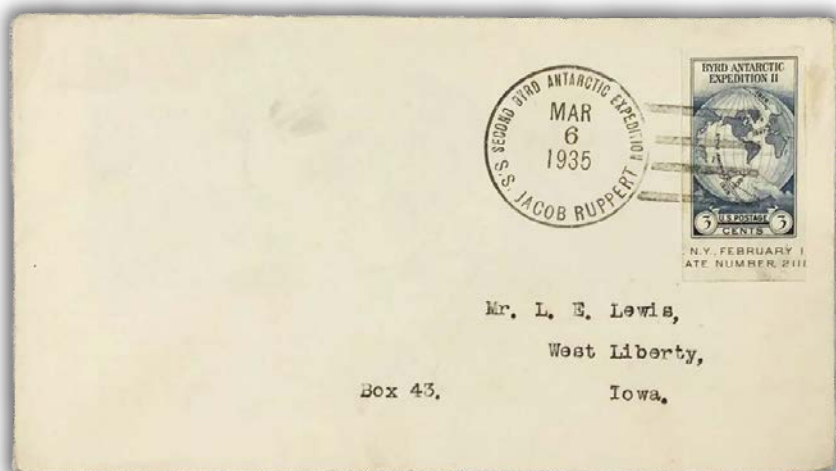


Figure 19. Cover posted aboard the Jacob Ruppert during the return voyage on March 6, 1935.

In the case of the perforated Byrd Antarctic Expedition II stamps, the only way to be certain these are from the Farley Special Printing is as line pairs or line blocks that clearly show the frame lines previously used for separating panes of fifty stamps for sale at post offices. My example FDC with a line pair of these stamps on cover is shown in Figure 20.

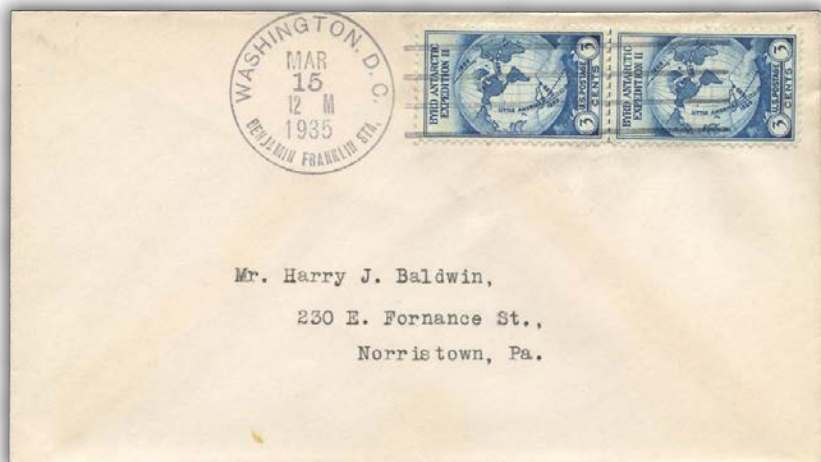


Figure 20. First day cover with line pair of 1935 Farley Special Printing.

With Byrd Antarctic Expedition II souvenir sheets, uncut gutters between the twenty-five souvenir sheets printed on each press sheet is the best way to ascertain that these imperforate stamps are from the Farley Special Printings. My example of a cross gutter block of four Byrd Antarctic Expedition II stamps is shown in Figure 21.

On Admiral Richard E. Byrd's return to the United States, he was formally greeted by President Roosevelt at the Washington Naval Yard on May 10, 1935. In FDR's welcoming remarks, two special reasons for the ceremony were provided. "The first is because of the close association and deep friendship which have existed between you and me for

many long years. The second is because, once more, you have completed a successful expedition for the gain of human knowledge and the furtherance of the progress of civilization." FDR and Admiral Byrd, with his family, are shown in Figure 22, leaving the Washington Navy Yard after the ceremony.

In the early 1930s, the second Byrd Antarctic Expedition represented a great adventure to a virtually unknown frozen continent that the public could participate in via nationwide radio broadcasts, newspaper reports, and occasional newsreels. Here, stamp collectors and philatelists had a special advantage since (with patience) they could also receive mail from the world's most remote post office in Little America, Antarctica. By the way, if you'd like to visit Little America today, it's long gone, as the Antarctic ice sheet it was built on has since broken off and drifted out to sea.



Figure 22. FDR, Admiral Byrd and his family leaving the Washington Navy Yard on May 10, 1935.



Figure 21. Cross Gutter block of four stamps from the Farley Special Printings.

References

1. Max G. Johl, *The United States Commemorative Postage Stamps of the Twentieth Century: Volume I 1935–1947*, H. L. Lindquist: New York, 1947, p. 261–66.
2. Lena Shawen, *A President's Hobby*, H. L. Lindquist: New York, 1949, p. 14–17.
3. Paul M. Holland, "FDR, Farley and the Mother's Day Stamp," *The United States Specialist*, May 2024, p. 221–36.

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Stamp Collectors Are Not Immortal; Why They Need to Have an Endgame

by Kevin G. Lowther

USSS #14367 | ✉ klowther5@gmail.com



Figure 1. Scott 341 on piece, from the collection of the late Gerald Nylander.


I am still haunted by the death, in January 2023, of Gerald (Jerry) Nylander. Jerry chaired the Society's Washington-Franklin Head Committee. He was always ready to answer my frequent questions about the Washington-Franklins. My last query came as he prepared for "routine" hip surgery. He would check his files, he promised, after he recovered from surgery.

Jerry's recuperation was proceeding well, but there is nothing routine about a visit to the operating room. There can be complications. One killed Jerry. He was 74 and presumably in otherwise good health.

Jerry and I had maintained a dialogue on the Washington-Franklins for several years before we first met at his home in a Chicago suburb. I had hoped to look through some of his albums, especially postal history, but what he showed me were loose covers that had not been mounted or described. After his death, I wondered how a lot describer would manage to organize the collection for auction.

Some of the more important items eventually were lotted separately and, so far as I could tell, accurately described. The auction, in August 2023, also included a large “balance” lot, which was purchased by an eBay dealer. I bid successfully on several of the “balance” items but was stunned to see valuable covers and stamps which should have been offered individually in Jerry’s auction. These were described in brief and attracted few bidders.

A prime example is the on-piece usage of Scott 341 (Figure 1), the 50¢ stamp issued in January 1909. It is one of the scarcest Washington-Franklins on cover, listed by Scott at \$5,000. My winning bid was a modest \$150. APEX subsequently authenticated it. Had it appeared in the auction, by itself and with a cert, it might have brought \$2,500 or more.



Having committed to specializing in the Washington-Franklins, I began re-mounting my collection—then virtually all stamps—in the mid-1970s. Influenced by Max G. Johl’s 1937 book, *The United States Postage Stamps of the 20th Century*, I decided to organize them by denomination. My write-ups were based largely on Johl’s.

When I retired in 2007, I started to incorporate postal history. My goal was to illustrate usages. I displayed covers together with stamps of each issue. Of the 250 or so Scott listings (excluding scarce varieties), I have found covers for all but six.

My health prior to retirement had been robust. I had no ailments or disabilities. Then suddenly, in my late 60s, I found myself confronting serious and continuing health challenges. None has kept me from enjoying life, which I owe in part to philately. But I am acutely aware that one’s health, regardless of age, can be fragile and unpredictable.

As I began to experience the realities of aging, I realized that the format of what had grown into a substantial collection might not be ideal when the time came to dispose of it. Auction houses organize sales in the order of Scott numbers. However, stamps and postal history in my collection were mixed and ordered by denomination. A lot describer could easily overlook a valuable item. Moreover, in major auction catalogs, stamps and postal history often are presented separately.

To ensure that the eventual disposition is done efficiently, I reorganized the collection into separate sections for postal history and stamps. I prepared a digital inventory which will provide key data to guide a lot describer or insurance adjuster. This was time-consuming, but collecting sometimes can be hard work and easy to put off.

Several covers and stamps—those generally cataloging more than \$100—required certificates, which I began obtaining. I have done this as a precaution for myself, but also for future owners. With coils, in particular, I did not want to peddle items which had not been authenticated.

Finally, I wrote a narrative description of the collection, which I update periodically on the computer, to guide my spouse and daughters if I am unavailable to supervise disposal. It includes the estimated market and insured value of the collection. It lists steps to be taken and persons to contact in the event of my death.

I have an agreement in principle with an auction house to handle sale of the collection. An experienced philatelist has offered to assist my spouse with the sale if necessary. The American Philatelic Society has a list of philatelists available to help, as well. That

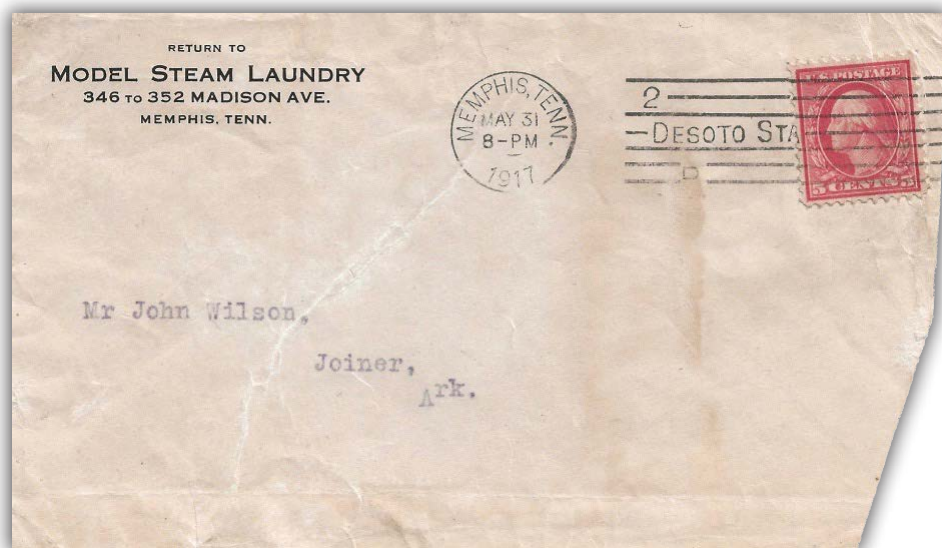


Figure 2. Scott 505, the “red error” on cover.

does not absolve you, as the builder of a valuable collection, from ensuring that your family AND the lot describer know its contents and true worth.

Another consideration is philatelically existential: Important items in a collection that are not fully described risk being lost. An object lesson is the cover in Figure 2. It is an early example of Scott 505—the “red error”—which I found in a large auction lot years ago. It was not properly identified and had sat unnoticed in a dealer’s inventory for decades.

We are caretakers as well as collectors. We are responsible for safeguarding the stamps and covers we acquire. We also have an obligation to document and authenticate them. If you don’t get around to doing this, they can vanish in the philatelic shuffle in the event of your death or incapacity.

The on-piece Scott 341 in Figure 1 would have earned good money for Jerry Nylander’s estate if it had been written up and authenticated. The “red error” cover, which a teenager had rescued from the family wastebasket in 1917, could easily have been lost forever in the 1960s through a previous owner’s negligence or the carelessness of a dealer.

End of sermon.



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Plate Number Report

compiled by **Kim D. Johnson**

USSS #7335 | ✉ westhome1@aol.com

– not pictured –

#343 **1¢ Franklin**
4975 **Automatic Vending Co. type II**

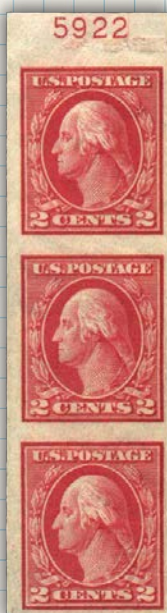
– not pictured –

#383 **1¢ Franklin**
5485 **Mail O Meter type IV**

– not pictured –

#408V **1¢ Washington**
 Imprint XIII

A5885



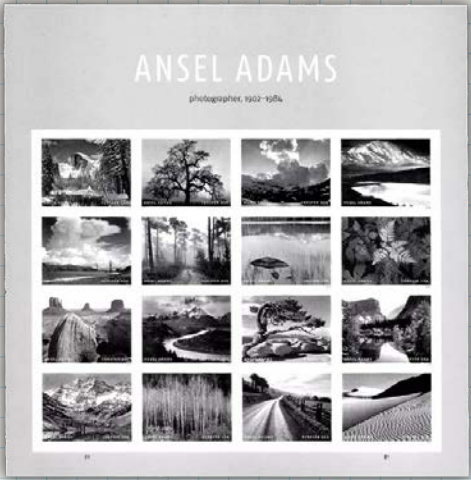
◀ #409V **2¢ Washington**
5922



▲ #409 **2¢ Washington**
7420 **Mail O Meter type IV**

– not pictured –

#1035c **3¢ Liberty**
 Precancel
25837 **UL**



◀ #???? **Ansel Adams**
B1 ‡ ‡ LL LR
3r x 3c 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9*

#C23 6¢ Air Mail ▶
21904-21856 w/arrow
21915-21838 w/arrow
21916-21838 w/arrow



◀ #REA41d 50¢ Beer Stamp
2775

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310 E N 3rd Street
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Sheet stamps after 1980 **Jim Cochrane**
P.O. Box 2009
Great Bend, KS 67530

Coil stamps after 1980 **Jill Ambrose**
PO Box 54622
Cincinnati, OH 45254

Booklet stamps after 1980 **Michael O. Perry**
P.O. Box 1194
Rainier, OR 97048

This monthly report is used to update the *Durland Standard Plate Number Catalog*.



Report of the Executive Secretary

**APPLICATIONS RECEIVED
FORMAY 2024**

- 17555 Mike Derleth, Fairport, NY
- 17556 David Sadler, Grayslake, IL
- 17557 Michelle Lambert, Athol, MA
- 17558 Jason DeLeau, Cedar Park, TX

APPLICATIONS PENDING

17548-17554

NEW MEMBERS

17541-17547

DECEASED

12497 Peter J. LaPlaca

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP

March 31, 2024 **1374**

ADDITIONS:

| | |
|--------------|------------|
| New members | 7 |
| Reinstated | 0 |
| Total | + 7 |

SUBTRACTIONS:

| | |
|--------------|------------|
| Deceased | 1 |
| Total | - 1 |

NET CHANGE **+ 6**

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP

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Richard Zane

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In May, we sent a “Broadcast E-Mail” message to all members with a details on the Fellowship Dinner at GASS in August. A few addresses “bounced” which indicates some e-mail addresses are incorrect or out-of-date in our records. If you do not recall seeing this dinner announcement, please send an email to: Bob Rufe at: execsecretary@usstamps.org

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| Precancel Stamp Society (www.precancels.com) | 334 |
| Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries (www.siegelauctions.com) | 291 |
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