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

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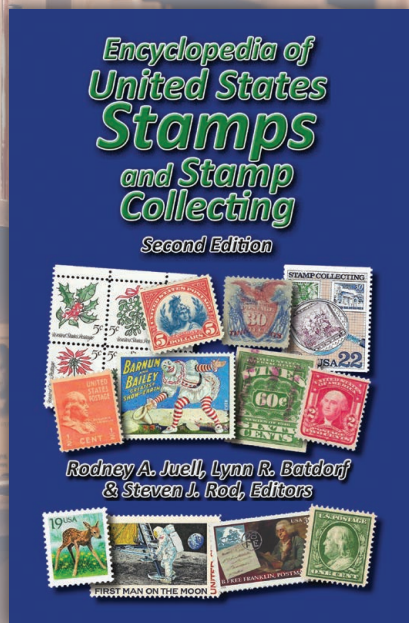
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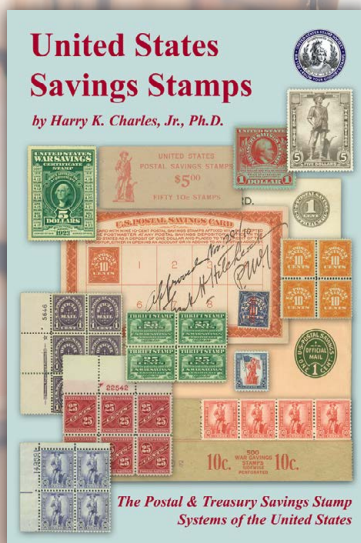
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the journal of the United States Stamp Society

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

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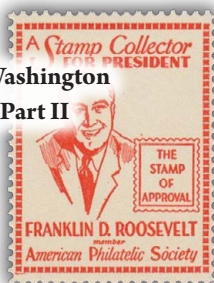
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Nominating Committee Selects Slate for 2024 Election

In accordance with Article V, Section 2, of the Society By-Laws, the Nominating Committee for the 2024 United States Stamp Society election, consisting of Wade E. Saadi (Chairman), Stephen Reinhard and Edward Grabowski, has submitted a slate of nominees to serve as Officers and Governors. They will serve a three year term running from January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2027.

In addition to the members running for Chairman, President, Vice President and Secretary, eleven members have been nominated for the Board of Governors. The Treasurer, *Specialist* Editor, and Executive Secretary are not elected, but rather are paid employees of the Society appointed by the Board.

The election ballots will be included with the annual dues mailing in the fall. The Executive Secretary will then receive and tabulate the completed ballots and report the results to the membership.

A brief background of each of the nominees is presented below:

Chairman—Roger S. Brody is a specialist, exhibitor, author, and lecturer in early twentieth century US stamp production and postal history. Additional studies and exhibits include US Embossed Stamped Revenue Paper, and the production and postal history of post WW II US definitive issues, specifically the Prominent Americans and Great Americans series. He is active in organized philately as an elected governor, treasurer, and past president of The Collectors Club. He is Board chairman of the United States Stamp Society, serving since 1990, and a past member of the Smithsonian Institution's Council of Philatelists. Roger is Past-President of the American Philatelic Research Library, appointed to the Board in 2005. A recipient of The Collectors Club's Alfred F. Lichtenstein Award, and the APS John N. Luff Award for Research, Roger is a member of the Westfield, New Jersey Stamp Club, The Jockey Hollow Stamp Club, a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society London, and a signer of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists.

President—Nicholas A. Lombardi of Mountainside, New Jersey, is currently the President of the Society and has served in that position since 2004. Prior to that he had served a three year term as a Governor from 2001 through 2003. He is also the Chairman of the Second Bureau Issue Committee.

Nick served six years as a member of the Board of Vice Presidents of the American Philatelic Society, four of which were as its Chairman, and then served three years as a Director-At-Large. He is the President of the Westfield (NJ) Stamp Club and Vice President of NOJEX, a World Series of Philately show. He is also a former member of the

Board of Governors of The Collectors Club and is a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society London. Nick also holds memberships in the AAPE, USPCS, RMPL, CZSG and the NJPHS.

Nick collects US stamps and postal history with a special interest in the Second Bureau Issue and registered mail. He is an active exhibitor and has won Large Gold medals and Grand Awards. He won the Hopkinson Trophy in 2000 and the Cleland Award in 2015. In 2023 he won the Champion of Champions Award with his primary exhibit *The 1903 Two Cent Washington Shield Issue*. He has also authored a number of articles for *The Specialist* and was the 2005 winner of the Hopkinson Memorial Literature Award. His articles have also appeared in *The Collectors Club Philatelist* and *The Philatelic Exhibitor*.

Vice President—Jeffrey Shapiro. Current USSS Vice President. Retired Social Service Administrator residing in Marlborough, Massachusetts. Besides a multi-term USSS Vice President and the Chair of the Prexy-Era Group, I am an active collector, exhibitor, writer and lecturer on US twentieth century postal history. I am also an APS qualified Philatelic Judge, a past APS Vice President as well as the former Chair of the WSP Philatelic Show in Boxborough, Massachusetts.

Besides being a recipient of the Carter Volunteer Recognition Award, I am also active in local and regional philatelic activities, including membership in several local stamp clubs and a member of the Board of Directors of the Spellman Museum of Stamps and Postal History (Weston, Massachusetts).

Secretary—Joel I. Cohen earned his doctorate in genetics and evolution from the University of Massachusetts. He recently rediscovered philatelics and joined USSS, specializing in topical issues of baseball and nature conservation, and individuals including Rachel Carson, Charles Darwin and Nikolai Vavilov. He has published in *The United States Specialist* in the areas of baseball commemoratives; conservation and the environment, including heritage breeds and Jackie Robinson. He has served as Secretary for the Society the past two years, and prior to this, served as Committee Coordinator. For his second career, he teaches biology for Maryland public schools. His website is: <http://joelcohen.org/> and his research interests and publications can be found on Research Gate: <https://www.researchgate.net/about>.

Governor—Lynn R. Batdorf of Bethesda, Maryland, retired in 2013 after serving as a curator at the US National Arboretum in Washington, DC, for 36 years. He was a proofreader for the first edition of the *Encyclopedia of United States Stamps and Stamp Collecting*—also writing three chapters and Appendix B, Print Resources. He was a co-editor of the second edition. He has served as a governor for the US Stamp Society since 2013. He served as *The United States Specialist* indexer, USSS recruiting chair, and continues to serve as precancel chair. Lynn is a member of six US-related specialty societies and the APS. He served as a co-instructor at the APS Summer Seminar and appeared as a guest lecturer. His philatelic articles have appeared in *The United States Specialist*, *American Stamp Dealer & Collector*, and *The Precancel Forum*. He was a contributing editor to the US section of the 2018 Yvert & Teller Catalogue *Mondial de Cotation Timbres d'Amérique du Nord*. His primary philatelic interests are general US, precancels, and uncut press sheets

Governor—Kim Johnson currently lives in Georgetown, Illinois, and before his retirement he and his wife Julie owned Westville Homes. He has been an active member of the USSS for over 50 years since assuming the Plate Number Checklist Committee chair from Bill Patten in the mid-1970s and is the editor of the *Durland Standard Plate Number Catalog*. He coordinates the monthly reports of new plate numbers that appear in *The United States Specialist*. He is also a 50-year member of the APS.

Governor—Rod Juell, a Brooklyn, New York, native, life-long collector, and Lutheran pastor, has served the USSS on the Board of Governors, and as Executive Secretary. He regularly contributes to *The United States Specialist*. He lives in Joliet, Illinois with his wife of 54 years.

Governor—Mike Lampson of Charlotte, North Carolina, is webmaster for the USSS website, a member of the Dummy Stamps Study Group and a current member of the Board of Governors. He is a member of several US-related specialty societies and an APS member since the age of sixteen. Mike serves locally as secretary and newsletter editor for the Charlotte Philatelic Society and manages the exhibits, judges and awards as part of the CHARPEX show committee. Mike's collecting interests include dummy stamps, Ohio postal history, auxiliary markings and many other areas.

Governor—Leonard Piskiewicz of Santa Clara, California, has been a collector of United States stamps and covers for 70+ years. He is the past-editor of *The United States Specialist*, having produced the Society's monthly journal during 1998–2019, and has been the Production Editor of the Society's *Durland Standard Plate Number Catalog* since 2005. He has published hundreds of philatelic articles and also three books—*Chicago Postal Markings and Postal History* (2006), *United States Supplementary Mail* (2009, published by the United States Stamp Society) and *Foreign Incoming Mail to the United States—1844–1951* (2024). He was the recipient of the APS's Luff Award for Distinguished Philatelic Research in 2011. Leonard has also managed the production of several books written by Society members and published by the Society, most recently the very successful *The United States Fourth Bureau Issue 1922–1938*, an updating and expansion of Gary Griffith's *United States Stamps, 1922–26* and *United States Stamps, 1927–32*. The candidate's experience in the publishing realm will continue to guide the high quality of the Society's publications in the future.

Governor—Bob Rose is a Governor of the United States Stamp Society, a member of The Collectors Club and serves on its Board of Governors, is Chairman of The Philatelic Foundation, a member of the Royal Philatelic Society in which he was elected a Fellow, and is president of the New Jersey Postal History Society and editor of its award winning quarterly journal, *NJPH*, to which he has contributed dozens of articles. He has served for over 20 years as Chairman of NOJEX, the annual WSP show held in North Jersey and served over a dozen years as a member of the Council of Philatelists of the Smithsonian's National Postal Museum in Washington.

For over 40 years, he has collected New Jersey stampless covers. His exhibit has won five Grand Awards in Word Series of Philately competition and was shown at Pacific '97, Washington 2006, and NY2016. It was awarded a large gold at Stockholmia 2019.

Governor—Gregory Shoults, of Twinsburg, Ohio is a retired school teacher since 2012. He has served one term as a governor for the United States Stamp Society. Greg has served as an international commissioner for the APS at FIP shows in Brazil in 2013 and Canada in 2023. He is a long-time collector of Third Bureau coils and coil related material. He has exhibited internationally at Brazil in 2013, New York in 2016, and Canada in 2023. He has also exhibited nationally for the past 20 years. Greg has also served as the exhibits chairman for Garfield Perry stamp club the past several years.

Governor—K. David Steidley, Ph.D., is a retired medical physicist living in Scottsdale, Arizona, and is an active collector and exhibitor of US stamps and postal history with a special interest in the Second Bureau Issue. A frequent author for *The United States Specialist* and *The Collectors Club Philatelist*, he previously served as the Secretary for the Collectors Club in New York for 20 years. He has also served as an officer for the American Air Mail Society, NOJEX, and World Stamp Show-NY 2016. He is a life member of the APS and has served as an instructor at its Summer Seminar. He wishes to continue to serve another term.

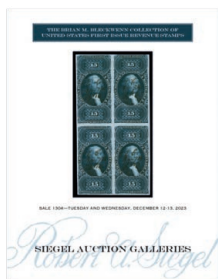
Governor—Jay Stotts of Houston, Texas is a lifelong collector, specializing in US philately, especially twentieth century definitive issues and postal history. He has exhibited philatelic material for 44 years and has served as an APS accredited national philatelic judge for 35 years.

Mr. Stotts has served on the Boards of the BIA and the USSS since his appointment in 1991. In June, 1992, the Board elected him to fill the vacated President's position of the BIA. He was re-elected to two additional terms and served as President through 1997. In 2000, the Board appointed him to the vacated Presidency of the USSS and he was elected for one additional term, returning to the Board in 2003.

In 1989, Jay was a co-founder of the Fourth Bureau Issue Committee of the Society and currently serves as its Chairman. In 2022, the Fourth Bureau Issue Committee completed the 100th anniversary handbook on the issue and Jay served as editor. The book sold 500 copies in 15 months and sold out. Jay has won both the Hopkinson Literature and Exhibiting awards of the Society and served as its annual show coordinator from 1991 through 2003. He specializes in the philately of the US Fourth Bureau Issue (1922–38) and the Great Americans Issue (1981–2000).

Governor—Steven Unkrich, who resides in Cincinnati, Ohio, and has recently retired, has been a United States Stamp Society member for 30+ years and authored Research Paper #12. He was the 2004 editor of the Krause *US Specialized Catalogue* before it was sold and currently contributes to the Scott *US Specialized Catalogue*. His collecting interests include US definitive issues, federal revenues, coil leaderstrips and United States postal history. He also serves the American Philatelic Society as an expert in the 1908–22 Washington-Franklin Series.

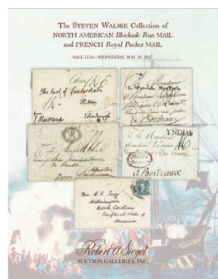
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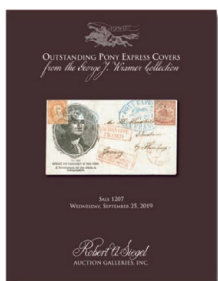
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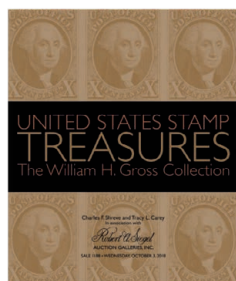
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USSS at the Great American Stamp Show



USSS Chairman Roger Brody announces the Society's support of Boston 2026. Photo courtesy of David Rosenthal.

The United States Stamp Society enjoyed a very successful presence at the American Philatelic Society's Great American Stamp Show. In addition to offering the Society's publications, we signed up several new members. In lieu of a Friday evening Society fellowship dinner, the usss joined The Collectors Club and the U.S. Philatelic Classics Society for a joint dinner and tour of the Mark Twain House and Museum, the Hartford, Connecticut, home where the author and his family lived from 1874 to 1891.

During the show, Roger Brody presented the Society's \$25,000 gift in support of Boston 2026 and the future of philately. Thanks to all who were able to join us.

The following is the list of usss members that attended the show and spent time at our society booth:

Murray Abramson
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Joe Bock
Roger Brody
Michael Burke
Vince Centonze
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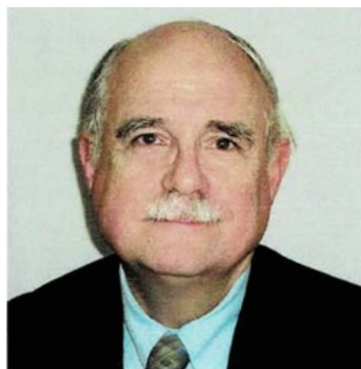


usss Chairman Roger Brody (left) presents the usss' Boston 2026 donation to Mark Butterline, Boston 2026 Executive Director. Photo courtesy of David Rosenthal.

Philatelic Foundation to Award Neinken Medal to John M. Hotchner

The Philatelic Foundation will award John M. Hotchner its Neinken Medal for distinguished service to philately in a ceremony at The Collectors Club in New York on Saturday, October 26, 2024. Mr. Hotchner served as a usss Governor from 1983 until 1992, and also was Chair of the usss Errors, Freaks and Oddities Committee.

A collector since the age of five, Hotchner has been a devoted leader, writer and active participant in the advancement of organized philately at the international, national and local levels. Mr. Hotchner served on the Board of the American Philatelic Society for sixteen years including a term



as its President, as a member of the National Postal Museum's Council of Philatelists for twenty years, as well as a dozen years as a member of the Postmaster General's Citizen's Stamp Advisory Committee. A cofounder of the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors, he served as a Board member for 32 years including two terms as its President. Accredited as a national chief judge and international judge in both

stamps and literature, Mr. Hotchner has served for many years on the APS' Committee on Judging Accreditation including a term as its Chairman. In 2017, he was invited to sign the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists. On the local level, he has served as president of the Virginia Philatelic Federation. He was a founder of national specialty societies for auxiliary markings, AMG philately, errors, freaks and oddities (EFO) collecting and for mourning stamps and covers.

A prolific writer, Mr. Hotchner currently serves as a contributing editor of *Linn's Stamp News*, responsible for its popular "U.S. Stamp Notes," a weekly column, and as a monthly columnist for *The American Stamp Collector & Dealer*, as well as a quarterly columnist for a number of philatelic publications. As an exhibitor, his exhibits have garnered both national grand and reserve grand awards. He has served as an expertizer of 20th century United States stamps as well as a consultant to the Philatelic Foundation.

PF Chairman Robert G. Rose commented on the choice of Mr. Hotchner as the recipient of its Neinken Medal. "John has done it all, and always at the highest level of achievement, as a collector and exhibitor, as writer and judge, as a philatelic expert and, as a board member and president of philately's leading organizations."

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Modern Definitives

20¢ Flag Coil Stamp “Black Field of Stars” Error Found from Plates 4, 6, 8, and 9

by Richard J. Nazar

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Figure 1. Used plate number coil single of a 20¢ Flag over the Supreme Court coil stamp with the “Black Field of Stars Instead of Blue” error (Scott #1895h) over a normal stamp (Scott #1895) with a blue union.

In the May 11, 1992, issue of *Linn's Stamp News*, more than a decade after the 20¢ Flag over Supreme Court coil stamp was first issued, Wayne Youngblood announced the confirmation by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP) of an “error of color” on a used pair and used single of this issue where the union (field of stars) of the flag was printed with black ink instead of blue. The front-page article included a picture of the pair of used 20¢ Flag over Supreme Court coil stamps that was examined by the BEP. The right stamp of the pair has a small plate number 9 at the bottom of the printed image, which identifies the stamp as being printed from sleeve 9 (BEP Plate Number 40407–9) on the BEP's Goebel three-color intaglio C Press. Since Youngblood's report, this item has been listed and then delisted by the Scott *Specialized Catalogue*. This article reports on new examples of this error, discusses the possible cause, and recounts the *Catalogue* and the expert services' varying treatment of the error.



Figure 2. *Used plate number coil singles of 20¢ Flag coil stamps showing the “Black Field of Stars” error (Scott #1895h) from the four known plate numbers—4, 6, 8, and 9.*

New Discoveries

More than 25 years after the original report of the “black field of stars” error, this same error has been found on used stamps showing plate numbers 4, 6, and 8 (Figure 2). The discovery of the error on stamps from plates 4, 6, and 8 was made by Dan Forgues in October 2018 while searching through an accumulation of approximately 12,000 used plate number coil Flag stamps. The accumulation did not include any self-adhesive stamps, which likely means the accumulation of stamps was assembled more than 20 years ago. Forgues also found two used plate strips of three and a used plate number single stamp of the 20¢ Flag with the “black field of stars” color error showing plate number 9 while searching through a 7½ pound accumulation of used plate number coil material in 2017.

In each of the known examples—including the original find from 1992—the field of stars in the flag appears pale black or gray with no trace of the intended blue ink. Varying amounts of red ink appear along the right and bottom edges of the field of stars, which is typical because of the proximity of the different ink colors in the design and the imprecise application of the different inks on the printing sleeve by the press’ inking-in rollers. An overlaid comparison to a normally printed stamp from this issue highlights the extreme difference in appearance of the field of stars in the error stamp (Figure 1).

The stamps shown in Figure 2 show no evidence of tampering to eliminate the appearance of blue ink. Aside from being used stamps that have been soaked to remove them from envelopes, the tagging blocks that overlay the printed image (including the field of stars) do not exhibit any disturbed areas (Figure 3), and the black and red inks are not faded or discolored.

To date, no mint examples of this error have been reported.



Figure 3. *The new examples show no sign of altering the field of stars area, and the tagging blocks (which are over the printed areas) are intact.*

A Connection and Possible Cause

Between November 1981 and December 1984, two different three-color intaglio presses were used by the BEP to print the 20¢ Flag over the Supreme Court coil stamps: the Giori B press (also referred to as press 701 by the BEP because of its location in the facility), which originally went into operation at the BEP in 1973; and the Goebel C press (also known as press 901), which was first used in 1982.

Although the circumference of the cylindrical printing surfaces used on the two presses is different, each press used a single rotary intaglio impression sleeve that produced the full printed image of the stamp design. Separate inking-in rollers applied the different ink colors from three ink fountains (troughs that hold the viscous, dense ink) to the appropriate areas of the impression sleeve to produce the three-color stamp design on the paper web moving through the press.

As noted in the 1992 *Linn's Stamp News* article announcing the original discovery, the BEP explained that this error resulted from black ink mistakenly loaded into the blue ink fountain of the printing press. Because each of the printing sleeves from which this error has been reported (plate numbers 40165-4, 40206-6, 40364-8, and 40407-9) were the first to be used on the BEP's new C press to print the 20¢ Flag coil stamp during October through December 1982, it is possible that the BEP pressmen's unfamiliarity with the new press may have contributed to this ink color error appearing on some of the stamps printed from these printing sleeves. Additionally, when the intaglio printing ink

PLATES USED FOR PRINTING 20¢ U. S. Ord. Postage Stamp (Flag over the Supreme Court)									
Series 1981 Coil B - Slem									
PLATE NO.	FORM OR SERIAL NO.	DATE STARTED	DATE CERTIFIED	CANCELLED	NO. OF SUBS.	SIZE	STEEL OR ALTO NO.	QUANTITY OF SHEETS	
39971-1	B-12	11-5-81	4-13-81	APR 3 1982	936	11 1/2 x 20 1/2 Dia	4106	2,705,500	
40028-2	B-12	12/17/81	1-7-82	1/24/85	936	"	"	6,974,750	
40064-3	B-1	1/26/82	FEB 1 1982	3/6/84	"	"	4106	6,778,500	
40194-5	B-16	4/26/82	5/1/82	1/24/85	"	"	4106	11,305,900	
40849-11	B-11	2/27/84	3/1/84	10/1/84	936	"	"	765,000	
40887-13	B-12	3/5/84	3/14/84	3/8/85	936	"	"	4,327,800	
40944-14	B-6	4/26/84	5-15-84	APR 3 1986	936	"	"	8,016,751	
41131-15	B	10/12/84	Newer	10-31-84	"	"	"	None	

PLATES USED FOR PRINTING 20¢ U. S. Regular Postage Stamp (Flag over The Supreme Court Coil 864, Sub 1, Series 1981 for "C" Press									
PLATE NO.	FORM OR SERIAL NO.	DATE STARTED	DATE CERTIFIED	CANCELLED	NO. OF SUBS.	SIZE	STEEL OR ALTO NO.	QUANTITY OF SHEETS	
40165-4	C-1	3/30/82	APR 13 1982	1/24/85	864	13-1/2 X 24	4106	6,254,632	
40206-6	C-4	5/14/82	MAY 19 1982	12/13/84	864	24 x 13-1/4 Dia	"	1,989,593	
40267-7	C-3	7/7/82	NOV 20 1982	NOV 18 1982	864	33-6 X 27-1	4106	None	
40364-8	C-5	11/3/82	NOV 10 1982	APR 3 1985	960	24 X 13-1/4 Dia	4126	18,124,981	
40407-9	C-6	11/30/82	DEC 10 1982	2/27/85	960	"	4126	12,854,540	
40816-10		12/5/83	DEC 19 1983	2/27/85	960	"	"	3,573,649	
40878-12	C-11	2/27/84	MAR 7 1984	2/27/85	960	"	"	6,919,012	

Figure 4. Bureau of Engraving and Printing "Plate Description and History Record by Product" cards for the 20¢ Flag over the Supreme Court coil stamp showing the printing sleeves used to print this issue on two different 3-color intaglio presses: Giori B press, which went into operation in 1973 (background) and Goebel C press, which was first used in 1982 (foreground).

is placed in the ink fountain, the ink has a very dense consistency—almost like a paste. This density could have made it difficult to discern between black and dark blue inks.

It was a year later, in December 1983, when the next printing sleeve (40816–10) was used on the C press to print the 20¢ Flag over Supreme Court coil stamp.

BEP's Examination and Confirmation of the Original Find

According to Wayne Youngblood's 1992 *Linn's* article, the original finder of the 20¢ black field of stars error was a Washington, DC, collector. The collector found one used pair and a used single example in 1982. After having difficulty getting conclusive opinions from several experts, in May 1991 the collector submitted the three stamps to the BEP for examination.

The BEP's letter (dated March 18, 1992) responding to the original finder's inquiry about the error of color stamps provided the following explanation:

We have completed the examination of the three (3)–20¢ Flag over The Supreme Court postage stamps, which were submitted for examination and a report of our findings is as follows:

The submitted stamps were examined visually and microscopically by ambient and ultra-violet illumination. The stamps have all the requisite intaglio printing, the phosphor taggant is intact, the adhesive is intact, and there are no signs of tampering. However, the field of the flag of all three stamps appear to have been printed with black ink instead of the normal blue ink.

The black on the single stamp does not appear to be a mixture of red and blue ink, as examined with a stereo and a compound microscope, since no traces of red and blue pigmentation could be detected. Only red contamination which was caused by wiping is apparent in portions of the black ink. The black ink on the pair of stamps appears black, but is grayer than that of the single stamp. Red contamination is minimal and there is no evidence of blue pigmentation on these stamps. A spectrophotometric analysis supports the above observations of the color of ink in the field of the flag.

The 20¢ Flag Over the Supreme Court postage stamp was printed on a three-color intaglio press. On this type of intaglio printing press, one printing cylinder, which is inked from three fountains, is used. There is a fountain containing red ink of the flag stripes, a second fountain delivers blue ink for the field of the flag, and the final fountain contains black ink for the image of the Supreme court and the postage stamp denomination. The excess of the three inks is wiped almost simultaneously from the plate with a single wiper roller.

It appears, from the examination of the submitted stamps, that the black field of the flag was not due to leaking of ink from one fountain to another, since a mixture of red and blue would have been detected.

However, we believe that the black field of the flag was a result of having the wrong ink in the blue ink fountain of the press.

Since this particular press is not used exclusively for printing Flag stamps, the error could have occurred as the result of a job change. We believe this particular situation existed for only a brief period of time and the work should have been destined as spoilage.

However, the submitted stamps do not meet BEP quality standards and should have been detected during inspection and subsequently mutilated.

Certification Successes and Challenges

Few examples of the 20¢ Flag the “Black Field of Stars” error have been submitted to the prominent philatelic expertization services for examination. The opinions expressed by these services have ranged from confirmation to perceived fakery—the later perhaps resulting from an unfamiliarity with the characteristics of this error or lack of reference material.



Figure 5. *Used plate number coil strip of three 20¢ Flag coil stamps showing the “Black Field of Stars” error. Plate number 9 appears on the center stamp (from APEX certificate 167511).*

In February 2006, a used strip of three with plate number 9 on the middle stamp (Figure 5) was certified (Certificate Number 167511) by the American Philatelic Expertizing Service (APEX) with the following opinion: “United States, Scott No. 1895, with the black field of stars error, used PNC3, plate 9, genuine in all respects.”



Figure 6. *Used pair of the 20¢ Flag coil stamps showing the “Black Field of Stars” error offered in the Spink Shreves Gallery Sale 126 auction held October 14–15, 2010. Plate number 9 appears on the right stamp (from Philatelic Foundation certificate 262617).*

In the Spink Shreves Gallery Sale 126 auction held October 14–15, 2010, a used pair of the 20¢ Flag over Supreme Court coil stamp with black field of stars instead of blue was sold for \$1,600 (plus a 20% buyer’s premium). The auction listing described the lot in the following way:

#1895h, 20¢ Flag over Supreme Court, black field of stars instead of blue, used pair showing the background portion of the stars in the flag printed in a grayish black instead of the normal deep blue, very fine; **the first such example we have ever seen, let alone offered in our auctions**; accompanied by a 1992 letter from the Bureau of Engraving and Printing attesting to its authenticity and speculating that it was caused by having the wrong ink in the blue ink fountain of the press, in addition it has a 1993 PF certificate; listed but unpriced in Scott.

Despite the notation in the auction lot description and the price paid for the lot (Figure 6), the accompanying Philatelic Foundation (PF) certificate (Certificate No. 262617) reads:

BLACK FIELD OF STARS IN FLAG, PLATE NO. 9 PAIR.

AND WE ARE OF THE OPINION THAT

Decline Opinion *****

Almost two years later, an expertization certificate (No. 01247784) was issued by Professional Stamp Experts (PSE) on April 10, 2012, for the used single stamp on paper shown in Figure 7. The expert opinion on the certificate for this stamp states, "It is genuine used, on piece, the 'black field of stars instead of blue' variety caused by an inking roller swear. [sic]" This opinion is almost a direct quote from a note concerning this error in the 2012 edition of the Scott *Specialized Catalogue*. The PSE opinion was clearly guided (or confined) to a determination that the submitted stamp was relegated to the level of a production freak instead of an "error of color" based on the *Catalogue's* note.

Even four decades after the initial find, expert certifications of the "Black Field of Stars" error of 20¢ Flag over Supreme Court coil stamp are still challenging. However, as additional examples of this error are discovered and documented, certification of this elusive error has become more reliable.



Figure 7. Used single stamp of the "Black Field of Stars" error on trimmed paper that was submitted to PSE in 2012.



Figure 8. A second used plate number coil strip of three 20¢ Flag coil stamps showing the "black field of stars instead of blue" error with plate number 9 on the center stamp (from PF certificate 597975).

Figure 8 shows a used plate strip of three that the Philatelic Foundation certified as a genuine “black field of stars instead of blue” stamps with a plate number 9 on the center stamp. (Certificate No. 597975) in October 2023.

In, Out, and Back in the Scott *Specialized Catalogue*

The prominent catalog for United States stamps, Scott *Specialized Catalogue of United States & Covers*, also has been inconsistent with the treatment of this “error of color” stamp.

This color error stamp was first listed in the 2007 edition of the Scott *Specialized Catalogue*. It was assigned Scott #1895h with the following description: “Black field of stars instead of blue” with no pricing.

Scott #1895h and the “Black field of stars instead of blue” description appeared in the next four editions of the Scott *Specialized Catalogue*. However, in the 2012 edition of the *Catalogue*, Scott #1895h was delisted and a note was added at the end of the group of listings under Scott #1895 that read, “The variety ‘black field of stars instead of blue’ was caused by an inking roller smear.” The impetus for the removal of Scott #1895h was the PSE certificate No. 01247784 discussed earlier in this article. The new note at the end of the listings under Scott #1895 was derived from the comment on the PSE certificate.

Scott #1895h was again absent from the 2013 edition of the Scott *Specialized Catalogue* and the note from the 2012 edition attributing the color difference in the field of stars to an inking roller smear remained.

In the 2014 edition of the Scott *Specialized Catalogue*, a listing for Scott #1895h reappeared—however, it wasn’t for the “Black field of stars instead of blue” color error. Instead, the description for Scott #1895h read, “As ‘d,’ tagging omitted” with no pricing. After being delisted in the previous two editions of the *Catalogue*, the editors reused the 1895h Scott number to identify a newly cataloged error—an imperforate pair of the 20¢ Flag over the Supreme Court coil stamp with tagging omitted. The note about the “black field of stars” color error being attributed to an inking roller smear again appeared at the end of the group of listings under Scott #1895.

Surprisingly, the 2015 edition of the Scott *Specialized Catalogue* reassigned Scott #1895h to the “Black field of stars instead of blue” color error. The note that previously attributed the “Black field of stars instead of blue” error as being “caused by an inking roller smear” was removed. A new Scott number, #1895i, was assigned to the “Imperf, pair, tagging omitted” error.

Since the re-assignment of Scott #1895h to the “Black field of stars instead of blue” color error in 2015, all subsequent editions of the annual Scott *Specialized Catalogue* (through the publication of this article) have included this listing. However, none of the editions have provided a value to this stamp error, which indicates that there is not enough market data about this error to establish a catalog value.

A Black Flag, But Not the Same

It is important to note that the 20¢ Flag over Supreme Court coil stamp also has a variety caused by an extreme misregistration (sometimes as much as 10 millimeters) of the red, blue, and black inking-in rollers that produced stamps with portions of the field of stars to be black and blue and portions of the flag’s stripes to be distinctly blue,



Figure 9. Plate number strip of three of the 20¢ Flag over the Supreme Court coil stamp showing the “Illinois shift” variety caused by the misregistration of the inking-in rollers.

black, and red (Figure 9). This variety is found on some stamps printed from sleeve 10, which was exclusively used on the C press.

Because this variety was originally reported as being found in Illinois, it is commonly referred to as the “Illinois shift” variety. Although this variety shows the field of stars almost completely printed in black ink, it should not be confused with the “black field of stars” error of color.

Acknowledgments

The author offers a special acknowledgment and gratitude to the following people for their generous contributions of information, research, and philatelic material used in this article: Brian Engler, Jr.; Dan Forgues; Doug Iams; Jim Kloetzel; Robert Thompson; the late Alan Thomson; and Scott Walker.

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Great Americans Issue Part V— The I-8 Currency Press Issues

by Jay Stotts

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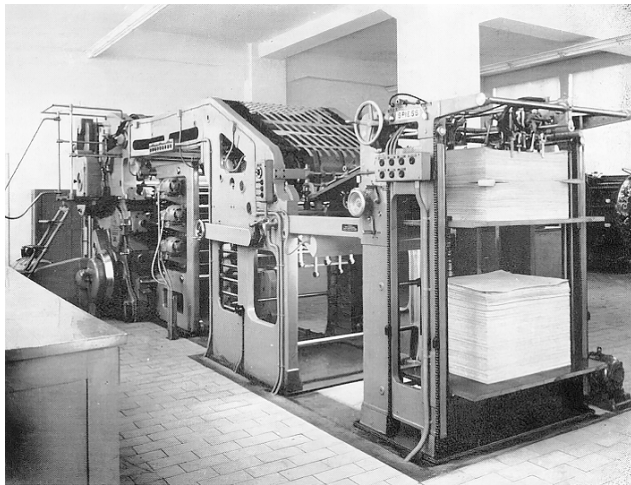


Figure 1. An I-8 Currency Press.

A United States Postal Service (USPS) practice of issuing special rate stamps for nearly every mail classification led to a banner year for stamp production at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP) in 1985. The year 1985 was arguably the most productive stamp printing challenge the BEP had faced up until then. Not since 1938, when the Presidential Issue was released, had the production of regular issue stamps exceeded that of commemorative stamps.

In Part IV of this series, we explained that six of the Great Americans (GA) issues had been produced on the BEP's A Press and released in 1985, but there were still three more values to premiere that year and the Bureau turned to Press #110, called an I-8 currency press, to find the capacity to print these three additional values.

Bureau plate records indicate that as early as June 1982 (shortly after the Cottrell presses were damaged in the Bureau Annex fire in March 1982) a set of four plates were made to print 17¢ Rachel Carson stamps on an I-8 press. BEP officials apparently decided not to pursue this option, so prior to 1985, the I-8 presses were not involved in the GA production story.



Figure 2. The three 1985 stamps printed on the I-8 press

The Three I-8 Press Issues of 1985

An I-8 press is shown in Figure 1. The I-8 presses' tenure at the BEP dates from about 1981–83.

Figure 2 shows the three 1985 stamps printed on the I-8 press. First came an 11¢ stamp honoring Alden Partridge, which was issued on February 12, 1985. Partridge was an early superintendent of the US Military Academy at West Point.

Ten days after issuing the Partridge stamp, on February 22, the USPS released a 50¢ stamp honoring Naval Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, who played a major role in the naval history of World War II. The third and final I-8 press issue of the Great Americans Series was an 8¢ value picturing Henry Knox, the American Revolutionary general who was well known for transporting cannons from Fort Ticonderoga, New York, through the winter snows of 1775 to the outskirts of Boston to support General Washington's position there against the British army.

The I-8 press had a rotary printing drum but did not print to a web or roll of paper as most other presses did. Sheets of pre-gummed paper were fed through the press. Figure 3 shows the gum side of a partial pane of GA stamps printed from the I-8 press laid on top of a pane of stamps printed from the A press with floating plate numbers. Note that the I-8 press pregummed sheets have very shiny gum, easily identifiable from earlier GA printings.



Figure 3. Shiny gum from I-8 press (top) compared to gum from A press (bottom).

The rotating printing drum was fitted with four plates of 400 subjects. The plates were made as flat plates and then curved into a semi-cylinder shape. Each time the drum rotated a sheet of 1600 subjects was printed. After printing, this sheet was quartered into four panes of 400 subjects, each representing one of the four 400-subject plates originally created for the printing process.

Marginal Markings

For each press run, four separately numbered plates were sent to press. For the Partridge stamp, the plate numbers were 2, 3, 4 and 5. The plate number appeared in all four corners of the pane of 400 subjects. When the panes were further quartered into post office panes of 100 subjects, each of those panes contained a traditional plate block of four in one of the four corners, depending on whether the pane was an upper right, upper left, lower right, or lower left pane. Figure 4 shows an upper right plate block of the Partridge stamp from plate 3.



Figure 4. Partridge block from plate 3.



Figure 5. Nimitz block from plate 4.

Plates 3, 4, 5, and 6 were used for the entire printing of Knox 8¢ stamps, so plate blocks will show one of these four numbers. Nimitz stamps were printed from plates 1, 2, 3, and 4. Sleeve numbers 1, 2, and 3 will appear on later Nimitz printings because cylindrical sleeves were later used on Presses A, C and/or D. Unfortunately, the Bureau regarded repeating plate numbers as sleeve numbers as inconsequential. The shiny gum should help collectors distinguish I-8 press printings of the Nimitz stamp from later printings. Plate blocks of plate 4 are distinctively I-8 printings, as shown in Figure 5.

Copyright and ZIP code markings were located once on each post office pane of 100 stamps and were on the same outside margin as the plate number inscription. Figure 6 illustrates these markings from a lower right post office pane of 100 subjects from plate 4 of the Partridge stamps. Note the short dash at the upper left corner of the illustration. This was a printed cutting guideline.



Figure 6. Zip and copyright marginal markings from an I-8 press pane . Note printed cutting line at upper left, indicated by an arrow.

Tagging

There was no additional printing station on the I-8 press, so phosphor tagging was done later on an offset press. These stamps were overall tagged, rather than block tagged, as the A Press issues were. Figure 7 is a representation of overall tagging on I-8 press printed stamps.

Perforating

The Bureau planned for these three printings to be perforated on the "L" perforator, so no electric eye markings, crow's feet, or other perforating guides were printed in the margins of the I-8 press printed stamps. Like the previous "L" perforations, the vertical perforations were punched first, followed by the horizontal perforations, so the intersections of the rows and columns of perforations did not meet in bullseyes at the intersections.

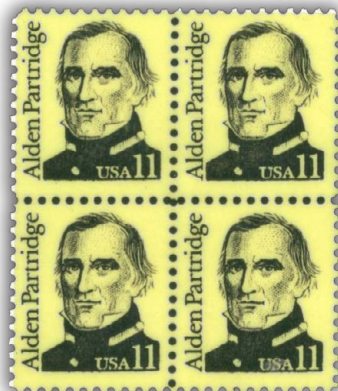


Figure 7. Illustration of overall tagging on I-8 press stamps



Figure 8. Perforations from the L perforator.

Figure 8 shows a block of Knox stamps where the rows and columns of perforations did not meet in bullseyes. The gauge was 10.9 x 10.9

As with all the other "L" perforator stamps, perforation shifts were inevitable. Figure 9 shows a block of Nimitz stamps where the vertical perforations are aligned, but the horizontal perforations are shifted by a few millimeters.

The single I-8 press runs of the 11¢ Partridge and 8¢ Knox stamps would mark the end of the line for these two values, but the 50¢ Nimitz stamp would later reappear in other formats.



Figure 9. Misregistered horizontal perforations from the L perforator.

Reflecting on the Scott *Specialized Catalogue* Listings

Now is a good time to look back at the Scott *Specialized Catalogue* listings and speculate on their approach to this series through 1985. The USPS had provided a name for the Great Americans Series, so Scott knew this would be a continuing set of definitive stamps, but most likely did not know how extensive the issue would be and when it would end.

Through 1985, the USPS issued 26 different Great Americans stamps between December, 1980, and the end of 1985. Scott decided to assign, in consecutive face value order, the numbers 1844 (1¢ Dix) through 1869 (50¢ Nimitz). At this time, only the Dix stamps had what can be argued as distinct varieties in perforation (11.2 gauge versus 10.9 gauge) that, seemingly,

only specialists might concern themselves with.

Possibly, not considering future formats of the previously issued face values, Scott was content to open up a new block of numbers once the 1986 new face values began being released. There were certainly commercial aspects to this approach, such as annual album supplements being printed, marketed, and sold to comply with annual stamp releases. Even the USPS was in the habit of issuing annual sets of new stamp issues for the convenience of across-the-counter stamp collectors in the 1980s.

So, one can understand Scott’s approach, but we can still lament the loss of collectors’ understanding of the evolution of the GA issue and even the understanding of the quick series of changes that were happening at this fascinating time within the BEP by Scott’s choices for listing this issue the way they did in the *Specialized Catalogue*.

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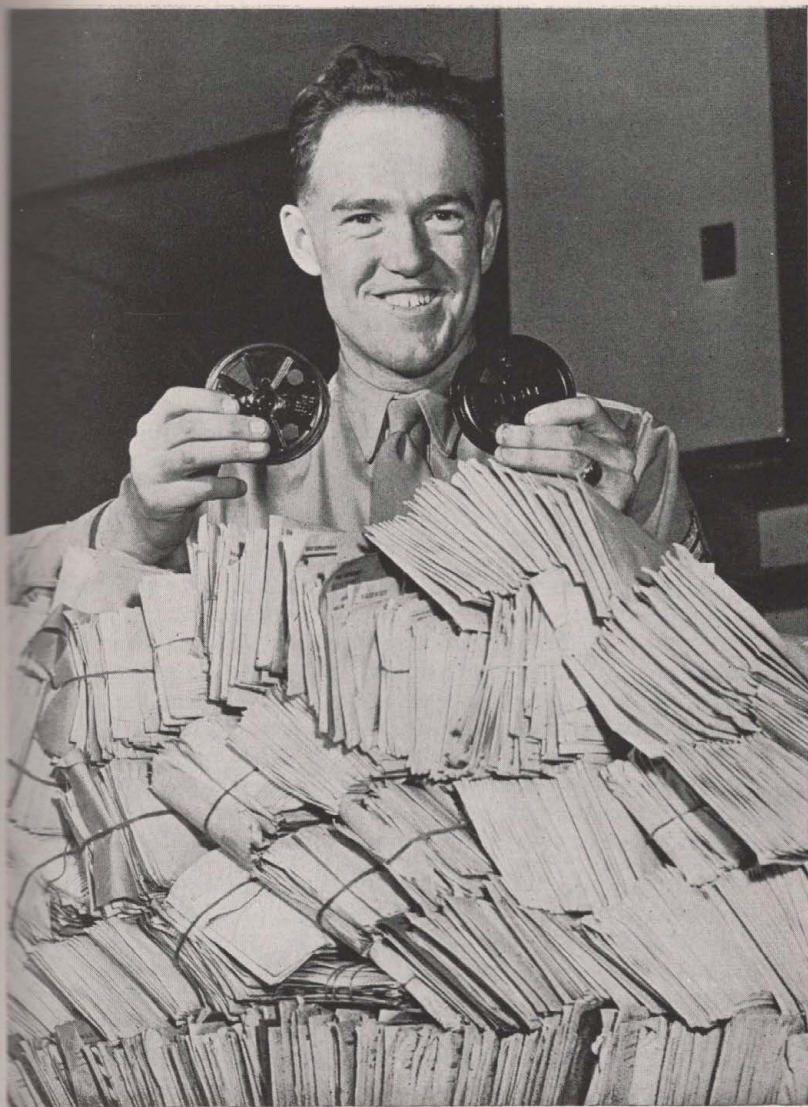


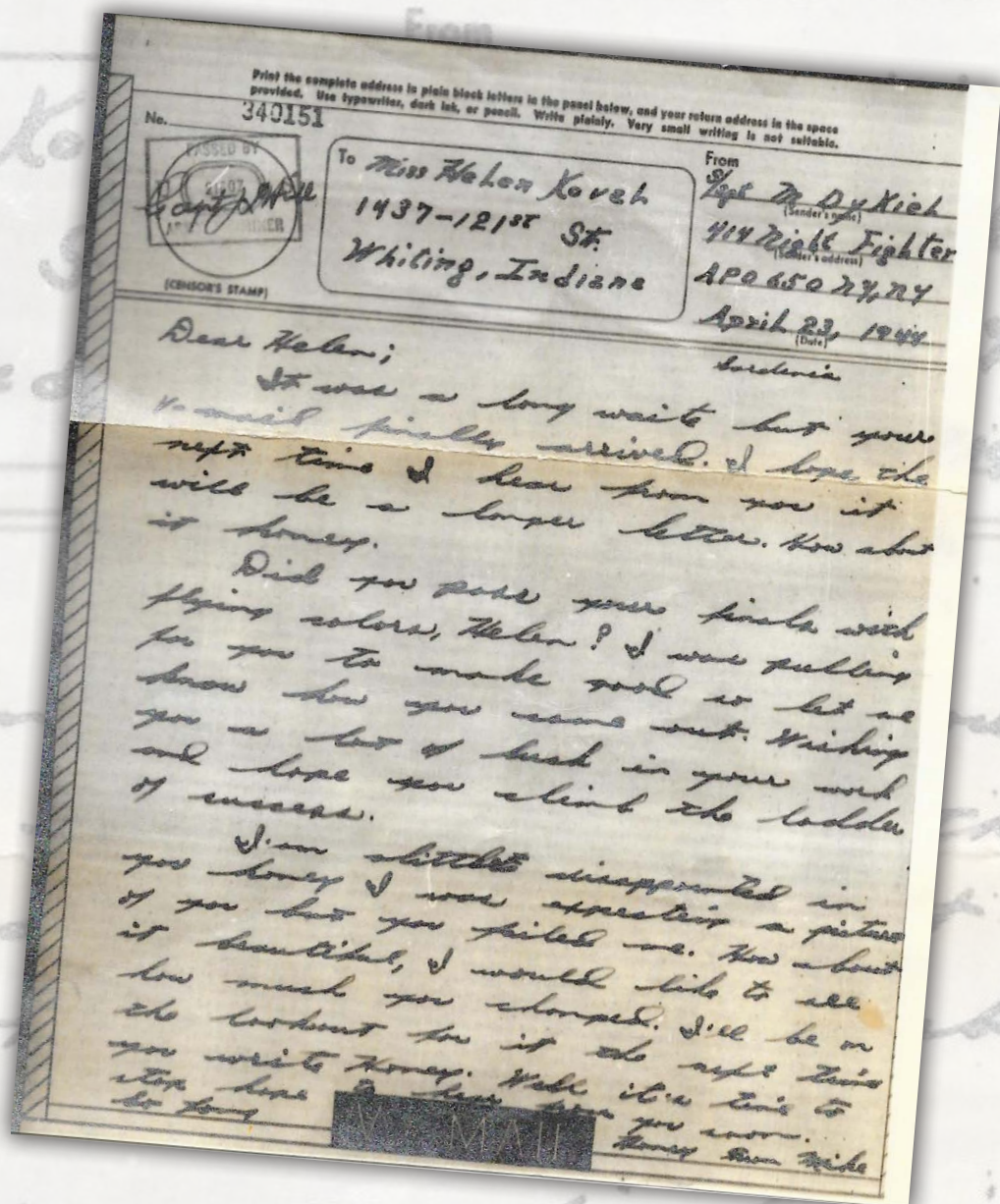
Vintage Photo of the Month

V-Mail

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In this month's photo, an Army sergeant illustrates the difference in bulk between 3,200 ordinary letters and the same number of letters reduced to microfilm. During World War II, much military mail to and from troops stationed abroad was microfilmed before transit to save precious space on ships and planes. Once arriving overseas (or state-side), letters on the microfilm, known as V-Mail, were printed out and delivered to the recipient. Shown above is an example of a V-Mail letter printed from microfilm and delivered in 1944 to a serviceman's loved one at home in Whiting, Indiana



Washington Bicentennial Series

FDR and the 1932 Washington Bicentennial Series, Part II

by **Paul M. Holland**

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



“ To the United States George Washington Bicentennial Commission the country owes a debt of gratitude... ”

—President Franklin D. Roosevelt in the Bicentennial Commission’s Final Report (1933)

Official items that resulted from the United States George Washington Bicentennial Commission’s efforts included the set of twelve 1932 Washington Bicentennial Series postage stamps, 1932 dated silver quarter dollar coins based on the Houdon bust of Washington at Mount Vernon, and an official Washington Bicentennial Commission cachet used in celebrating the bicentennial of Washington’s birthday on February 22, 1732. These were described last month in Part I.

Besides the official George Washington Bicentennial Commission cachet, more than 250 other cachets were prepared by local Bicentennial Committees, Chambers of Commerce, and other organizations for use during 1932.¹ For example, in addition to the official version, a second type was also used in Washington, DC, on Washington’s birthday. I’m fortunate to have the cover sent to FDR shown in Figure 1. This was provided “courtesy of the Merchants and Manufacturing Association,” an industry group. Sent by

airmail to Gov. F. D. Roosevelt (sic) in Albany, New York, this employed a 2¢ Washington Bicentennial postal stationery envelope (Scott U525) with additional franking provided by 1¢ and 2¢ Bicentennial stamps to make up the 5¢ airmail rate. There is also a special George Washington Bicentennial label affixed. Note that during 1932, official commemorative postal stationery depicting Mount Vernon was produced in six different values from one to five cents in a variety of colors, but discussion of this is beyond the scope of this article.

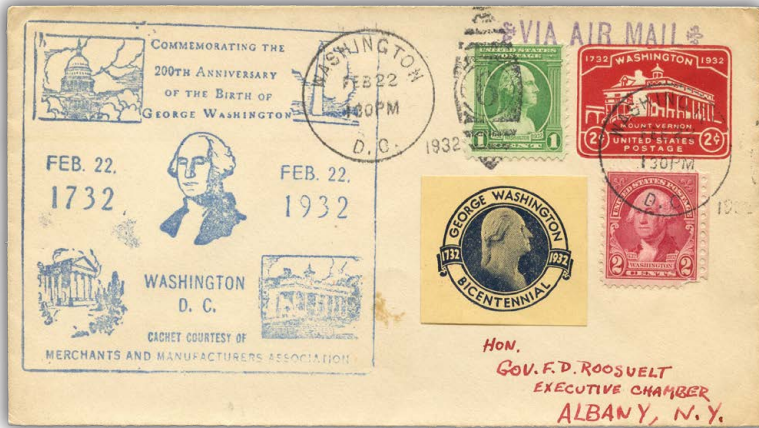


Figure 1. Cacheted cover for Washington's birthday sent to FDR.

Other Washington Bicentennial Committees were active during the bicentennial year. Perhaps the most important of these was the New York George Washington Bicentennial Commission that produced a series of twelve special cachets with the approval of the Post Office Department. These were canceled with unusual "Federal Hall" cancellations at a temporary post office sub-station established in a large-scale reproduction of New York City's original Federal Hall with further details available elsewhere.² This re-creation of Federal Hall was situated in Bryant Park, and a photograph of it surrounded by tall buildings in Manhattan is shown in Figure 2.

What is perhaps not so well known except to students of American history is that Federal Hall in New York City from 1789–90 served as the first Capitol of the United States. It was here that George Washington was inaugurated as our first President, Congress first met, the Bill of Rights to the Constitution was approved by Congress, and laws establishing



Figure 2. "Federal Hall" temporary post office sub-station constructed in New York City.



Figure 3. New York George Washington Bicentennial Commission cacheted cover depicting Federal Hall.



Figure 4. New York George Washington Bicentennial Commission cacheted covers for the Battle of Long Island, the Battle of Harlem Heights and Battle of Fort Washington.

government departments were passed. Later the seat of government was moved to Philadelphia for ten years, until the United States Capitol building in Washington, DC, became ready to occupy in December 1800.

Among the twelve cachets produced by the New York George Washington Bicentennial Commission is my example in Figure 3 depicting Federal Hall. This commemorates the final session of Congress held in New York City on August 12, 1790. Note the special “Federal Hall Station” cancellation and use of Washington Bicentennial stamps.

I will not show all the different cachets here, but in Figure 4, I’ll show examples from my collection for three 1776 Revolutionary War battles fought by George Washington in the vicinity of New York City. These were the Battle of Long Island, the Battle of Harlem Heights and Battle of Fort Washington, on August 27, September 16 and November 16, 1776. Although the overall result was a military defeat, with the British capturing New York City and occupying it until the end of the war, British losses generally exceeded those of the outnumbered Americans. Washington was able to skillfully avoid encirclement and preserve his army intact. This feat was crucial to the eventual success of the American Revolution.

Other cachets produced by New York’s Washington Bicentennial Commission commemorated later events, such as George Washington signing important legislation passed at Federal Hall while he was President. I’ll show only one of these in Figure 5, mainly for Washington signing the act creating the Treasury Department. Below the Treasury Department seal, this cachet shows hand operation of an early coining press and rolling mill for making coinage blanks. Note that the cover is franked by a pair of 2¢ Washington bicentennial stamps to meet the new 3¢ rate, which took effect on July 6, 1932. Curiously, in 1789, when this act was signed, details of the future currency of the United States were still being worked out, although the dollar based on the large “Spanish dollar” coin at 0.7734 troy ounces of silver had already been adopted as the basic monetary unit of the United States.

Spanish “dollars” were the famed “pieces-of-eight” minted from vast quantities of New World silver mined in Mexico and South America during the Spanish colonial era between 1600 and about 1820. These coins circulated worldwide as the first truly



Figure 5. New York George Washington Bicentennial Commission cacheted cover for signing of Treasury Department Act.

global currency and remained legal tender in the United States until 1857. Subdivided into eight units (reals or bits) and further into half reals or medios, they became the source of slang expressions such as “two bits,” were the origin of unusual US stampless cover rates of $6\frac{1}{4}$ or $12\frac{1}{2}$ cents, and were the historical reason that until June 24, 1997, stock exchanges reported the prices of all equities in $\frac{1}{8}$ dollar increments.

Ultimately arguments in favor of a fully decimal currency by Thomas Jefferson prevailed, and the first United States coins struck were copper cents and half cents in 1793. The first silver coins in the form of dollars and half dollars were struck in 1794, followed by silver half dismes (half dimes), and five and ten-dollar gold pieces in 1795. Other details about early US currency are beyond the scope of this article and the reader is referred elsewhere.³

As mentioned in Part I of this article, anticipating the postage needs posed by the upcoming rate change, a new regular issue 3¢ stamp with the identical Gilbert Stuart portrait of Washington used on the 2¢ Washington Bicentennial Series stamp was released by the Post Office on June 16, 1932.⁴ A mirror image of this portrait had also been used on the one-dollar bill since 1923. Figure 6 shows from left to right, details of how the 1732–1932 dates on the ribbon were removed for the new stamp, a one dollar bill from the 1932 era, and booklet pane for the new 3¢ stamps from my collection. Note that my Depression-era series 1928A dollar bill is a silver certificate with “One Silver Dollar” payable on demand and is signed by Hoover’s Secretary of the Treasury, Andrew W. Mellon. The back of the bill has an unfamiliar “stage money” appearance that was changed to the current “eye over pyramid” and “United States seal” design during the FDR administration. The new 3¢ stamp became a workhorse postage stamp of the 1930s, with 206 different printing plates being used. For printing booklet panes a further 16 plates were utilized, along with 88 plates for vertically perforated coils and 2 for horizontally perforated coils. These booklet pane and coil stamps were not replaced until January 1939.



Figure 6. Comparison of 2¢ and 3¢ stamps with Gilbert Stuart portrait, contemporary dollar bill and booklet pane (not to scale).



Figure 7. July 23, 1932, “A Stamp Collector for President” cover from Portsmouth, Ohio.

Regarding George Linn’s “A Stamp Collector for President” covers, the earliest usage I’ve seen is my cover franked with a vertical pair of 1½¢ Washington Bicentennial stamps sent on July 23, 1932, from Portsmouth, Ohio. This is shown in Figure 7.

A July 26, 1932, cover sent to FDR from New London, Connecticut, franked with a 1¢ Washington bicentennial stamp and pair of 4th Bureau stamps is shown in Figure 8. This is one of the more unusual cachets in my collection, which displays a variety of methods for carrying the mail and curiously celebrates the 137th anniversary of National Post Office Day.

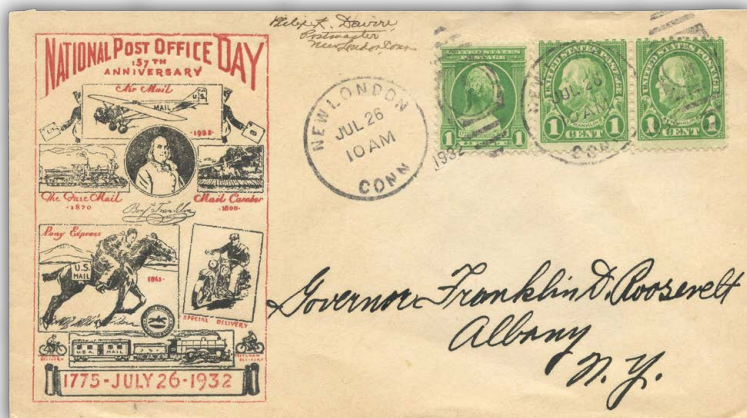


Figure 8. 137th anniversary of National Post Office Day cover sent to FDR on July 26, 1932.

My first flight cover sent to Governor Franklin D. Roosevelt with an 8¢ Washington Bicentennial stamp paying the airmail rate is shown in Figure 9. Signed by the postmaster of Providence, Rhode Island, this was mailed August 6, 1932.

“Roosevelt for President” campaign covers displaying mixed franking with Washington Bicentennial and Fourth Bureau stamps are shown in Figure 10. Showing half-tone printed photographs of FDR and addressed to the same recipient, these were



Figure 9. First flight cover sent to FDR with 8c Washington Bicentennial stamp.

all postmarked from different towns named Roosevelt in Oklahoma, Missouri and Louisiana, from August 7–10, 1932. Of special interest, they came from FDR's personal stamp collection, as shown by the H. R. Harmer auction authentication hand stamps on the front. In fact, they are from auction lot #400 of the December 1946 sale.⁴ I'm fortunate in having these, the original auction folder for this lot, along with ten additional "A Stamp Collector for President" covers from FDR's collection, all canceled in different Roosevelt-named towns around the United States on election day November 8, 1932. But since these are not franked with Washington Bicentennial stamps they are not shown here.



Figure 10. "Roosevelt for President" campaign covers from FDR's stamp collection.

Another of my bicolor "A Stamp Collector for President" covers sent during the 1932 campaign is shown in Figure 11. This September 14 cover franked with the new 3¢ Washington stamp has an added cachet for the National Exchange Club's convention and air show in Syracuse, New York. Note that "A. Atlas Leve" is the addressee (more on that later).



Figure 11. "A Stamp Collector for President" cover posted on September 14, 1932.

While I have various covers sent to FDR during the presidential campaign franked by the new 3¢ Washington stamps, a favorite is shown in Figure 12. This has a printed advertising cachet from the Omin Company, maker of Omin Gland Tablets, and was mailed from Long Island on October 14, 1932.

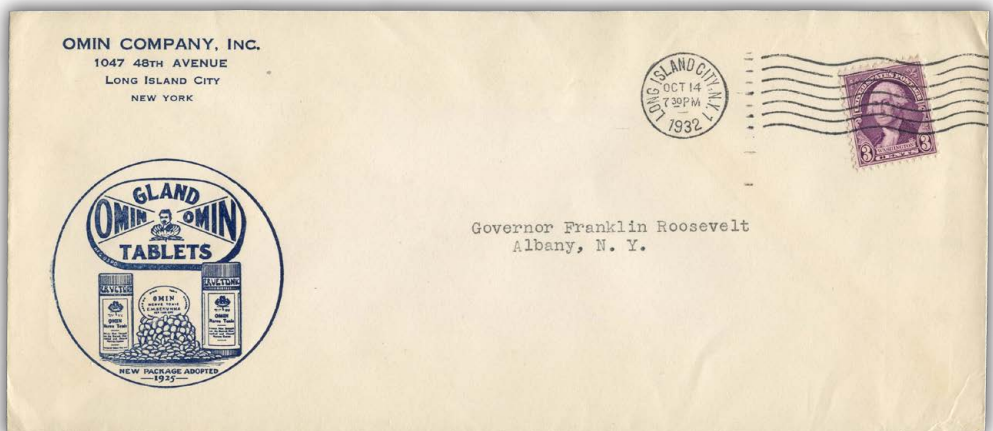


Figure 12. Advertising cover cover sent to FDR on October 14, 1932.

My large cover with multicolor printed cachet showing tulips at the Tulip Time festival in Holland, Michigan is shown in Figure 13. Franked with a 3¢ Washington Bicentennial stamp, this cover was posted to FDR on election day November 8, 1932.



Figure 13. Tulip Time festival cover sent to FDR on election day November 8, 1932.

One of the more unusual “A Stamp Collector for President” covers in my collection is the one shown in Figure 14. Printed in brown (single color) this unsealed cover is postmarked Nashville, Tennessee, on election day and was apparently mailed at the special third class rate as indicated by single franking with a 1½¢ Washington bicentennial stamp. There is a stamped notation that this was “Received at Nashville, Tenn. P.O. under cover from ___” along with a hand-written notation that this “left Philadelphia PO 11/7/32.” Also, there are typed totals (apparently added later) of the popular vote and electoral votes for Franklin Roosevelt. Taken together, this suggests that someone went to a lot of trouble to create this “A Stamp Collector for President” souvenir cover for the 1932 election, perhaps as part of a larger set postmarked from various state capitals on November 8, 1932.

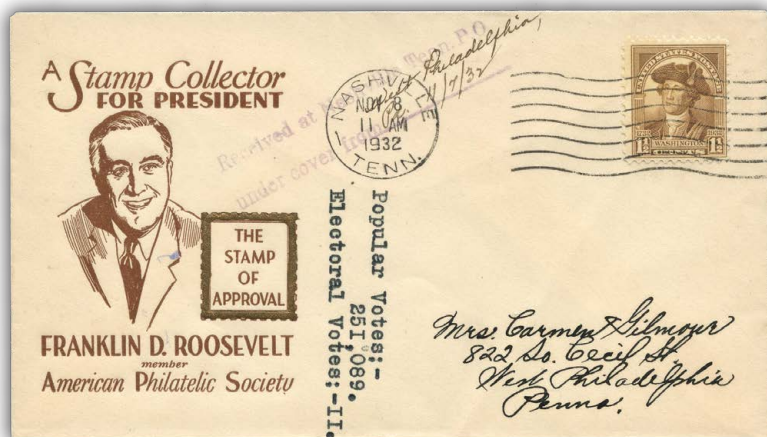


Figure 14. “A Stamp Collector for President” souvenir cover mailed on election day 1932.

Shown in Figure 15 is a cover sent to FDR by an organization of Disabled American Veterans of the World War the day after election day. Posted from Omaha, Nebraska, this cacheted cover from my collection is franked with one of the new 3¢ Washington stamps.

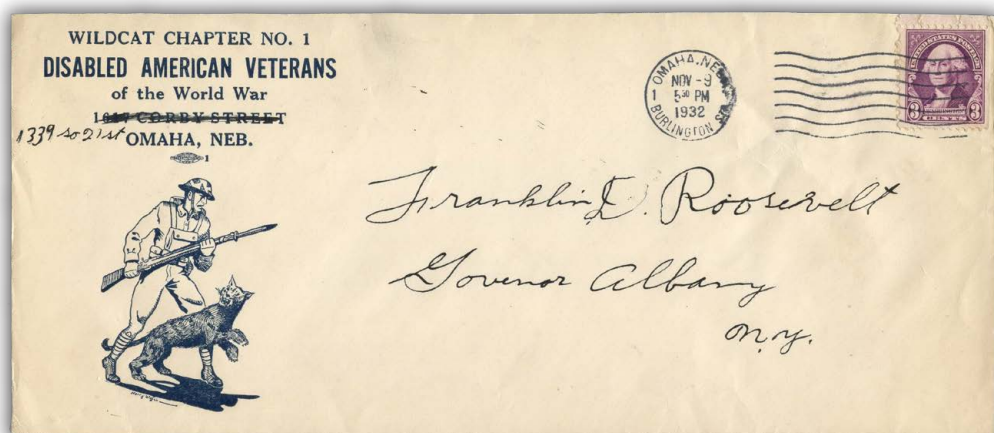


Figure 15. Disabled American Veterans cover sent to FDR on November 9, 1932.

Armistice Day (now Veteran's Day) was the theme of a bicolor cachet stamped onto my bicolor "A Stamp Collector for President" cover shown in Figure 16. This was self-addressed by A. Atlas Leve using a 3¢ Washington Bicentennial stamp from Syracuse, New York, on November 11, 1932. Note the sponsor of the added cachet.



Figure 16. "A Stamp Collector for President" cover sent on November 11, 1932.

Another bicolor "A Stamp Collector for President" cover to the same addressee (A. Atlas Leve) is shown in Figure 17. This was posted from New York City also with a 3¢ Washington Bicentennial stamp on December 6, 1932.

Besides covers on "A Stamp Collector for President" printed envelopes, others were created using the labels produced by George W. Linn. The labels themselves were printed in sheets of 20 in various colors, both perforated and rouletted. Curiously, minor printing flaws allow these labels to be plated. Examples from plate position 8 in my collection printed in all four colors are shown in Figure 18.

These labels were used on various covers. For example, each of my ten "A Stamp Collector for President" election day covers from FDR's collection (auction lot #400 mentioned earlier) also have these labels affixed. Another example of such label usage



Figure 17. "A Stamp Collector for President" cover sent on December 6, 1932.

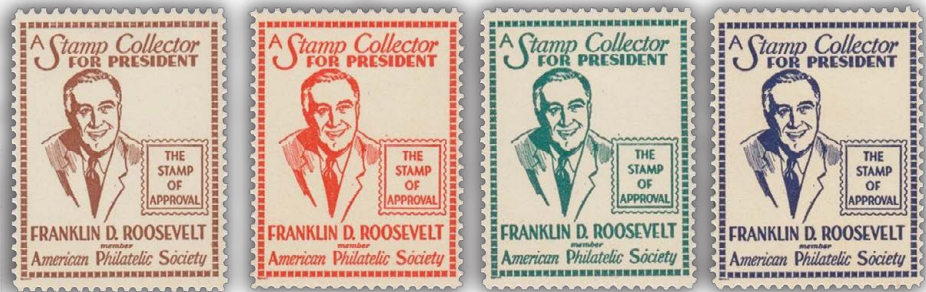


Figure 18. "A Stamp Collector for President" labels.



Figure 19. February 28, 1933, cover with "A Stamp Collector for President" label and Mardi Gras cachet.

is shown by the February 28, 1933, serial numbered cover with cachet in Figure 19. This was sent out by the Crescent City Stamp Club during Mardi Gras, just a few days before FDR's inauguration. Franked with ½¢ and 2¢ Washington Bicentennial stamps, the green label is from plate position 20.

For FDR's 1933 presidential inauguration, George Linn also prepared bicolor "A Stamp Collector for President" envelopes with "INAUGURATION March 4, 1933" printed in the space previously allowed for a return address.⁵ While I have a number of these in my collection, none are franked with Washington Bicentennial stamps, so I won't show them here.

Among my various examples of 1933 inauguration cachets there is one of special interest, as shown in Figure 20. This bicolor cachet displays a portrait of FDR above his printed signature and is franked by one of the new 3¢ Washington stamps. The enclosed card states that FDR sanctioned "the use of his signature on our official cachet" with him being listed as member No. 12 of the newly formed Empire State Philatelic Association. A membership application (not shown) further reveals that this organization was based in Dunkirk, New York, with annual dues being \$1. Other examples in my collection show that the cachet was individually printed onto envelopes supplied by the recipient. However, I've been unable to find any further information about this organization, suggesting that the Empire State Philatelic Association was short-lived.

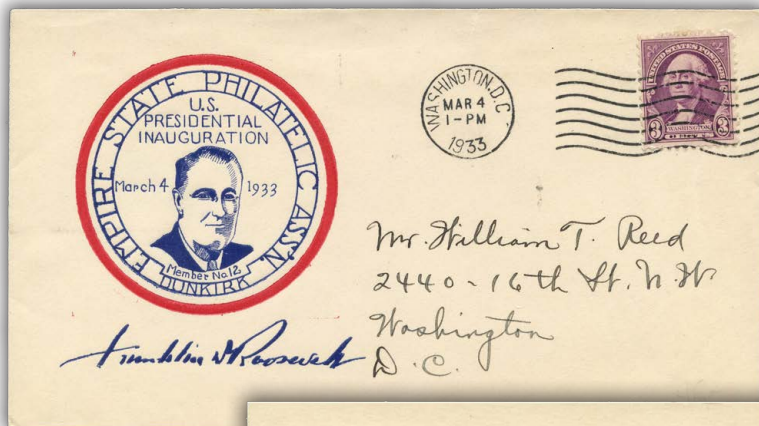
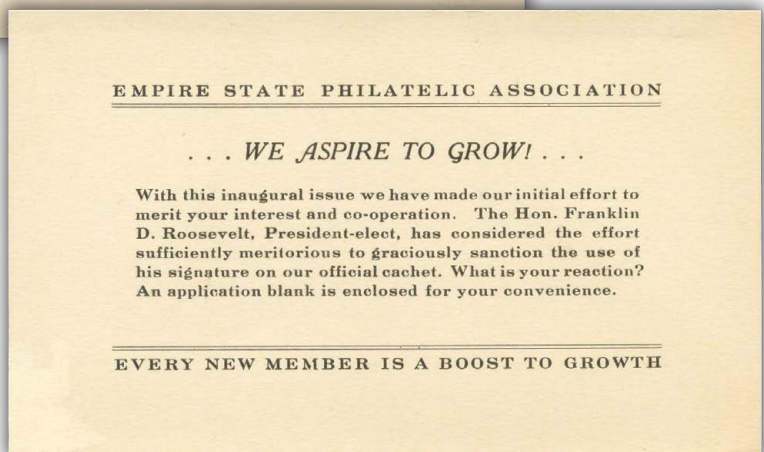


Figure 20. *Empire State Philatelic Association's inauguration cover with enclosure.*



FDR's inauguration on Saturday March 4, 1933, occurred during a severe economic crisis, with all of the nation's banks closed during an emergency "Bank Holiday." An Emergency Banking Bill (the first piece of FDR's "hundred days" legislation) was rushed through Congress on Thursday, with FDR's famous first "Fireside Chat" following on Sunday evening. By the time banks began reopening their doors on Monday morning March 13, 1933, confidence in the nation's banking system had been almost miraculously restored.



Figure 21. March 8, 1933, penalty cover from the FDR White House sent to A. Atlas Leve.

Shown in Figure 21 is my White House penalty cover mailed to A. Atlas Leve just a few days after Franklin D. Roosevelt's inauguration on Saturday March 4, 1933. Postmarked March 8th, this is the earliest penalty cover from the FDR White House that I've seen. So who was A. Atlas Leve? Abraham Atlas Leve (1869–1948) was a stamp, coin, and curios dealer based in Syracuse, New York, who produced a number of cachets for special events, including one for FDR's 1933 inauguration. This suggests that the cover on



Figure 22. Airport dedication cover sent to FDR on September 28, 1934.

official White House stationery shown, likely enclosed a brief thank you note to Leve for sending FDR one of these inauguration covers.

Washington Bicentennial stamps continued in use once FDR was in office, and in Figure 22 I show my Williamsburg, Kentucky, airport dedication cover sent to FDR on September 28, 1934. To meet the current 6¢ airmail rate, this is franked with vertical pairs of the 2¢ Washington Bicentennial and 1¢ National Parks stamps.

Perhaps my favorite cover on official White House stationery is shown in Figure 23. Franked with a 3¢ Washington stamp and special cachet, this was sent to FDR on his birthday January 30, 1935. Note that this is on a penalty envelope with postage stamp added to show this was for personal use. So who in the White House would have sent this to FDR? I think it could only have been his philatelically savvy friend and close political advisor Louis Howe, who lived in the White House, occupying the Lincoln bedroom.

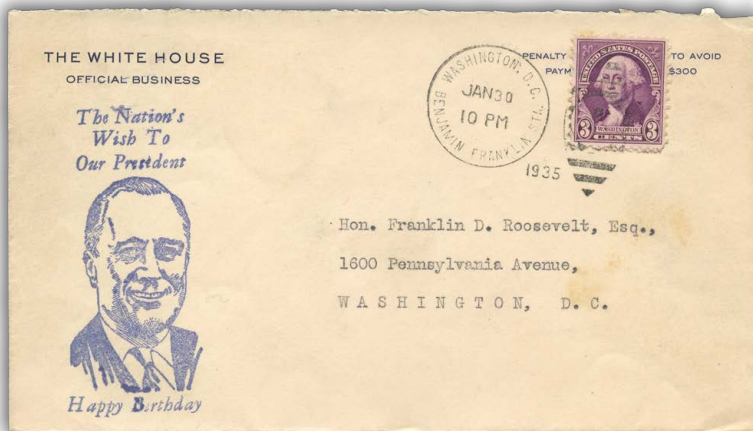


Figure 23. Birthday wishes sent to FDR on official White House stationery.

Finally, I show my example of unusually late usage of both a “A Stamp Collector for President” cover and 4¢ Washington Bicentennial corner margin stamp postmarked in Albany, New York, on November 23, 1937, (Figure 24). Especially noteworthy is the dark blue printed cachet on this envelope, as virtually all other single-color “A Stamp Collector for President” covers I’ve seen are in dark brown.

George Washington, the first president of the United States, has long been rated as one of the greatest of all US Presidents. Besides serving as commander-in-chief during the American Revolution, he is noted for voluntarily resigning his commission at the end of the Revolutionary War, thereby helping to establish the precedent of civilian control of the military. Furthermore, Washington firmly rejected the notion that he be treated like a King once he became President, and after governing with dignity and honor, oversaw a peaceful transfer of power at the end of his second term. The other American Presidents who have been considered to be candidates for the greatest of all time have been Abraham Lincoln for his inspiring leadership during the Civil War and the abolition of slavery, and Franklin D. Roosevelt for first leading the country through the Great Depression, then as leader of the Allied Nations during the worldwide battle against Axis Powers in World War II.

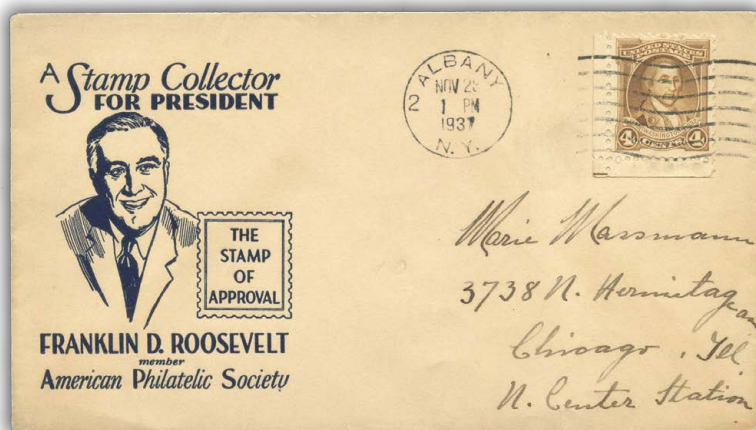
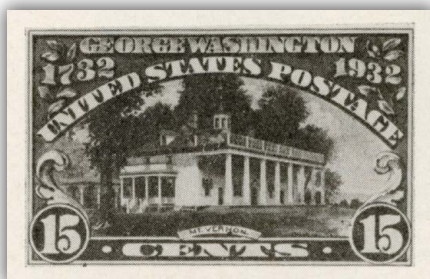


Figure 24. Unusually late usage of “A Stamp Collector for President” cover with 4c Washington Bicentennial stamp.

Author’s Notes:

On page 404 of the September issue, the name Roger Kirby was misspelled.

I somehow missed including the monochrome 15¢ pictorial essay for the Washington Bicentennial stamps in Part I (September issue, page 392). Belatedly shown here, this depicts Mount Vernon and is very similar to the 5¢ pictorial essay shown previously on page 390. The inclusion of this 15¢ essay brings the total number of essays shown for the Washington Bicentennial Stamps Series to 63.



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Overrun Countries

Margin Name Varieties on the Czechoslovakia Overrun Countries Stamps

by **Keith Lichtman**

USSS # 14279 | ✉ stampmankeith@gmail.com



Figure 1, "Name Block" of the Czechoslovakia Overrun Countries Stamp

A simple definition of a plate block is a block of four or more stamps with the margin (also known as selvage) attached showing the numbers assigned by the printer to the plate. The Overrun Countries series was printed under contract by the American Bank Note Company and did not contain any plate numbers on the sheets. Instead, each sheet was inscribed with the name of the honored nation in the sheet's top right margin. These "name blocks" are substituted for the plate blocks for this series.

Czechoslovakia can be found printed in the upper right corner margin in light or dark black ink (Figure 1). This is an under-inking creating the illusion of different inks. The color of the marking ranges in between the two shades shown in Figure 2. It is up to the individual collector to decide which shade variations to add to their collection.

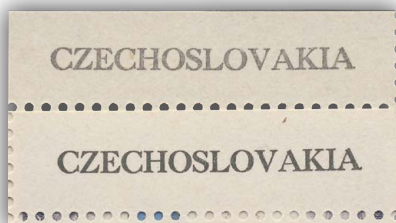


Figure 2. Shade varieties of the Czechoslovakia marginal marking.

Plate varieties occur when the printing plate becomes damaged, either by wear, cracks, scratches, etc. In most cases it will cause the ink to appear where no ink should have been. Depending on the type of damage to the plate the opposite may occur where no ink is deposited where it was needed.

Three plate varieties can be found in the margin printing of Czechoslovakia. A small dash can be found under the horizontal line of the “H,” shown in Figure 3. A magnifier is needed to find this variety. It is found on upper right panes.



Figure 3. Small dash under the horizontal line of the “H”.

A black mark is located in the second “C,” shown in Figure 4. Though this can be seen with the naked eye, it can easily be missed, so I recommend using a magnifying glass. This variety can be found on only a few upper left panes.

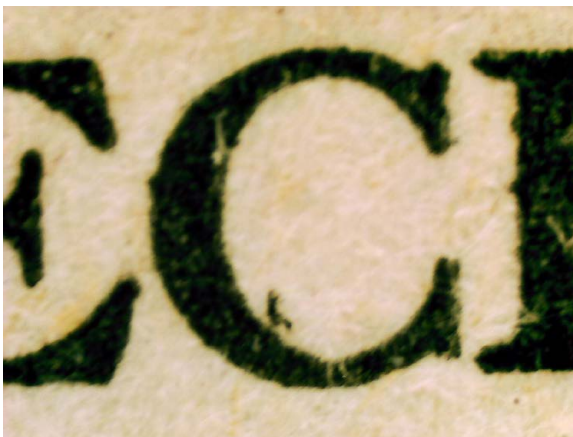


Figure 4. Black mark is located in the second “C”.

The last plate variety is found on the first "O" of the country name (Figure 5). There is a bubble on the outside bottom right side giving the appearance of a bad car tire. I have found this variety on all upper left panes.



Figure 5. Bubble on the outside bottom right.

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Plate Number Report

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

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It will return soon.

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<i>All issues through 1980</i>	Kim D. Johnson 310 E N 3rd Street Georgetown, IL 61846	<i>Coil stamps after 1980</i>	Jill Ambrose PO Box 54622 Cincinnati, OH 45254
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17573 Michael Geoghegan, Newport Beach, CA		ADDITIONS:	
17574 Frank A. Piazzi, Greentown, PA		New members	5
17575 Fred Newman, New Hartford, CT		Total	+5
17576 John Flanagan, Eastman, GA		SUBTRACTIONS:	
17577 Roy Michael Roush, Webster, NY		Total	0
17578 Jonathan Steed, Oklahoma City, OK		NET CHANGE	+ 5
17579 Jason Ares, Peekskill, NY			
APPLICATIONS PENDING		TOTAL MEMBERSHIP	
17564–17572		July 31, 2024	1393
NEW MEMBERS		DONATIONS	
17559–17563		<i>(received outside of annual dues cycle)</i>	
		Bernard Wojnowski Richard Zane	

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