



The United States SPECIALIST

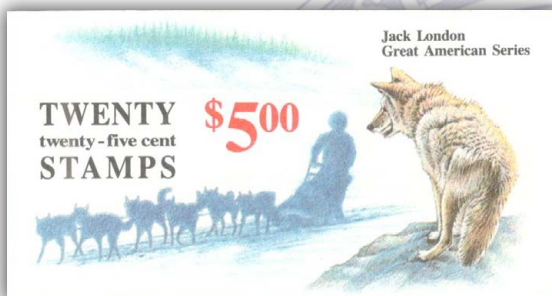
for the Collector of Postage & Revenue Stamp Issues of the United States

WHOLE NUMBER 1139



Pep Pills, Porn and Postage Stamps: 1983 Counterfeiting of the 20¢ Flag

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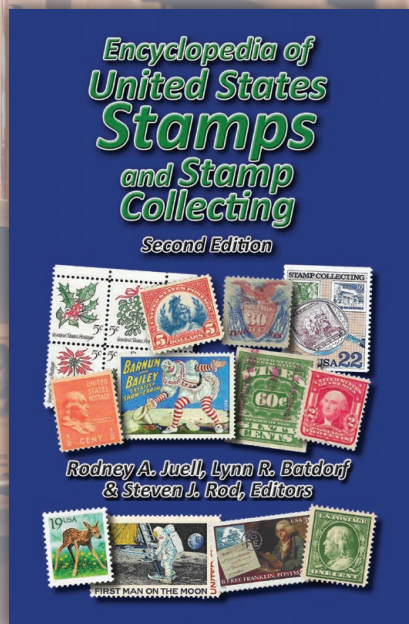
Great Americans Issue Part VIII— Jack London Booklets

— and —

The Korea Overrun Countries stamp, Washington-Franklin Gray Paper,
Certified Mail FDCs, Fraudulent & Genuine Uses of Parcel Post
Postage Dues, & more.



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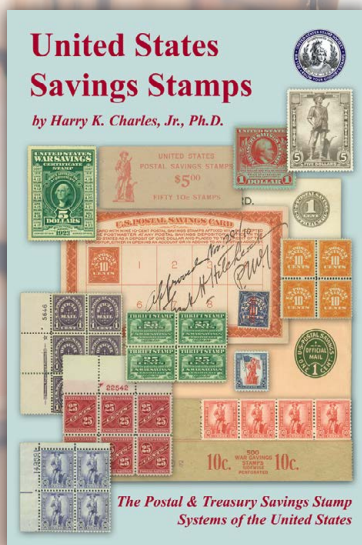
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American Philatelic Society Affiliate No. 150

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

Statue of Freedom Awards (WSP Shows)

Winner	Show	Exhibit
Marvin and Judith Platt	Napex (VA)	The Columbian Envelopes of 1893
Will Csaplár	Minnesota Stamp Expo (MN)	A License and Stamp System for Waterfowl Conservation In the 20th Century U.S.
Roger Brody	Great American Stamp Show (CT)	America’s Embossed Revenue Stamped Paper
John Becker	Indypex (IN)	Doremus Machine Cancels of Indiana, 1901–1919
Gregory Shoults	Nojex (NJ)	Washington & Franklin Coils: the Development of the Third Bureau Flat Plate & Coil Waste Issues of 1908–1915
Andrew S. Kelley	Balpex (MD)	The Offset Lithographed Washington-Franklin Heads
Anthony F. Dewey	Chicagopex (IL)	The U.S. Alphabet-Denominated Rate Change Series, 1978–1998
Charles J. O’Brien III	Florex (FL)	Sesquicentennial Exposition

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

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



The Overrun Countries Series

1943–44 Overrun Countries Series: Korea

by **Paul M. Holland**

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



“ It gives me great pleasure to send you this first-day cover bearing the new commemorative postage stamp honoring Korea.

In line with your famous declaration at Cairo, the American people are sympathetic to and hopeful of the aspiration and ambition of the Korean people to be a free nation again. This stamp is, therefore, truly significant of things to come and will be appreciated by Koreans all over the world. ”

—From a signed December 2, 1944, letter sent with a Favor First Day Cover of the 5¢ Korea stamp of the 1943–44 Overrun Countries Series sent to President Franklin D. Roosevelt at the White House by Deputy Third Assistant Postmaster General, Roy M. North.

If there's an outlier among the Overrun Countries Series stamps, it is Korea. Released nearly a year after the others on December 2, 1944, it was the last to be issued and the only one from Asia. This short article is designed to include the Korean stamp and complete the series.

The Overrun Countries Series stamps for Europe had proven to be very popular with the public and so in early 1944, FDR suggested that stamps might also be issued to

honor Asian countries overrun by Japan. The preliminary list included the Philippines, Korea, Thailand, Manchuria, Formosa, Hong Kong, Macao, Timor, Burma, Malaya, New Guinea, North Borneo, Indochina, and the Dutch Indies. However, after review by the State Department it was concluded that only stamps for the Philippines and Korea would be appropriate, as the Thai government had actually declared war on us, others such as Manchuria were either legally part of China or were European colonies that had been “liberated by the Japanese.” Thus, from a diplomatic perspective, issuing such stamps would first require the assent of either the Chinese government or European colonial powers.¹

Regarding the Philippines, which had long been a United States territory, a 3¢ stamp paying the domestic letter postage rate was developed with a unique design commemorating the resistance of the United States and Philippine defenders on Corregidor. Details on this are given elsewhere.² As a consequence the 5¢ Korean stamp became the last of the “flag stamps” issued to commemorate overrun countries, and the only one issued for Japanese occupation.



Figure 1. Chiang Kai-Shek, FDR and Winston Churchill at the Cairo conference, November 1943.

The November 1943 Cairo declaration, issued jointly by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, and Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek on behalf of the United Nations stated that “Korea shall in due course, become free and independent.” This decision had been reached during their discussions on war aims against Japan. In Figure 1, they are shown sitting together at FDR’s villa in Cairo, Egypt on November 27, 1943.

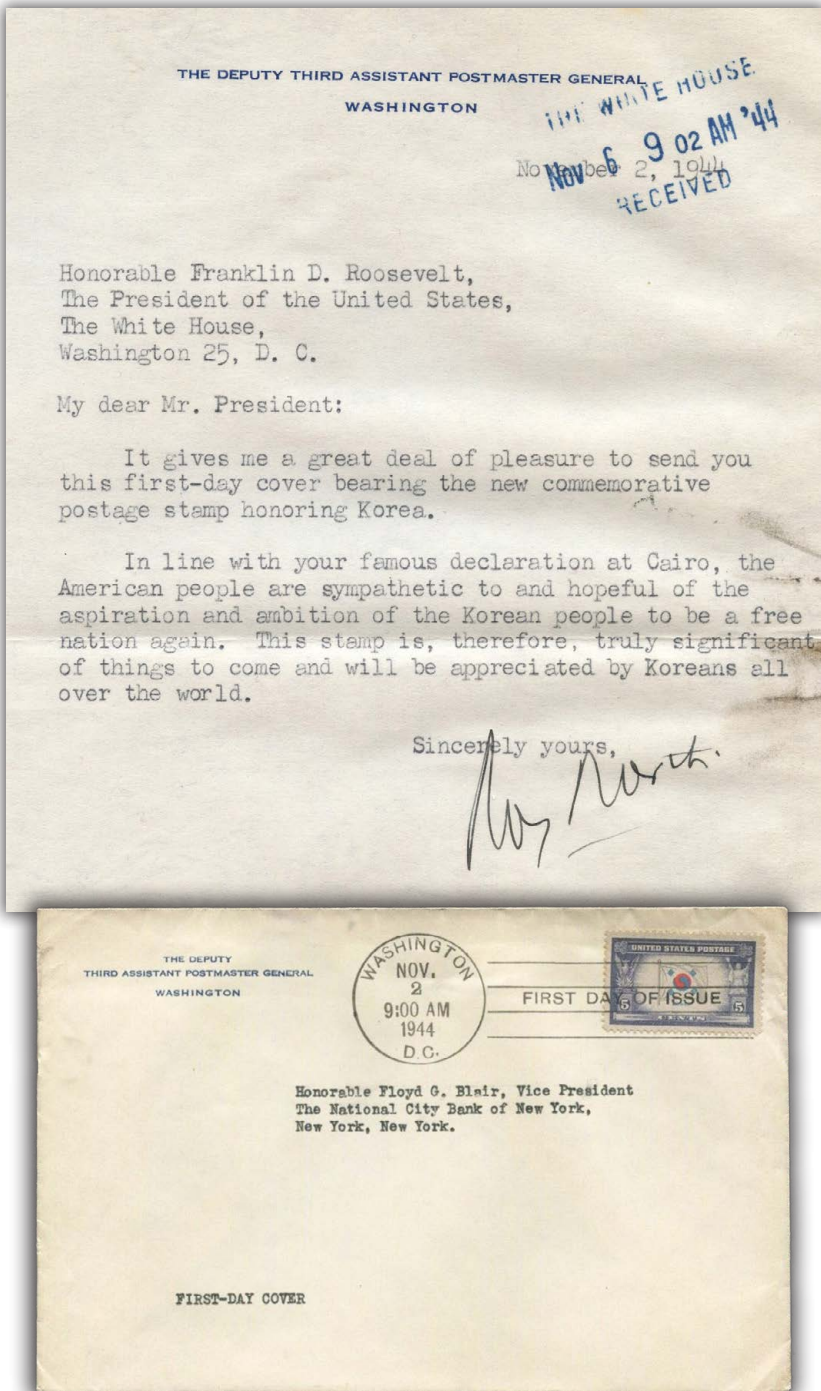


Figure 2. Deputy Third Assistant PMG Roy North favor FDC letter (cropped) for Korea stamp sent to FDR at the White House, with mismatched cover.

On April 13, 1944, the Post Office Department first revealed that a postage stamp honoring Korea would be issued, with further details to follow. That this would be another 5¢ flag stamp in the Overrun Countries series was announced on August 15, 1944. Two months later, the die proof for the Korea Overrun Countries stamp was approved on October 12, 1944. Four colors were used in printing these stamps, blue violet for the outer engraved frame, with color offset printing of the Korean flag in red, black and light blue. Like the Denmark stamp, these were printed in full sheets of 200, unlike many other Overrun Countries stamps that employed a “shared” layout on the press sheet. Overrun Countries stamps for Korea were then cut into four panes of 50 stamps each for distribution.³ The first sheet of these stamps was sold by PMG Frank C. Walker to Marian and Lillian Lee, young twin girls from Korea dressed in traditional costume at a special ceremony.⁴

As in the case of other Overrun Countries stamps, special favor first day covers (FDCs) were sent out by Deputy Third Assistant PMG Roy M. North. For European countries, North had specially arranged for the Foreign Ministers or Ambassadors of each of the Overrun Countries to autograph these FDCs, with Postmaster General Frank C. Walker’s signature substituted for this where needed. I’m fortunate in having a complete signed set of these sent to Marvin H. McIntyre at the FDR White House, although my matched set ends before the Korea stamp was issued since McIntyre died on December 13, 1943.

However, in the case of the Korea Overrun Countries stamp, I do have an original signed favor FDC letter sent to President Franklin D. Roosevelt by Roy North in my collection. Due to significant environmental damage, this is shown slightly cropped in Figure 2, but the official cover addressed to FDR is missing. In lieu of this, I show an auction image of another favor FDC for the Korea Overrun Countries stamp (without letter) sent by Roy North. What’s especially notable here is the lack of a signature on the favor FDC, and that there is no mention of any such signature in the FDR letter. Note also the official White House receiving stamp on my letter.

So why is there no signature on the Korea favor FDC? Perhaps this is best considered in the context of the long history of Korea, beginning with the Joseon dynasty (1392–1897), which eventually became weak, isolationist, and stagnant. It was replaced by the Korean Empire (1897–1910) with a brief period of social reform and modernization, but following the Russo-Japanese War, Korea was forced to sign a protectorate treaty with Japan. Ultimately, Korea was simply annexed by Japan in 1910. As a result, unlike the countries of Europe, there was no previous Foreign Minister or Ambassador to the United States to sign such a favor FDC, so it may have seemed pointless to have PMG Walker sign it instead.

Besides the Overrun Countries favor FDCs sent out by Deputy Third Assistant PMG Roy North, PMG Frank C. Walker also mailed out favor FDCs on official stationery. These typically came with printed Post Office Department notices about the stamps instead of letters. My example for the Korea Overrun Countries stamp sent to Mrs. W. W. Howe with enclosed notice is shown in Figure 3. She was the wife of the former First Assistant Postmaster General William W. Howes. The notice simply reprints information provided in the Postal Bulletin of October 13, 1944.

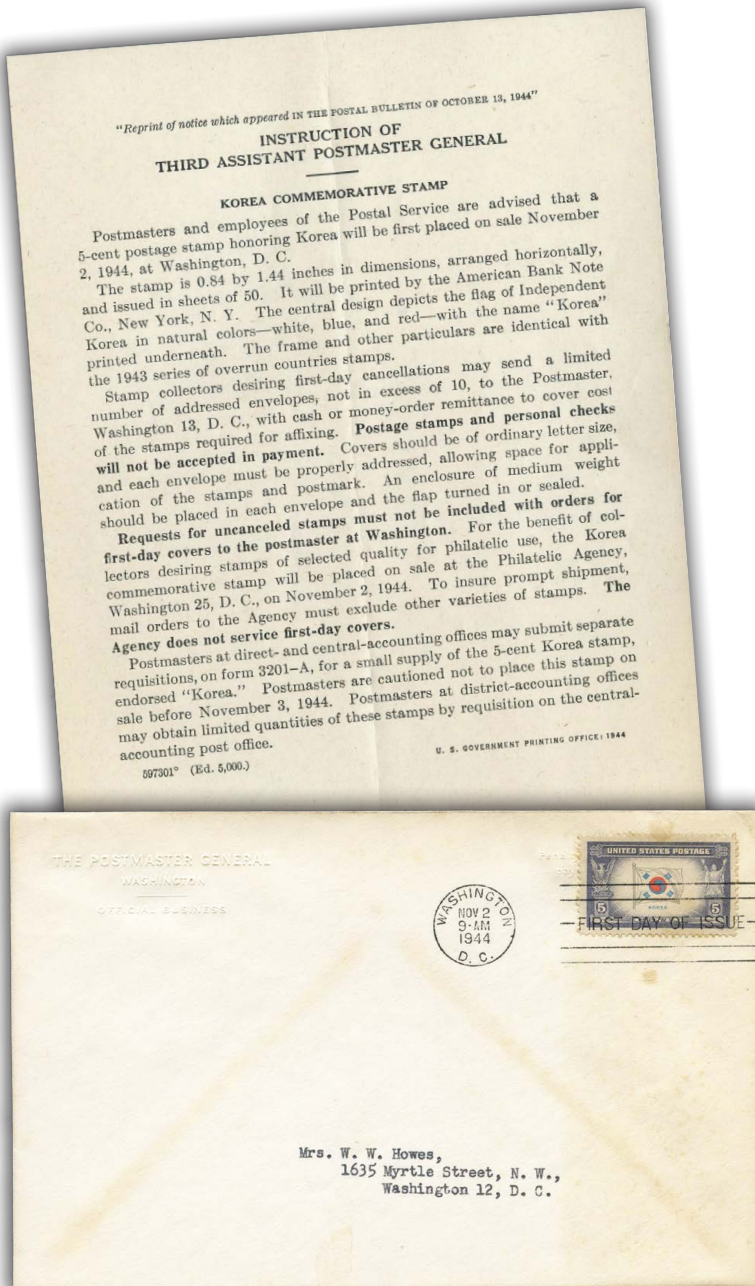


Figure 3. Favor FDC on official PMG stationery with enclosed notice for the Korea stamp.

Other FDCs for the Korea Overrun Countries stamp were sent out on official stationery. My example on official United States Senate stationery of US Senator Joseph C. O'Mahoney that was sent to a constituent in Casper, Wyoming, is shown in Figure 4.

A member of the Senate Committee on Appropriations, Sen. O'Mahoney knew about stamps and the Post Office Department very well, since O'Mahoney had been Farley's First Assistant PMG in 1933, before becoming a Senator from Wyoming.

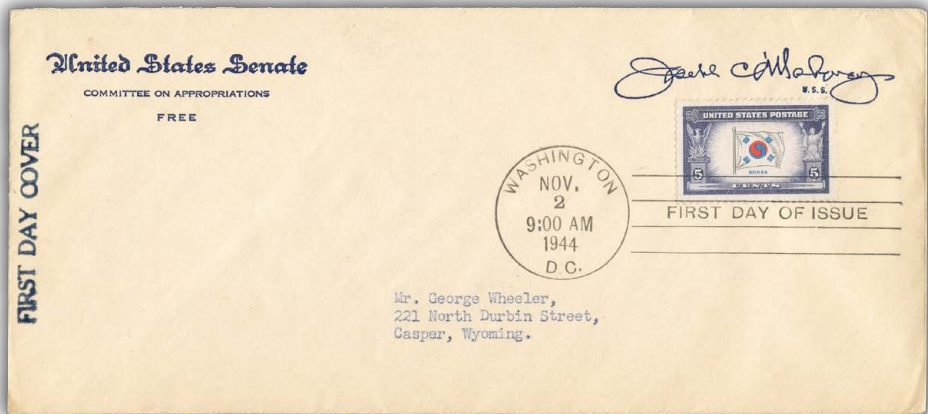


Figure 4. Favor FDC of the Korea Overrun Countries sent on official stationery of US Senator Joseph C. O'Mahoney.

Among the commercial cachets created for the Korea Overrun Countries stamp, is the Anderson cachet on my unaddressed first day cover franked by a corner margin block of four shown in Figure 5. Note that this cachet describes how “Korea has been under the yoke of Japan by increasing degrees since 1895 when China renounced her claims to sovereignty.” Also note “KOREA” offset printed in black in the upper right margin of the “plate block.”



Figure 5. FDC with Anderson cachet for the Korea Overrun Countries stamp.

In Figure 6, I show an example of airmail usage of the Korea Overrun Countries stamp on my wartime cover posted from a Lt. Colonel stationed at Fort Meade, Maryland, to his wife in Portland, Oregon, shortly before Christmas in December 1944. This cover

provides a poignant reminder of wartime separations at the holidays. Note the addition of a 3¢ Telegraph commemorative postage stamp to make up the then current 8¢ airmail rate.



Figure 6. Airmail cover franked with Korea Overrun Countries stamp, December 1944.

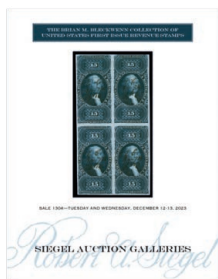
Finally, it should be mentioned that the Korea Overrun Countries stamp was removed from sale at the Philatelic Agency on December 30, 1944. This gave it the shortest sales life of any of the Overrun Countries stamps, creating somewhat of a furor in philatelic circles. While collectors and philatelic writers appealed to the Post Office Department to order additional stamps to be printed, this was rejected, and thus, the tenure of the series of Overrun Countries stamps came to a rather sudden end.³

Nonetheless, these colorful stamps have long been popular with collectors, and in the words of Ken Lawrence, for beginning stamp collectors, these stamps are “often among their first prized acquisitions.”⁵ Even now, as I flip through the pages of my representative worldwide stamp collection, I must say that the page with Overrun Countries stamps really stands out.

References

1. Brian C. Bauer, *Franklin D. Roosevelt and the Stamps of the United States 1933–45*, Linn's Stamp News: Sydney, Ohio 1993, pages 297 and 331–332.
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3. Max G. Johl, *The United States Commemorative Postage Stamps of the Twentieth Century: Volume II 1935–1947*, H. L. Lindquist: New York, 1947, pages 240–243.
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5. Ken Lawrence, “U.S. Stamps That Went to War” January 1998 *American Philatelist*, pages 48–74.

Great Collections have ONE NAME in common



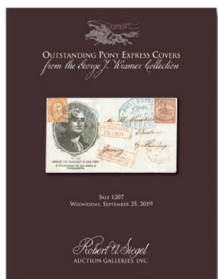
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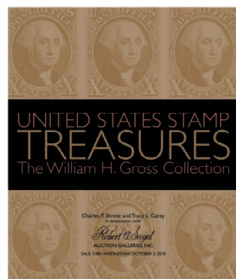
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From the Washington-Franklin Head Committee

Grayish Paper May Be a Legitimate Variety, But the Genuine Article Defies Identification

by Kevin G. Lowther

USSS # 14367 | ✉klowther5@gmail.com

The Philatelic Foundation
501 Fifth Avenue • Suite 1901
New York, NY 10017
No. 0357308
7/26/00
EXPERT COMMITTEE

We have examined the enclosed item, of which a photograph is attached, and *described by the applicant* as follows:

Country: UNITED STATES OF AMERICA


Cat. No.	Issue	Denom.	Color
333a	1908	3¢	deep violet

Scott's unless otherwise specified.

UNUSED OG
"CHINA CLAY" PAPER

AND WE ARE OF THE OPINION THAT:

IT IS A GENUINE PREVIOUSLY HINGED SCOTT 333 VARIETY, THICK GRAY EXPERIMENTAL PAPER. * * * * *



[Signature]
For The Expert Committee
Chairman

Photocopies of this Certificate are not valid.

Submitted by MARK STUCKER

D 047461

Figure 1. The Philatelic Foundation in 2000 issued a certificate authenticating a 3¢ stamp as printed on “thick gray experimental paper.” The person submitting the stamp had mistakenly described it as Scott 333a, a listing which was then reserved for stamps thought to have been printed on China clay paper, which had been debunked by Ted Liston a few years earlier.

On December 21, 1908, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP) took delivery of postage stamp paper which was distinctly grayish. This was discovered by the late Edward M. (Ted) Liston while researching BEP files in the National Archives in the 1990s.

Liston was looking for evidence supporting the existence of “China clay” paper. Finding none and basing his conclusion on research on stamp paper production in Maine, Liston declared that “China clay” paper resulted from dirty water used in the manufacturing process. Liston’s research led to the delisting in 2009 of the China clay variety in Scott’s *Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps & Covers*.

The grayish paper variety delivered to the BEP has never been listed in Scott. The wood pulp used apparently had been unbleached and is believed to have been used to test the cosmetic effect on stamp colors printed on grayish paper. The BEP and the Post Office Department (POD) at this time were considering the use of colored paper to enhance the appearance of the new stamps.

After employing the grayish paper in early printings of the Third Bureau Issue, the BEP and the POD decided not to adopt it for stamp production. Many philatelists, however, noting the unannounced appearance of grayish paper, concluded that the BEP was experimenting. The coincidental trial of “blue paper” would have confirmed their suspicions.

The grayish paper, in effect, was mistaken as “China clay” after the POD stated in its annual report for 1909 that a high proportion of kaolin had been added in paper production. Had there been no delivery of grayish paper to the BEP, we may wonder whether there would have been any notion of “China clay.”

☆☆☆

Those interested in the subject of grayish paper are invited to read my articles in the March 2016 and April 2016 issues of the *Specialist*. I laid out the argument for the existence of the grayish paper variety but suggested that further research was warranted.

In the March 2016 article, I quoted a letter by Albert J. Valente, which had been published in the May 2006 *Specialist*. Valente, well-versed in paper production, wrote that gray paper “has long been recognized as a distinct variety.” He noted that the company that manufactured stamp paper in 1908–1909 was known to produce both bleached and unbleached pulp. Liston’s research, he wrote, confirmed that “unbleached paper is not as clean or bright as the bleached variety.”¹

Valente continued: “The manufacture and delivery of unbleached paper stock was no accident, and so far as we know the BEP experimented with two kinds of . . . paper, one blue and one gray. The gray was rejected, likely for aesthetic reasons. . . .”²

If we accept Liston’s claim that a batch of grayish paper was delivered to the BEP, we have to presume that it was quickly used in the printing of at least some of the newly issued Washington-Franklins. The BEP’s limited storage capacity did not allow it to hold paper inventory in reserve. The grayish paper would have been used without delay.

To rule out the possibility of detectable differences in the composition of gray paper, Harry G. Brittain, a USSS member and forensic chemist, analyzed a 3¢ stamp (Scott 333) certified in 2000 by the Philatelic Foundation as printed on “thick gray experimental paper.” He determined that the paper—apart from being grayish—was no different from postage stamp paper produced in late 1908 and early 1909 on wood pulp paper.



Figure 2. Professional Stamp Experts in 2011 authenticated a mint single 8¢ stamp (Scott 337) as printed on “experimental paper.”

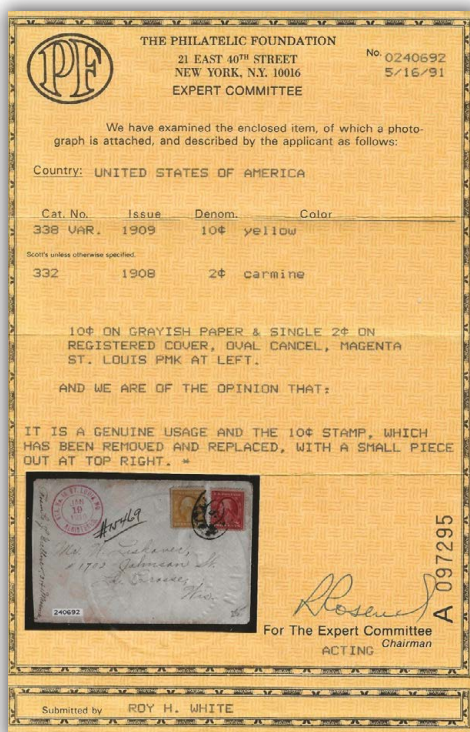


Figure 3. Roy H. White, who was then analyzing stamps printed on so-called China clay paper, received this Philatelic Foundation certificate in 1991 describing the 10¢ stamp on cover as produced on “grayish paper.”

Roy H. White, a scientist who studied the stamp paper used in this period, also noted that “the fiber and chemical characteristics [of grayish paper] do not distinguish [it] in any way from the normal all-wood paper.”³

Yet at least three authenticating agencies have issued certificates stating that a stamp was produced on “grayish experimental paper,” “thick grayish experimental paper,” or simply “gray paper.”

In 2015, I queried four expertizing agencies regarding their criteria for authenticating grayish paper varieties. The American Philatelic Expertizing Service (APEX) reported that it did not offer opinions on Washington-Franklins which appear to have been printed on grayish paper. However, a USSS member reports having an APEX cert issued for Scott 335 on grayish paper.

Three agencies—the Philatelic Foundation, Professional Stamp Experts and Philatelic Stamp Authentication and Grading—had issued certs for gray paper, but did not provide criteria used to judge examples submitted. “The gray paper,” Philatelic Foundation executive director Larry Lyons offered, “will be called as being different from the blue.”⁴

Blue paper is easily detected. The identifying rag content and specks of ultramarine bluing can be seen under high magnification. There is no similar telltale, however, to detect gray paper. This leaves philatelists in a quandary. They believe that some of the early Washington-Franklin printings were done on the grayish paper delivered to the BEP shortly before Christmas 1908. But linking a grayish-appearing stamp to that source is problematic.

Several certs are known to have been issued and at least one collector has paid good money for a certified example. Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries endorsed the existence of gray paper when it offered a mint single Scott “333a” in its sale 1278 in March 2023. The stamp had been certified in 2006 by the Philatelic Foundation; it sold for \$700 plus premium. In 2000, the Foundation issued the cert in Figure 1 for another 3¢ stamp which was submitted as Scott 333a—a listing which had been reserved for the now-debunked China clay variety. The Philatelic Foundation did not label the stamp as 333a, but as Scott 333 printed on “thick gray experimental paper.”

Jim Kloetzel, Scott’s emeritus editor who oversees US listings, has a single criterion for possibly listing a gray paper variety. “It would be absolutely necessary,” says Kloetzel, “for someone to come up with the [BEP] statement that these stamps were a real experiment on gray paper before they could even be considered for listing.”⁵

Contractors producing postage stamp paper for the BEP in the early twentieth century avoided sending paper which did not meet the BEP’s exacting standards. It is significant that the BEP accepted the Christmastime delivery of grayish paper.

The BEP also had just received 10,000 sheets of “blue paper”—which it had not requested—to be used experimentally. Rival paper companies were always looking for an edge in competition for the BEP’s annual contract for postage stamp paper. That one of them would have sent an ad hoc shipment of unbleached grayish paper is not surprising.

I have a vested interest in this matter. In addition to the cert for Scott 333 in Figure 1, I have “gray paper” certs for Scott 337 and 338 (Figures 2 and 3, respectively). The stamps are described as varieties. A few other certified examples are known. Two other members

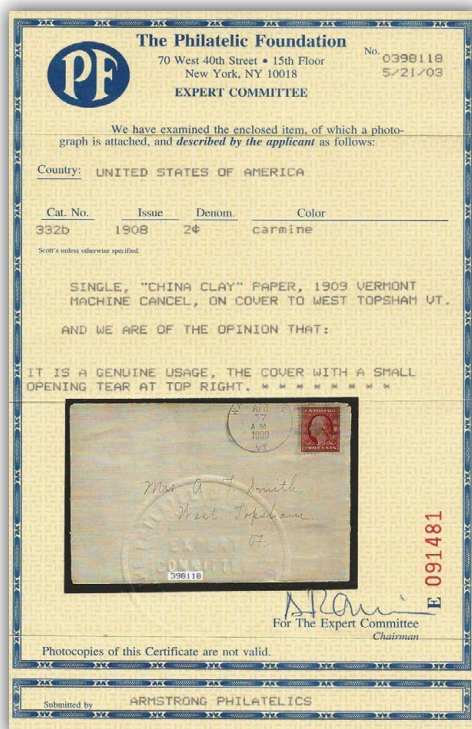


Figure 4. A dealer in 2003 submitted a cover franked with a grayish 2¢ stamp which was labeled incorrectly as Scott 332b and described as being printed on China clay paper. This variety had been debunked in 1996 by research conducted by the late Edward M. (Ted) Liston. The certificate failed to note that Scott 332b was and remains the listing for the rare lake shade.

of the Washington-Franklin Head Committee, which was queried on whether they had examples in their collections, responded affirmatively.

Scott for many years recognized the China clay variety on the strength alone of a statement in the POD's annual report for 1909. Ironically, stamps once thought to have been printed on China clay paper may, in some cases, have been printed on the grayish paper delivered to the BEP.

The evidence supporting the use of grayish paper in early Third Bureau Issue printings is circumstantial, but weighs in its favor. We have Liston's testimony; and we know the BEP accepted delivery of grayish paper, which it could have rejected, but decided to use.

There are two ways to verify stamps actually printed on grayish paper. A plate number could confirm that a stamp was from an early printing. Dated covers are another option. The sidebar discusses a cover which may well be evidence of the use of gray paper in early 1909.

The cover in Figure 4, franked with a 2¢ stamp (Scott 332), was certified by the Philatelic Foundation in May 2003 as printed on China clay paper. It was postmarked on April 17, 1909, in Vermont. It conceivably could have come from an early printing. Examination under high magnification ruled out the stamp's being printed on blue paper. However, the paper is visibly gray. The evidence, in this instance, is speculative.

What we are dealing with is a philatelic quark—something known to exist, but like the elementary particle discovered by physicists in 1964, almost impossible to detect.

Endnotes

1. Kevin G. Lowther, "Experimental Paper Revisited, Part II, As White and Liston Debunked China Clay, Grayish Paper Looked More Intriguing," *United States Specialist*, March 2016, p. 111.
2. Ref 1.
3. Ref 1, p. 102.
4. Larry Lyons to author, email dated November 6, 2015.
5. Jim Kloetzel, email to author, May 6, 2024.

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Sidebar: Range of Denominations on Grayish Paper Is Consistent With the Color Trial Theory

Let's accept that Albert J. Valente was correct in stating that grayish paper was used to judge its effect on stamp colors. In that case, it is worth noting that stamps certified as, or thought to be, printed on grayish paper appear on a range of Washington-Franklin denominations. This is consistent with Valente's assertion that stamp colors were being sampled on grayish paper.

An intriguing example is the EDU for Scott 340, the 15¢ Washington-Franklin, shown in Figure 5. The cover was prepared by Milton Whitney, a prominent philatelist in Washington, and mailed to himself on March 12, 1909.

The stamp had to have been printed from one of four plates which went to press at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing between January 8 and 14, 1909.¹ This is when the grayish paper would have been used. The cover is one of several submitted to the Philatelic Foundation by Roy H. White in the early 1990s and certified as China clay (then Scott 340a).

For the moment, the Whitney cover may bear the only definitive evidence that grayish paper was employed on early Third Bureau Issue printings.

Endnote

1. Bureau Issues Association Research Paper #5, "Printing History of Washington-Franklin 3¢-\$5 Denominations," March 1994.

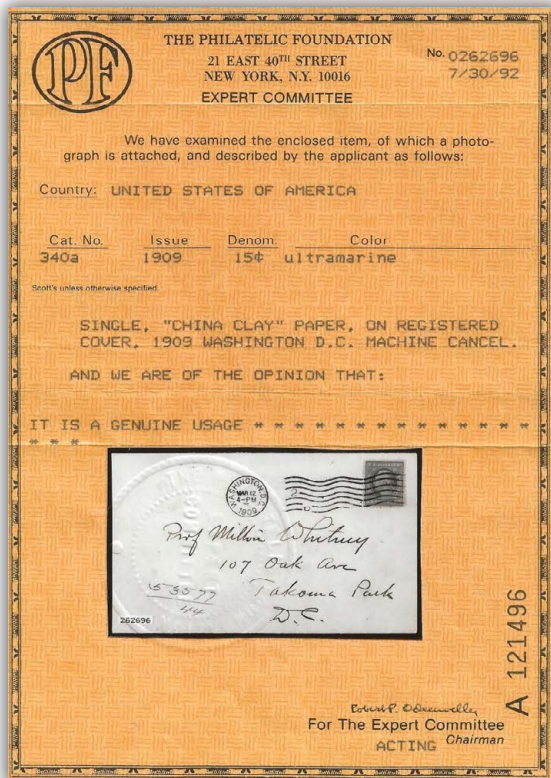


Figure 5. The Philatelic Foundation issued this certificate to Roy H. White in July 1992 with the opinion that the 15¢ stamp was a genuine example of China clay. White's name has been cut off, but the Foundation confirmed that it was submitted by White during his research on then-listed China clay varieties. The stamp was printed in early January 1909. Milton Whitney, a leading member of the Washington philatelic community, used the stamp on a cover mailed to himself on March 12, 1909. It is currently the earliest documented use for Scott 340.

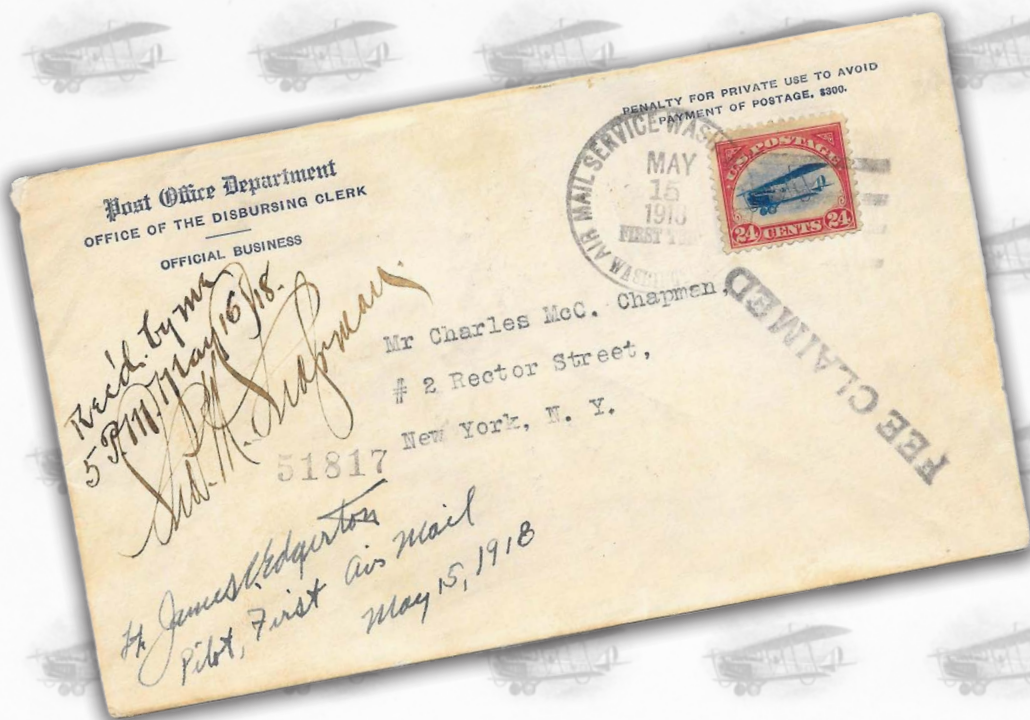


Vintage Photo of the Month

First Regular Airmail Service

by **Rodney A. Juell**

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



This month's photo shows President Woodrow Wilson and Postmaster General Albert Bursleson, spectators to the departure of the first regularly scheduled airmail service from Washington to New York on May 15, 1918. Shown above is a cover flown on that first flight. The cover is autographed, presumably at a later date, by James Edgerton, the pilot who flew the mail from Philadelphia to Washington that day. The 24¢ stamp included Special Delivery service.





Prexies / Liberty Series

Certified Mail: First Day of Rate Covers

by **Stephen L. Suffet**

USSS # 11381 | ✉ ssuffet@nyc.rr.com



Figure 1: A typical 15¢ certified mail stamp first day cover, this one with an Anderson cachet. The 3¢ commemorative paid the letter rate postage. Washington, DC, June 6, 1955.

Certified mail service began in Washington, DC, on June 6, 1955, as a less costly alternative to registered mail when neither high security handling nor indemnification for loss was needed. The following day the new service became available throughout the rest of the United States, its military post offices, and its possessions. The initial certified mail fee was 15¢ in addition to the surface or air mail postage. From its introduction, certified mail has always been a strictly domestic service.

Covers showing the first day of certified mail service used from Washington, DC, are very common because the 15¢ certified mail stamp, Scott FA1, was issued in that city on June 6, 1955, and there is no shortage of first day covers. Figure 1 shows a typical example with an Anderson cachet.

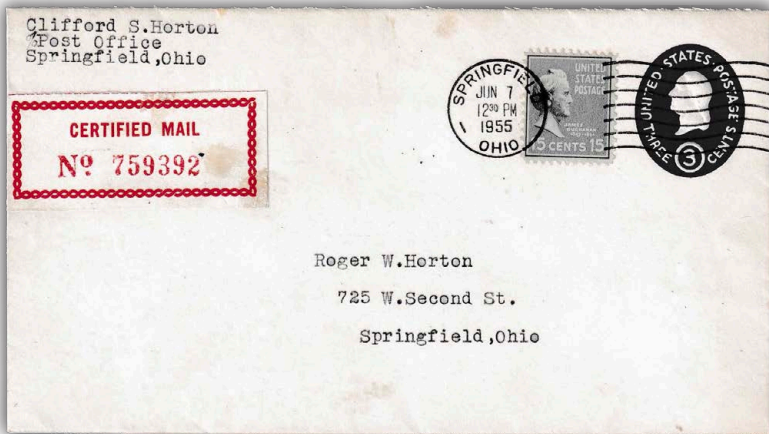


Figure 2: First day of certified mail service outside Washington, DC. The 15¢ Presidential Series stamp paid the certified mail fee while the 3¢ stamped envelope paid the letter rate postage. Springfield, Ohio. June 7, 1955.

Covers showing the first day of certified mail service from elsewhere are decidedly scarce. The cover pictured in Figure 2 is an example. It was used locally within Springfield, Ohio, and postmarked on June 7, 1955. The 15¢ Presidential Series stamp paid the certified mail fee, while the 3¢ stamped envelope paid the one-ounce surface letter rate for a total of 18¢.

While the Liberty Series began to supplant the Presidentials in 1954, the 15¢ Liberty Series stamp did not appear until late in 1958. Meanwhile, the 15¢ Presidential remained in production, and it continued to be shipped to post offices into Fiscal Year 1960, which ran through June 30 of that year. It was, therefore, the only 15¢ definitive stamp currently available when certified mail service began.

That was still the case when the certified mail fee rose to 20¢ on July 1, 1957. Figure 3 pictures a cover postmarked on that date. However, instead of a 15¢ Presidential, a 15¢

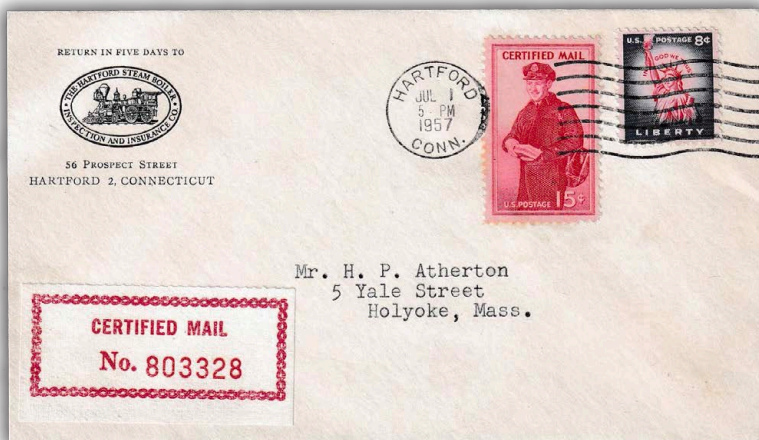


Figure 3: First day of 20¢ certified mail fee. Letter rate postage was still 3¢ so the two stamps paid a total of 23¢. Hartford, Connecticut. July 1, 1957.

certified mail stamp paid three-quarters of the new certified mail fee, while an 8¢ Liberty Series stamp paid the remaining 5¢ of the fee plus the 3¢ letter rate for a total of 23¢.

The certified mail fee next changed on March 26, 1966, when it increased to 30¢. By that time the domestic surface letter rate had risen to 5¢ per ounce. Do first day of rate covers exist for the 30¢ certified mail fee? I suspect that they do, although I have never owned one.

Editor's Note: An earlier version of this article appeared in the Summer 2021 issue (#94) of *The Prexie Era*, the newsletter of the United States Stamp Society Presidential Era Committee. It will be the first in a series of occasional "show and tell" articles exploring the first and/or last day of postal rates.

References:

1. The information about the postal rates and their respective dates can be found in *U.S. Domestic Postal Rates, 1872–2011*, Third Edition, by Henry W. Beecher and Anthony S. Wawrukiewicz (American Philatelic Society: Bellefonte, Pennsylvania; 2011).
2. Information about the 15¢ Presidential Series stamp is from *The Prexies* by Roland E. Rustad, edited by Leonard Piskiewicz (Bureau Issues Association: Belleville, Illinois; 1994).

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Pep Pills, Porn and Postage Stamps: 1983 Counterfeiting of the 20¢ Flag

by **Tim Lindemuth**

USSS # 10888 | ✉ timlind@ksu.edu



Figure 1. James Allen Croy.

Two decades after the mastermind behind the counterfeit 20¢ Flag stamp of 1983, James Allen Croy (Figure 1), was sought again by the FBI for other con jobs on the nationally televised program *America's Most Wanted*, not once, not twice, but three times.

Long before Croy, then 45, convinced a commercial printer in suburban Los Angeles to print more than 6.85 million bogus 20¢ Flag sheet stamps, he had been in and out of jail in several states. For example, *The Atlanta Constitution* reported in July 1966 the arrest of then 28-year-old Croy and a 19-year-old college student for manufacturing and selling fake pep pills in Georgia using caffeine and sugar, imprinted with McNeil Laboratories. At truck stops a bottle of 1,000 pep pills sold for \$60.

Croy served two years in Terminal Island Federal Penitentiary in Los Angeles for the 20¢ Flag stamp counterfeiting conviction. He immediately returned to crime, conning \$400,000 from 150 investors by selling fake shares of ownership in thoroughbred racehorses in Maryland, the *Washington Post* reported on July 22, 1986. The newspaper stated Croy was previously arrested 22 times.

In his 2014 book, *More Stamp Counterfeiting: The Perfect Crime*, author Howard Petschel presents how US Postal and Treasury Department investigators, the US Secret Service, and the Los Angeles Police Department solved the case of \$1.37 million of fake 20¢ Flag stamps—something authorities said was the largest stamp counterfeiting then in United States postal history.

The Origin and Production of the Forgery

Making the bogus 20¢ Flag definitive sheet stamps was seemingly the perfect con job in Croy's mind. He obtained mailing lists from California pornography dealers, stuffed envelopes with fake advertisements for scandalous films, and waited for the money to flow into five rented boxes at commercial mail drops—two in the Las Vegas, Arizona, area and three in the Los Angeles area. At the time of his capture, only the Anaheim, California, box was in use. Croy used five different shell company names for about a year—Canine Fantasies, C.F. Limited, Kings and Queens, L.A. Stuart Company, and R.B. Company, reported Petschel.

To produce the forged stamps for his mailings, Croy recruited an accomplice, printer Monty Clyde Haller Sr., 43, owner of God's Speed Print Shop at 7933 Gloria Ave., Van Nuys, California.¹ (Figure 2) Using a street view of the online Google Maps,



Figure 2. Monty Clyde Haller Sr.

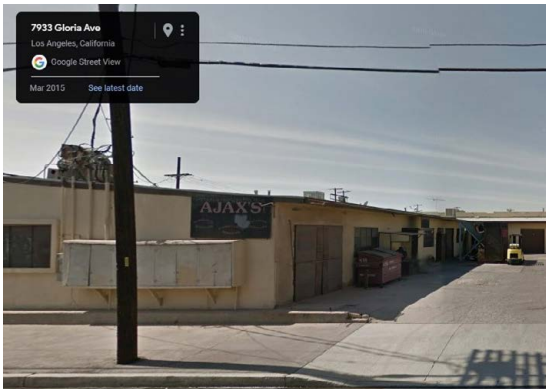


Figure 3. The God's Speed Print Shop was housed in this Van Nuys, California, industrial park building.

this address on Gloria Avenue shows an off-street location in a one-story, nondescript building of a Van Nuys industrial park. It strikes one as a sleepy location where shadowy counterfeiters could work without attracting much attention. (Figure 3)

Why the perfect con job? Croy surmised no one was going to run to the local police to complain they ordered porn and did not receive the product.

Unfortunately for stamp collectors, this same dynamic limits the supply of forgeries for collectors. As Wayne Youngblood said in his *Linn's Stamp News* Postal Counterfeits column on May 20, 1991, "if the counterfeits were all used on pornographic mailings, their chances of being saved (particularly on cover) are slim. This is because much of that type of material is quietly disposed of by those who have an interest in it."

Indeed, four surviving covers were seized by postal inspectors but not destroyed. Petschel, in 2022, gave all his files to writer and philatelic researcher John M. Hotchner. One of these covers (Figure 4) was sold to this author. It contains the fake advertising for porn.



Figure 4. One of four surviving James Croy covers bearing the counterfeit stamp and an address label reportedly obtained from California porn dealers.

So, what foiled Croy's "perfect" con job? Tagging. It was the omission of phosphorescent tagging on the fake 20¢ Flags that tripped up Croy and Haller. According to Petschel's account, a Mark II facer canceling machine rejected 1,200 letters as it processed the mail at the Anaheim, California, Post Office. Mail handler Thomas Shugart noticed all the rejected mail came from the same local firm, R.B. Company of 2170 Broadway in Anaheim. He showed the letters to his supervisor, who agreed that something looked suspicious. The cancelling machine could not locate any phosphorescent-coated stamps on the $8\frac{1}{2} \times 4\frac{1}{8}$ inch white envelopes.

They culled the entire lot and reported this to postal investigators. On March 14, 1983, postal inspector James G. Earnest and his supervisor W. Thornton checked the mail with a black light and were satisfied the stamps were untagged. They also noticed differences in the stamp's flat-looking printing as compared to the intaglio engraved originals, Petschel wrote. Thornton also had seen two previously suspicious rejected mailings on March 7 and March 9 from the same R.B. Company. The respective bundles contained approximately 3,000 and 4,000 rejected letters from the canceling machine.

The letters went through further testing and examination at a postal crime laboratory, Petschel said. Officials declared them counterfeit on March 24, 1983, and opened the mail. They found the letters contained an advertisement for pornographic films.

To locate the stamp counterfeiters, Postal and Treasury Department investigators welcomed the help of the Los Angeles Police Department who had been investigating a related pornography case for about a year involving an individual named Walton Ray Benton, Petschel said.

Croy named one shell company R.B. Company which matched his alias, Walton Ray Benton. In his solicitation letters were pre-addressed return envelopes to send payment to Ray Benton Co. of Anaheim, California. (Figure 5)



Figure 5. The contents of Croy's letters were a printed return envelope for the shell company, Ray Benton Co., and an advertisement for pornographic films.

According to Petschel, authorities staked out the commercial drop box facility waiting for Croy to collect mail. They followed and lost sight of his car in L.A. expressway traffic. Even after they attached a court-authorized tracking device to his 1971 American Motors Ambassador while he was getting mail, he still shook off authorities. A few days later, a LAPD helicopter picked up the beeping signal, and authorities arrested Croy at his Huntington Beach, California, home. They arrested Haller the next day.

Croy was no petty street criminal. He was a lifelong con artist who was wanted for jumping bond in Texas and Maryland. He was well-experienced running from the police, a fact that also exasperated postal investigators.

The Philatelic Press takes Notice

The *Los Angeles Times* on April 30, 1983, first reported “the largest seizure of bogus stamps in the country.” That was more than two months before *Linn’s Stamp News* reported the stamp seizure on its front page with a two-line, six-column screaming headline on July 4, 1983. John Sicker wrote the article.

Linn’s printed a black and white photo of the 20¢ Flag forgery stating, it “wouldn’t fool many collectors, but it was apparently good enough to carry about 250,000 pieces of direct mail promoting pornographic films.” According to the article, “*Linn’s* sent a photographer to take pictures of the fakes at the Los Angeles Secret Service office, where it was being held as evidence” against Croy and Haller.

Indeed, the photo shows a crudely torn stamp perforated 9. (Figure 6) The fakes were printed on sheets of



Figure 6. The image of the counterfeit taken by a *Linn’s* photographer shows crude perforations and torn separation.



Figure 7. An imperforate pane of 99 fake 20-cent Flag stamps printed on $8\frac{1}{2} \times 11$ inch sheets of paper.

paper measuring $8\frac{1}{2} \times 11$ inches that were both gummed and ungummed. The sheets of uncut fake Flag stamps were found in a 9×11 stamp configuration totaling 99 stamps per sheet. (Figure 7) Others had 90 stamps per sheet. There were no marginal markings as on real Federal Bureau of Engraving and Printing issued sheets.

A Second Forgery

This crude perforating, however, does not match other fakes used on Croy's mailings.

His quest to make a fast buck by deceiving people leads this author to think he may have directed Haller to produce more "realistic" looking perforated stamps rather than stamps resembling crudely punched paper with an unthreaded sewing machine needle.

Hotchner said the crude *Linn's*-illustrated forgeries have never been found in philatelic hands. Petschel, a career US postal investigator, said it was his experience to find commercially made perforators in the hands of printers making fakes. This matches Croy's quest for deceptive perfection as in the 1966 caper when he purchased a commercial pill press to form more perfect-looking embossed pep pills.

The revised forgeries, used on the R.B. Company envelopes, incorporated a more realistic 11-gauge hole punch. (Figure 8) The real intaglio printed and perforated stamp is shown for comparison. (Figure 9)



Figure 8. *The revised forgery, used on Croy's last mailing for R.B. Company, have 11 gauge perforations.*



Figure 9. *The genuine stamp with BEP-produced perforations.*

While the *Linn's* images released in 1983 have been widely reprinted in philatelic publications, these perforated 11 fakes are newly reported here.

Besides the omission of the phosphorescent tagging, Haller's off-set printing press and plates, used to produce the millions of fake 20¢ Flag stamps, lacked the design detail achieved with the sharp, cross-hatching of the real intaglio printed stamps produced by BEP. (Figure 10) The enlargement of the fake next to the genuine stamp clearly shows the offset printing lacks the well-defined stars and stripes produced on the intaglio press. (Figure 11)

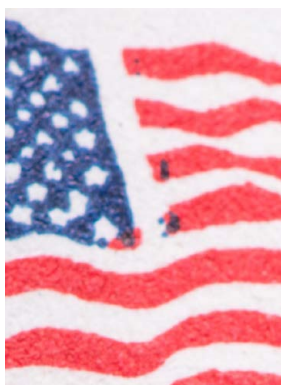


Figure 10. *The offset-printed counterfeits lack design detail and appear flat.*



Figure 11. *The genuine intaglio printed stamps have raised, well-defined details.*

Do the Math

It is hard to know exactly the number of fake 20¢ Flag stamps produced and postally used. Start with the official reports released at the US Secret Service press conference in Los Angeles when the counterfeiters were found and arrested. The numbers were approximate.

The Secret Service claims it busted a counterfeiting operation that bilked the Post Office of \$1.37 million. Divide that by 20 cents, the cost of a stamp. That equates to 6.85 million fake Flag stamps. A sizable quantity that Croy intended to sell to businesses and other criminals. Petschel wrote that authorities said an unknown amount of the fake stamps were sold to local businesses.

They estimated Croy used \$50,000 worth of counterfeit stamps on letters put into circulation. Dividing that amount by 20 cents means 250,000 fake Flag stamps were used on mail, matching the amount reported in *Linn's Stamp News*.

Trials, Sentencing, and Time after Jail

Croy and Haller appeared in the US magistrate court in Los Angeles on April 29, 1983. Bond was set at \$100,000 for Croy and \$50,000 for Haller. Both men were imprisoned at Terminal Island Federal Penitentiary in lieu of bond. That is a low-security prison for males located at the entrance of the Los Angeles harbor.

As reported in *Linn's*, both men pleaded guilty to the stamp counterfeiting in federal district court in Los Angeles on July 26, 1983. Haller served one year of incarceration at Terminal Island and was released on September 4, 1984.

Croy, however, had been wanted on a 1976 federal fugitive warrant out of Macon, Georgia. For his part, Croy was sentenced to two years at Terminal Island and was released on August 30, 1985.

Searching national newspaper databases for mentions of printer Monty Haller turned up little information, suggesting he led a quiet life after prison. He died on December 27, 2012.

Not so for James Croy. Newspaper searches pulled up numerous acts of non-violent crime, primarily cheating and swindling, more arrests and jail time. He was a man on the run with no stable residency.

Using the alias Bobby "Reno" Livingston, he was wanted in Texas on charges of selling unregistered securities, criminal activity and jumping bond. An office clerk's error allowed Croy to post a \$5,000 bond to get out of a Houston, Texas, jail. He fled, and police in two states hunted for him. His national notoriety grew when the FBI featured Croy on *America's Most Wanted*. Besides fake pep pills, stamps, and fake shares in race-horses, he also peddled in art, cheating investors out of \$4 million using fake collectibles.

Remarkably, Croy, now 69, remained a fugitive as late as October 2007, when poor health finally caught up with him. According to online news reports, Croy fled to Georgia in search of his second wife. While in Georgia, he experienced heart failure, collapsed unconscious, and was taken to the intensive care unit of the Albany, Georgia, hospital. There, he was identified, and the Dougherty County Sheriff's Office sent officials to the scene. When Croy eventually regained consciousness, the sheriff extradited him to Houston. He died there two weeks later, on November 10, 2007.

So ended the life of the mastermind behind the counterfeit 20¢ Flag stamp 24 years earlier.

Notes

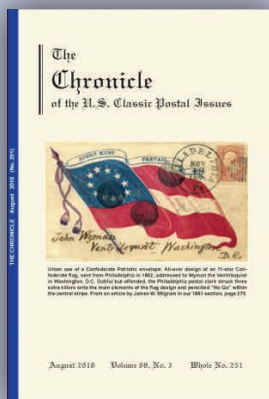
1. In the Petschel book, the accomplice's name, Monte Hailer, is misspelled as is the name of his business, Godspeed Printing Company. These do not match The Associated Press, *Los Angeles Times*, and other published news reports of Haller's arrest and his business' name.

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The Great Americans

Great Americans Issue Part VIII— Jack London Booklets

by Jay Stotts

USSS #10921 | ✉ stottsjd@swbell.net



Figure 1. Jack London booklets

The domestic letter rate increase from 22¢ to 25¢, effective April 3, 1988, created the need for booklets of 25¢ stamps. The public enjoyed the convenience of booklets, and the Great Americans Series already had a 25¢ design, the Jack London stamp, so the Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP) produced Jack London booklets.

The United States Postal Service (USPS) elected to have the Bureau produce booklets in three counter values: \$1.50, \$3.00, and \$5.00. This provided maximum flexibility to

meet customer demands. The Jack London booklets were issued on May 3, 1988, in San Francisco, birthplace of John Griffith Chaney, better known as Jack London.

Booklet Covers

Each booklet cover was printed in a different color scheme. The \$1.50 and \$3.00 booklet covers were printed in different arrangements of brown and blue on offset presses. The \$5.00 booklet cover was printed on a four-color press, producing a more distinctive cover. The three covers are shown in Figure 1. The \$1.50 and \$3.00 covers are known printed on both dead (non-fluorescing) and fluorescing card stock. The \$5.00 cover stock is fluorescent.

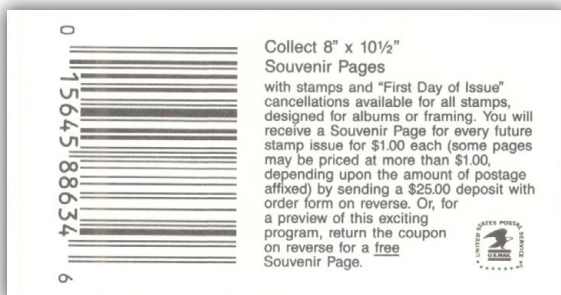


Figure 2. Back outside cover of a \$5 booklet.

The back cover of each of the three booklet types contained an advertisement for collecting USPS 8 × 10½ inch Souvenir Pages and a Universal Pricing Code to accommodate retail sales. The back cover of a \$5.00 booklet is shown in Figure 2. Figure 3 shows the inside covers from a \$1.50 booklet with the stamps removed but with the attaching selvage still present. The inside of the back cover of each booklet had an application form for signing up for a subscription to receive USPS 8 × 10½ inch Souvenir Pages.

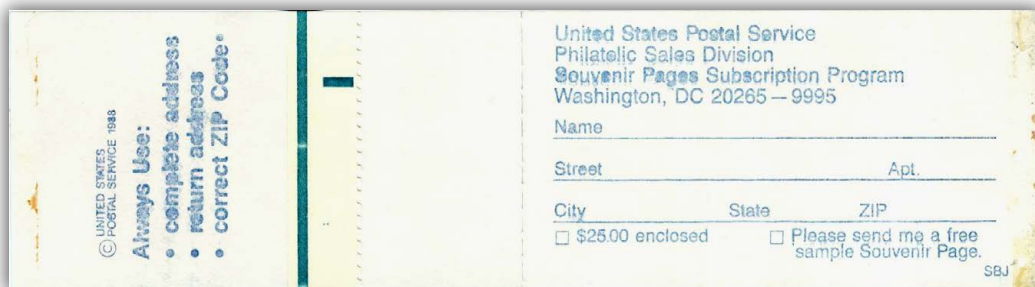


Figure 3. Printing on the inside of the booklet covers.

Pane Sizes

\$1.50 booklets contained one booklet pane of six stamps, and \$3.00 booklets contained two panes of six stamps. \$5.00 booklets contained a pair of booklet panes with ten stamps each.

The six-subject panes were produced from printing sleeves that fit both the Bureau's C and D printing presses. This series of articles has not discussed these two presses yet, but will in a future chapter. The sleeve printed 144 panes per revolution, a total of 864 stamps. The layout was 18 stamps wide (6 panes wide) by 48 stamps (24 panes) around the circumference. A one-millimeter sleeve number appeared in each pane's selvage. The size of the sleeve number was kept very small to avoid triggering the electric eyes

in the Goebel booklet forming machinery. Bars were printed in the margins to trigger the perforating function. Figure 4 shows a pane of six stamps.

The A Press was used to print panes of ten subjects for the \$5.00 booklet. Figure 5 shows a mock-up produced to illustrate the plate layout for the A Press. Two such sleeves were made and numbered sleeve 1 and sleeve 2. Forty panes of ten stamps were arranged on the sleeve with 20 of them inverted. This allowed the “top” of each pane to include a selvage margin which was used to attach the pane to the booklet.

As with the six-stamp panes, each 10-stamp pane included a small sleeve number in the margin. As the mock-up shows, the four panes at the center included a portion of a crow’s foot in their margins. The center crow’s foot was used to help trigger the electric eyes used during the sheeting process. This is the process where the A Press web is cut into 400-subject sheets as shown in the earlier mock-up. Figure 6 shows a booklet pane of ten stamps and the small one-millimeter high sleeve number 2.



Figure 4. Booklet pane of six printed for \$1.50 and \$3.00 booklets.

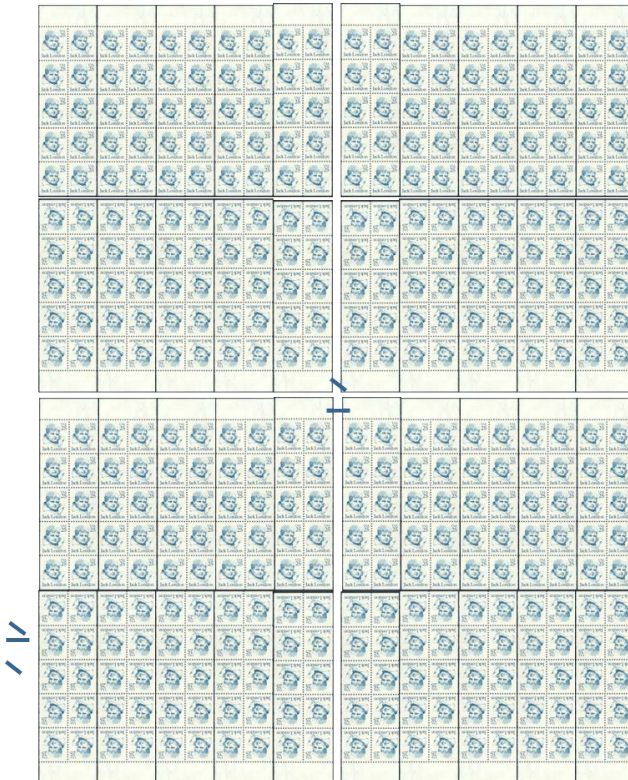


Figure 5. Plate layout of London booklet panes of 10 subjects.

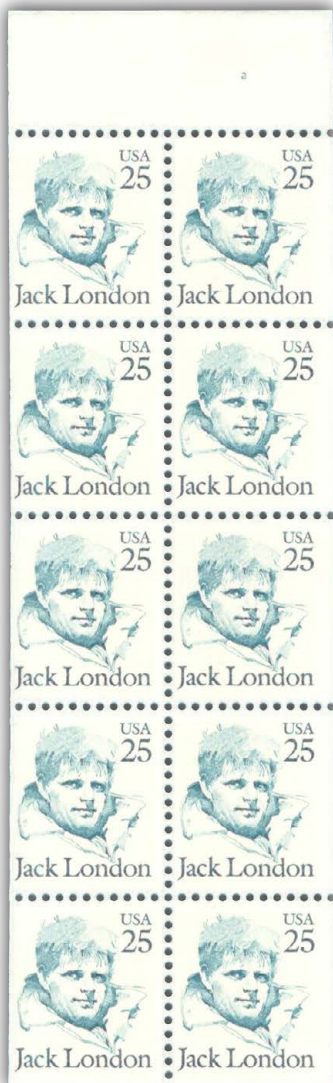


Figure 6. Booklet pane of ten printed from the A Press.

were later trimmed off and discarded and are not known to exist on surviving booklet panes. It would take a significant booklet pane-cutting shift for one of these side markings to survive.

Tagging, Perforating and Booklet Construction

As with the other issues of the period, the individual stamps of each pane were overprinted with a large block 21×19 phosphor tag. Figure 8 illustrates a representative tagging example of a booklet pane of six. Tagging shifts exist, and a representation of an existing vertical tagging shift is shown in Figure 9.



Figure 7. Location of the center crow's foot on four neighboring booklet panes.

Figure 7 illustrates four 10-subject booklet panes arranged as they would have been printed, featuring the center crow's foot marking. The open space between the four panes represents paper from the printed web that would have been discarded after the panes were perforated and trimmed.

Two additional crow's feet were also printed, one in the left margin and one in the right margin. These

were later trimmed off and discarded and are not known to exist on surviving booklet panes. It would take a significant booklet pane-cutting shift for one of these side markings to survive.



Figure 8. Illustration of large block tagging on a six-subject booklet pane.

Wallace Cleland wrote about a Jack London booklet tagging error on page 362 of the August 2000 issue of *The United States Specialist*. The short article, titled “Tagging Error on Jack London Book Pane,” told about a pane of 10 printed from sleeve 2 where the large block tagging was indexed down one row of stamps, resulting in tagging omitted on the top pair of stamps. This variety is listed in the Scott *Specialized Catalogue* as number 2182g.

Perforating for the 10-subject panes was done on the Eureka Perforator, so the booklet panes feature bullseye perforations running down the center column of each pane. The perforation gauge is 11.25. Perforation shifts are also known on these booklets. The perforation gauge on the six-subject panes differs because these panes were perforated on Goebel booklet forming machines and is gauge 10×9.75 . In a continuous operation, the Bureau’s Goebel booklet forming machines formed the stamps and covers into the \$1.50 and \$3.00 booklets.

The \$5 booklets were made in a different process because the Bureau’s Goebel booklet-forming machines were reportedly running way behind schedule (by some 40 million booklets per year). After being cut into 400-subject sheets in the sheeter operation, the sheet was split into four 100-subject “sides” (a term used by a Bureau spokesman). The “sides” were the four horizontal rows of panes shown in our mock-up, oriented by the direction of the panes in that row. Two sides and the cover stock were folded, collated,



Figure 9. Illustration of a vertical tagging shift on a booklet pane of 10.

and formed into a package of ten uncut booklets, and then the edge was glued. Trimming and slitting followed, creating individual booklets.

The Stamp-Ad, Inc. Campaign

Stamp-Ad, Inc. of Houston, Texas, originated the idea of combining discounted stamp sales with supermarket saving coupons into coupon booklets. The program was publicly explained in newspaper articles throughout the country on February 22 and 23, 1988. The grocery store chain Safeway began selling booklets filled with price-off coupons on national products in Washington, DC, and Baltimore. Also included in the coupon booklet was a booklet of stamps. The price for the coupon booklet in those early announcements was \$4.00, but the booklet of stamps cost \$4.40 retail. This was during the waning days of the 22¢ domestic letter rate period, so we can speculate that the coupon booklets included \$4.40 Seashell booklets. The coupon booklets were physically sized to slide into the cover of a checkbook.

Sales of these combined discounted stamps, and national product coupons were limited to one per family per store visit. Stamp-Ad printed and coordinated the coupon booklets and paid full price for the stamps. When asked about the discount sale of postage stamps, Charles Hughes, retail sales manager for the USPS, responded, "As far as I'm concerned they can give them away." He added, "For us, it's a very successful way of getting stamps into hands of people."



Figure 10. Kroger Stamp-Ad booklet from 1988.

After the domestic letter rate increased to 25¢ in April, London booklets were featured in the coupon booklets. Figure 10 shows a coupon booklet put together for the Kroger supermarket chain. It carried a \$2.75 cover charge.

Figure 11 shows the booklet opened to the first page. A \$3.00 London booklet was pasted onto the back of the front cover. So, in this case, the purchaser bought \$3.00 worth of stamps for \$2.75, essentially receiving one free stamp, as many grocery chain advertisements promoted in their newspaper ads. The first page of the coupon booklet helps explain the concept. Figure 12 shows a table of contents for the coupons for national products available in the Kroger coupon booklet.

The program seems to have disappeared as quickly as it arrived. Although the idea of discount postage would have appealed to almost any consumer, if you purchased booklets at a weekly pace, it is likely that the stamps would have accumulated at a higher rate than you would have used them. Discount grocery coupons were still available in

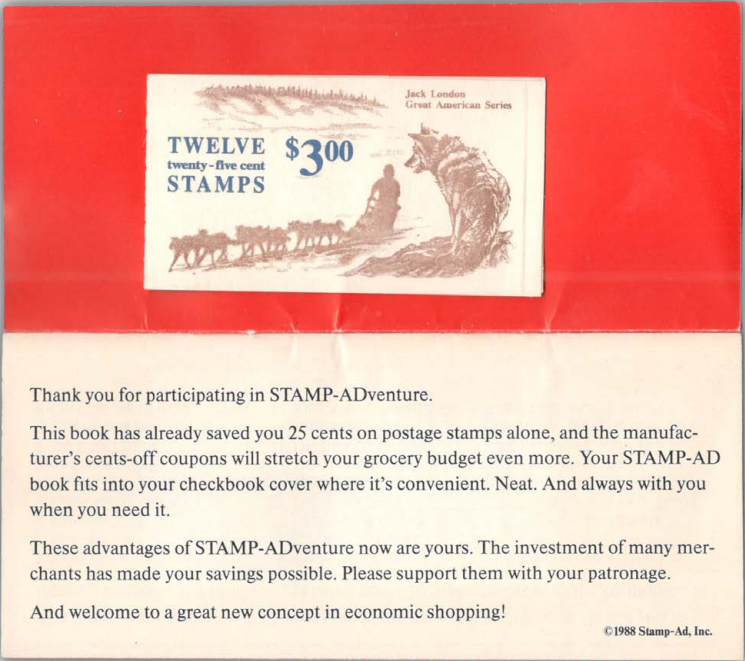


Figure 11. Kroger Stamp-Ad booklet showing the \$3.00 London booklet.



Figure 12. List of coupons in the Kroger Stamp-Ad booklet.

local newspapers multiple times per week, and these often more than justified the cost of a newspaper subscription, so many consumers may have balked at paying for the coupon booklets over time.

Dummy London Booklets

After the Jack London booklets were taken off sale, the Dummy Booklet Study Group of the Bureau Issues Association learned that several dummy booklets were made to test the new four-color Goebel booklet forming machine, but it was not until 2000 that these booklets reached collectors' hands. Apparently, the booklets were made during testing at Goebel, GmbH in Germany, using materials supplied by the BEP.

Terry Scott reported the first of these booklets in his article, "New \$5.00 Jack London Dummy Booklet Confirmed," on pages 274–77 of the June 2000, *The United States Specialist*. Readers are invited to check out what Terry wrote in this article to understand some of the details. There were two panes of 10 subjects in the discovery booklet. The subjects did not picture the image of London but simply showed blue rect-

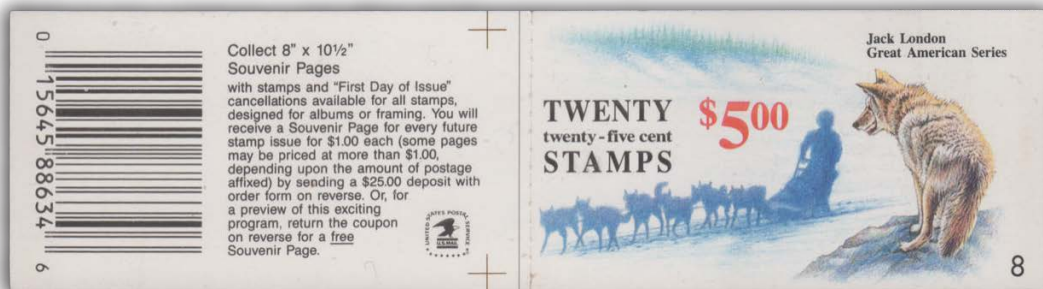


Figure 13. Cover of the Jack London test booklet (courtesy of Terry Scott).

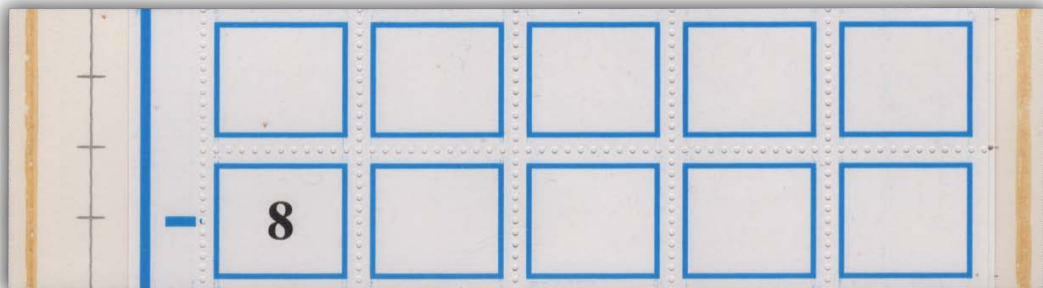


Figure 14. Booklet pane from London test booklet (courtesy of Terry Scott).

angles representing each stamp. The cover closely resembled the \$5.00 London booklet, but the printed content on the reverse side of the covers was different. Terry provided the next two illustrations, Figure 13 showing a cover from a test booklet and Figure 4. Showing a test pane of 10 subjects.

The number "8" was added to the lower right corner of the cover. A total of 12 numbers ranging from 1 to 12 appear on test booklet covers. A number also appears in black on the lower left stamp of each pane. In one series of test booklets, the number printed

on the cover matches the number printed on each of the two panes inside. If the numbers match, the Scott *Specialized Catalogue* listing is TDB36.

But, as Terry explains, there is another set of 12 test booklets where the number on the cover does not match the numbers on the panes inside. In this case, a booklet cover with a “5” on the outside contains two panes with a printed “1” on the two panes attached inside. Although mismatched, the numbers continue sequentially. Cover “6” contains panes “2,” cover “7” contains panes “3,” etc., until cover “12” which continues the internal sequence with panes “8.” Then, cover “1” contains panes “9,” and finally cover “4,” has panes “12.” The Scott catalog notes this variety, but does not assign it a number.

The panes have shiny gum and are untagged. In both sequences, it is likely that these numbers reflected two different assembly sequences or processes Goebel tried during the testing booklet forming processes.

In his article, Terry Scott covers all the differences between the original \$5.00 London booklet and the discovery dummy booklet. John Larson reported on more discoveries in his article, “More \$5.00 Jack London Dummy Booklets Reported,” on pages 377–78 of the August 2006 edition of *The United States Specialist*.

Summarizing the London Stamps

The 25¢ sheet stamp was over two years old when the postage rate changed in 1988. The next domestic letter rate change became effective on February 3, 1991, when the cost of postage went to 29¢ for the first ounce. The \$5 London booklets were withdrawn from sale on December 31, 1990. The \$3 booklets were withdrawn from sale on April 30, 1991, and the \$1.50 booklets followed suit on June 30, 1991.

The London sheet stamps would go back to press in 1993 in a different format because 25¢ stamps were useful, but booklets were never produced again using stamp designs from the Great American Series.

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Fraudulent and Real Uses of Parcel Post Postage Due Stamps from 1913

by **Richard D. Martorelli**

✉ rdmartorelli@gmail.com



Figure 1. Cover with fraudulently added parcel post postage due, JQ2.

Historically, mail classification by the United States Post Office Department (USPOD) is how pricing and service were organized. One of the more significant actions in this area occurred in 1863. Mail was divided into three classes: (a) letters, called first class mail; (b) newspapers and other periodicals, called second class mail; and (c) all other mailable matter, called third class mail. Following that, the Mail Classification Act of 1879 made four classes of mail that basically remained in effect until 1996. The 1879 Act kept first and second class as defined in 1863. Miscellaneous printed matter, like advertisements and circulars, transient publications, and pamphlets, remained as third-class matter. Merchandise and other mailable matter (including books and materials for planting) and any non-print matter formerly in third class was moved to a new fourth class, with a new rate of 1 cent an ounce up to a limit of four pounds.

On January 1, 1913, the USPOD initiated Parcel Post, which was an expansion of service in the fourth-class mail category. This service would provide affordable parcel delivery to all Americans and expanded service for mail order shopping and delivery. Prior to this point, private companies controlled package deliveries of greater than four pounds and could limit their service or charge extremely high prices for delivery to rural areas. The new Parcel Post program created a weight and distance formula for mailing

packages up to 11 pounds, providing new access and opportunities for rural and urban populations. Within one year, the weight limit for deliveries up to 150 miles (zone 1 and 2) had been expanded to 50 pounds and to 20 pounds for all other distances.

With the start of the service, the USPOD issued a set of 12 stamps specifically for use as postage on all fourth class mail, as the POD wanted to track the program's revenue. The pictorial centers (vignettes) on the stamps paid tribute to the postal service, manufacturing, and agriculture. One stamp, the 20 cent value, featured the first airplane ever shown on a government-issued stamp. In addition, for the POD's use only, Parcel Post Postage Due stamps were issued for use in the parcel service. All five of these stamps were dark green with a large numeral indicating the amount to be paid.

Because of the success of the Parcel Post service, the POD decided that it did not need to track the program revenue by use of the special stamps. Accordingly, the rule that Parcel Post stamps could be used only on fourth-class mail was ended on June 30, 1913. By order of the POD, regular stamps could now be used on parcels, and Parcel Post stamps could be used on regular mail until the stock of Parcel Post stamps ran out. Below discussed are two examples of 1913 usage of these stamps.

A developing product in the late nineteenth to early twentieth century was coats made by the impregnation of textiles with rubber or other products. Raincoats as we know them were developed in England in the 1830s and improved in many ways over the next decades. This included Macintosh raincoats with vulcanized rubber, Barbour jackets made from cotton or blended cotton fabric impregnated with wax, and Klepper rubber-coated cotton coats. The evolution of raincoats in the nineteenth century enhanced their functionality and design and became accessible for individuals seeking both style and practicality in wet weather conditions.

As noted above, merchandise, including samples, was categorized as fourth class mail. A good way to advertise a product is by sending samples in different grades and colors to businesses that would sell the product. The cover in Figure 1 is from the Goodman Rainproof Coat Company, Chicago, Illinois. Franked with a one cent Parcel Post stamp (Q1), it is canceled by a mute machine cancel of 1913 during the period when the Q1-Q12 Parcel Post stamps were required for and exclusively used on Fourth-class mail. This item is addressed to the Amana Society in Iowa, a German-descent community that lived communally in a religious environment, practicing farming and industries to provide for their necessities. They also bought what they could not make, such as waterproof raincoats. This envelope likely contained small pieces of raincoat material along with advertising. The envelope also has an auxiliary mark of "POSTAGE DUE 2C" and a pen canceled Parcel Post Postage Due stamp (JQ2).

Alas, what seems to be an absolute rarity is just a bit of chicanery. The American Philatelic Expertizing Service certificate that I obtained after my purchase states: "Q1... used...on cover...genuine...JQ2 added after proper original postal use." Additional comments were made that there was no evidence that this was a "top-of-stack" cover, no cancel on the JQ2 tying it to the cover, and that the gum had been soaked off of the JQ2 stamp before it was applied to this cover. Also noted was that there was no obvious reason for the postage due. The letter would have had to weigh three ounces to justify the two cents postage due, and similar covers sent by other manufacturers at the same time are franked with only one cent postage of Q1.

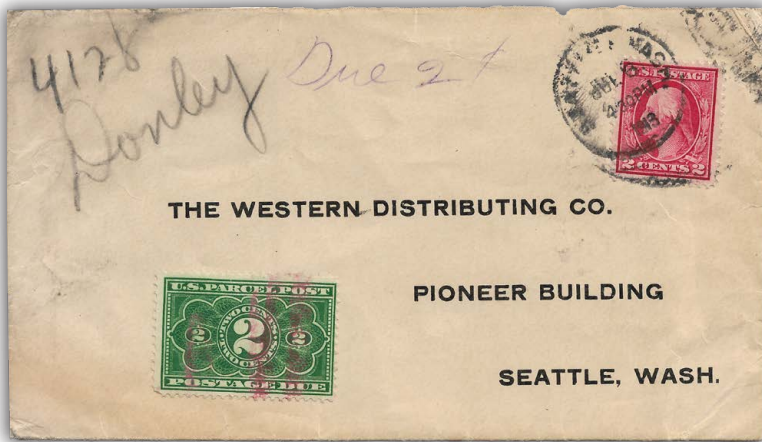


Figure 2. Use of parcel post postage due, JQ2, shortly after the Post Office Department authorized the use of parcel post dues on non-parcel post mail.

The cover shown in Figure 2 parallels and predates the cover shown in the March 2024 issue of *The United States Specialist*. This letter was mailed in Seattle, Washington, on July 6, 1913, franked with a two cent Scott 406, and addressed to downtown Seattle. At this time, both the first class and local (carrier post office) letter rates were two cents per ounce. Also, on the cover, there is a manuscript “Due 2¢,” and a red-ink precanceled JQ2. Unlike the cover in Figure 1, the postage due stamp usage makes sense. The letter appears to have weighed two ounces, but was prepaid only for one ounce. The short-paid postage was two cents and collected by the JQ2 stamp. The standout feature of this cover is the dating. The end of the restricted use of Parcel Post stamps was announced in the Postal Bulletin on June 27, 1913 (Friday) to be effective July 1 (the following Tuesday). This letter was postmarked on July 6 (Sunday) and likely delivered the next day. This a very early authorized use of the Parcel Post Postage Due stamps on non-parcel post mail. Similarly, as in Figure 3, in early July 1913, uses of the Parcel Post stamps (usually the one cent Q1 or two cent Q2) are less frequently found.



Figure 3. Early use of parcel post stamp (Q2) on non-parcel post mail.



Plate Number Report

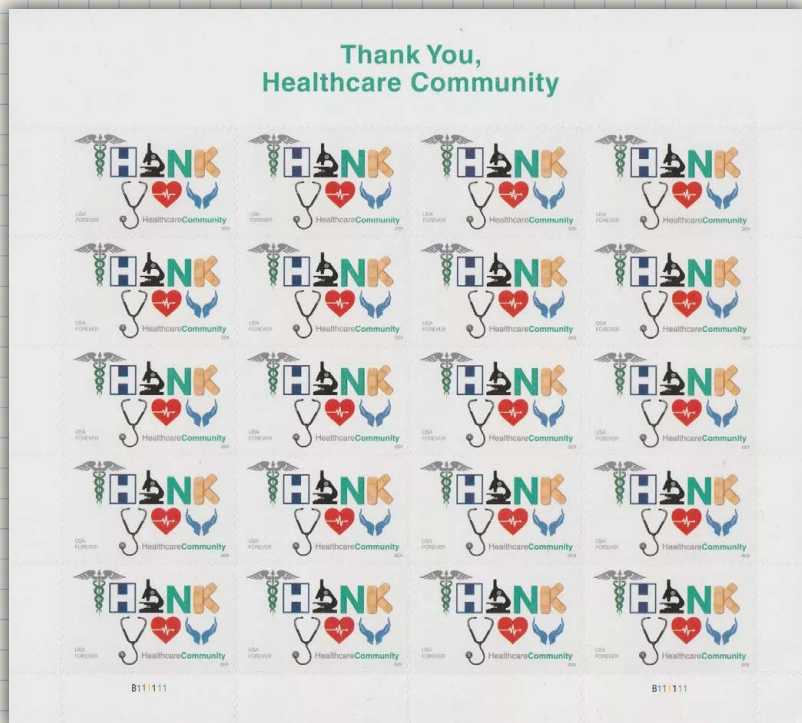
compiled by **Kim D. Johnson**
USSS #7335 | ✉westhome1@aol.com



#5701 \$5 Floral Geometry
B2222 UL ‡ ‡ LR
3r x 2c 1,2,3,4,5,6*



#???? Winter Whimsy Booklet
P1111



▲ #???? Healthcare Community
 B111111 ‡ ‡ LL LR
 3r x 3c 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9*

(Not Illustrated)
 #B1 (83¢) Breast Cancer
 B222222 UL UR LL LR
 3r x 4c 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12*

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

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



Report of the Executive Secretary

APPLICATIONS RECEIVED FOR NOVEMBER 2024		DECEASED	
17589	Mark Fernau, Cambridge, MA	4999	Paul Newcomb
17590	Castor Kent, Athens, OH	9679	Andrew Pitonyak
17591	Karl Pfeiffer, Stone Mountain, GA	14752	Ralph Calabrese
17592	Douglas Weisz, Chicago, IL	TOTAL MEMBERSHIP	
17593	Catherine Boyer, Yuba City, CA	October 31, 2024	1411
17594	Jim Goldschmidt, Washington, DC	ADDITIONS:	
APPLICATIONS PENDING		New members	6
17586–17588		Reinstated	1
NEW MEMBERS		Total	+7
17580–17585		SUBTRACTIONS:	
REINSTATED		Resigned	13
16580	Gary Overfield	Deceased	3
RESIGNED		Total	–16
13496	Stanley Sablak	NET CHANGE	–9
14814	Marc Achterhof	TOTAL MEMBERSHIP	
16284	Dennis Buss	November 30, 2024	1402
16382	Ronald Kane	<div>Annual Dues Renewal Thanks to all who have renewed their memberships. Payment was due December 31. To avoid the “Dropping and Reinstating” procedures, please renew today! We all love to receive “real” mail, but it is more efficient for usss (and you!) if you pay your dues online by PayPal, where a credit card option is available if you do not have a PayPal account. Simply log into your account at USStamps.org and click the membership renewal link. Questions? E-mail: execsecretary@usstamps.org</div>	
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16518	David Des Noyer		
16665	Stephen Rose		
16841	Mark Schwartz		
16969	Jeff Poeschl		
17216	Rob Sternberg		
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