

San Jose Stamp Club

APS Chapter 0264-025791

Founded 1927, Club show since 1928

February 2019

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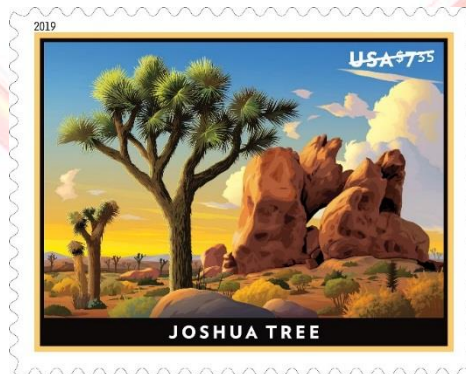
New Stamps for New Rates Arriving January 27



On December 19, the United States Postal Service announced new Priority Mail and Priority Mail Express stamps and new stamps for additional ounce, non-machineable surcharge and 2- and 3-ounce mailings. The stamps go on sale nationwide Jan. 27 with no first-day ceremonies. More information was available in the December 20, 2018 USPS Postal Bulletin.

Here are the new stamps and details of their designs and rates.

\$7.35 Joshua Tree



Celebrating the desolate beauty of the Joshua tree (*Yucca brevifolia*) and its distinct desert environment, this Priority Mail stamp depicts a common scene throughout much of the Mojave and Sonoran Deserts. Using the bold colors of the sun's reflection off of the trees, rocks and other shrubby vegetation, artist Dan Cosgrove illuminates the desert scene in warm, golden hues. Art director Greg Breeding designed the stamp.

The new \$7.35 denomination of this stamp pays the cost of sending a domestic Priority Mail Retail Flat Rate 12.5-inch by 9.5-inch envelope. It will replace the \$6.70 Byodo-In Temple stamp and flat-rate stamped envelope issued January 21, 2018, reflecting an increase of 65¢.

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Club Blog & Website

Blog Updates

No Activity

Website Updates

Minutes of the 01/02/2019 club meeting uploaded

Minutes of the 12/05/2018 club meeting uploaded

January 2019 Newsletter uploaded

Remember the dates!

Feb 6	San Jose Stamp Club Meeting
Feb 20	San Jose Stamp Club Meeting

President's Message

I'm looking forward to the activities for our club and Bay Area philatelic community for 2019. This is lining up to be a banner year for our club as we put last year's challenges behind us and move forward.

The mailing inviting new members is going out soon. We can hope to see some new members visiting our meetings. I'm confident you will all make guests feel welcome.

A wide variety of speakers and presentations are lining up for our meetings over the next few months. As I wrote last month, we're arranging more presentations for our upcoming meetings.

Next up on the calendar is our region's big show: WESTPEX. The big show is on April 26 – 28th at the SF Airport Marriott Hotel in Burlingame. This is one of the top shows in the country so we're lucky to have an international caliber show in our backyard. You can find tremendous inspiration looking at the exhibits. This show brings in top caliber collections, so plan your day to fit some time to walk through the frames. WESTPEX is also a great place to reconnect with philatelic friends. The lounge downstairs is a great place to have a coffee or drink with "lost" friends or make new ones.

Our club's on-line presence is constantly improving. Have you checked our club website recently? It is a site to be proud of. You can get a wide variety of club information and find information for both experienced and beginning collectors.

Are you on Facebook? Do you follow our club page? We now have over 100 page followers (ya, 101, but that is more than 100!). I'll be posting information on our speakers and important club news. I'd love it if you'd give our posts a LIKE.

I've written before about my idea for a special event targeted to getting people started collecting. I have lots of ideas for this, but I'll need lots of help and financial commitment from the club. Since this is an unproven idea, we'll have to absorb the costs. It would be fantastic if we could pull off this concept. It is an unprecedented program, but we need to have the courage to try new things.

Social events will continue in 2019. We'll have our annual summer picnic this year. Do you have an idea for another event club members would enjoy? I'm open to hearing about planning more fun programs.

Filatellic Fiesta is alive and well. Despite anything you might have read, the show is ON! We're moving back to our classic date, the 2nd weekend in November. It will be a big success with everyone contributing. Andy Hilton has stepped up to serving as the Bourse Chairman. How will you help?

Brian

More on U.S. Coil Waste

By Peter Mosiondz, Jr.

In an earlier column we spoke about the coil waste issues. Now we'll conclude the story as we talk about the 1923 and 1924 coil waste issues which have been assigned the Scott Catalogue numbers of 578-9 and 594-6.

The Bureau of Engraving and Printing being elated at the savings accrued a few years earlier when they applied the horizontal perforation 11 to some rotary press 170 subject coil sheets that had already received the vertical perforation 10, decided to put their money saving technique to good use once again.

The first two stamps to receive the treatment this time were the 1¢ Franklin and 2¢ Washington designs of 1923, unwatermarked. They were produced from the 170 subject horizontal coil plates which had been put to use for the rotary coils, Scott #s 597 and 599.

Beware of spurious perforations running horizontally for the expert faker can easily alter Scott #s 597 and 599. The simplest means of detection is to take a normal fl at plate stamp perforated 11 and match up the perforations to these coil waste stamps. The top and bottom holes must match exactly. Another key point is the gum if the stamp is unused. The coil gum is very smooth and flat and there is almost always a horizontal gum skip running across the stamp. The coil waste sheets did not receive these gum breakers. So if someone offers you a purported Scott #578 or 579 with a horizontal gum skip, avoid it at any cost.



These two stamps are extremely difficult to find well centered with any kind of margins to speak of. [Editor's Note: However, a very nice copy of both No. 578 and No. 595 are shown here.] A true very fine example can easily fetch at least double the Scott Catalogue value while an extremely fine example can cost the collector four or five times the book value. The latter must display nice margins all around. Such outstanding copies are to be found very rarely.



Once again, in 1924, the Bureau decided to make use of their scrap coil waste sheets. There is one major difference in these stamps and their earlier counterparts and that is that this time the coil waste sheets had not been perforated previously. When it came time to perforate them prior to their issue, they were placed on the flat plate perforator and received the 11 x 11 gauge.

The Bureau did not consider these stamps to be a different issue thus no formal announcement was made before their release. We owe the discovery of the 1¢ stamp (Scott #594) to a sharp-eyed philatelist who thought that the stamps looked a bit different. Most, if not all, of the one-centers originated in the Madison Square Station Post Office in New York. Since some 60 sheets of 170 subjects were released (or 10,200 stamps) and less than three dozen are accounted for today. The possibility of finding one of these rarities on a cover or post card is still not impossible some 80 years later.

Continued on page 4

Coil Waste continued...

The 2¢ stamp (Scott #595) had been discovered while still on sale at the Philadelphia and New York City post offices. While a good number of these were set aside the centering was so off center that ample supplies were not laid in. The estimated printing total of 100,000 examples is not inconsiderable.

Without a doubt the rarest 20th century stamp of the U.S. is Scott #596, also the result of coil waste. It was discovered in 1962, almost 40 years after its issuance. This 1¢ Franklin was printed from vertical coil waste, not the horizontal coil waste of the four stamps just spoken about. The difference between the Scott #s 594 and 596 is in the measurements. The former measures 19 ¾ mm x 22 ¼ mm while the latter measures 19 ¼ mm x 22 ½ mm. As of this date just 13 examples are known. Five carry a machine cancel and the others are precancelled Kansas City, MO. No unused example has been certified. The Bureau did not release any production figures for this rarity but educated guesses place the number at 10,000. Opportunities abound in this series of coil waste stamps. Perhaps you'll be the next fortunate collector to make a major discovery.



Arguably, the most well-known of these Confederate valentines is a large circular valentine, an amazing example of colorful folk art on both the cover and the valentine. The circular verse culminates with a Confederate flag in the center, a spectacular design. I am grateful to Scott Trepel of Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries, Inc. for providing it for illustration with this article. It has been sold more than once through the Siegel firm and understandably generated much enthusiastic bidding and escalating high prices over the years.

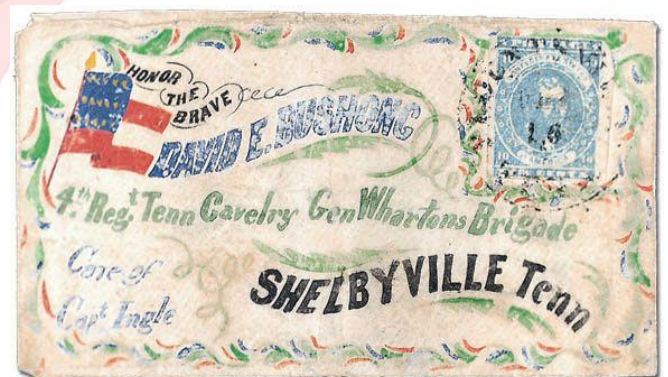
Another Confederate valentine that has remained in my memory for decades was one from the late David Kohn, a mentor of mine in the early 1970's when he was then in his nineties. His valentine was a treasured family heirloom from his father, Theodore Kohn, who had enlisted in the Edisto Rifles from Orangeburg and was in Charleston when the first shots were fired at Ft. Sumter. While I don't know whether the valentine remained in the family or moved on to a lucky collector, the verse and story always stuck with me, partly because Dave was the closest direct link to the Civil War that I ever met.

Wonderful Confederate Valentines!

By Patricia A. Kaufmann

There are many opinions as to how valentines came to originate. The most popular theory that a priest named Valentine was executed on the order of Emperor Claudius II for secretly marrying couples in ancient Rome. With it comes a lengthy and oft repeated story of his jailor's blind daughter, a miracle of restored sight, a love note sent while awaiting execution, and so forth.

Whichever of the stories you embrace, the date of February 14 is set aside to honor St. Valentine and is a time to exchange love messages now known as valentines. During the Civil War, most Confederate valentines were hand-made due to the scarcity of paper caused by the blockade cutting off importation of paper sources from the North and Europe. As there were only five such days during the War, Confederate valentines are obviously rare and especially sought after.



Continued on next page

Valentines continued...

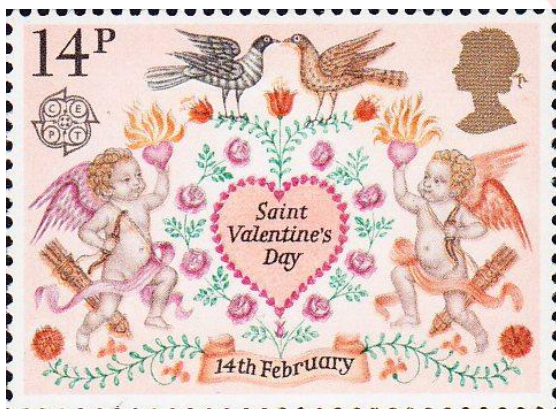
Dave's father was the oldest of ten children who settled in South Carolina from Germany in 1850. When Theodore was ten years old, he was taken into the family of his uncle and grew up in the company of his young cousin, Mary Louis. For Valentine's Day 1863, his cousin Mary made him a valentine in which she teased him about his curly hair and his unusual eyes, one brown and one blue! It was posted in an embossed envelope with a pair of Confederate 5¢ local prints, Scott #7, to James Island via Charleston.

The verse went like this:

I love thee not for that dark eye,
Nor for those ringlets flowing,
But for thy heart, I fondly sigh,
With truth and virtue glowing;
For charms in beauty ne'er we find,
Which time won't quickly sever;
But the best charms are charms of mind
For those I'll love thee ever.

David Kohn wrote of this cherished family treasure in the first all-Confederate issue of the old Weekly Philatelic Gossip in February 1951, a magazine that I still enjoy poring through over fifty years later. I think of The American Stamp Dealer and Collector as a modern version of that outstanding publication to which philatelic luminaries of old contributed.

Valentine's Day



Valentine's Day, also called **Saint Valentine's Day** or the **Feast of Saint Valentine** is celebrated annually on February 14. Originating as a Western Christian feast day honoring one or two early saints named Valentinus, Valentine's Day is recognized as a significant cultural, religious, and commercial celebration of romance and romantic love in many regions around the world, although it is not a public holiday in any country.

Martyrdom stories associated with various Valentines connected to February 14 are presented in martyrologies, including a written account of Saint Valentine of Rome imprisonment for performing weddings for soldiers, who were forbidden to marry and for ministering to Christians persecuted under the Roman Empire. According to legend, during his imprisonment Saint Valentine restored sight to the blind daughter of his judge, and before his execution he wrote her a letter signed "Your Valentine" as a farewell.

The day first became associated with romantic love within the circle of Geoffrey Chaucer in the 14th century, when the tradition of courtly love flourished. In 18th-century England, it evolved into an occasion in which lovers expressed their love for each other by presenting flowers, offering confectionery, and sending greeting cards (known as "valentines"). Valentine's Day symbols that are used today include the heart-shaped outline, doves, and the figure of the winged Cupid. Since the 19th century, handwritten valentines have given way to mass-produced greeting cards. In Europe, Saint Valentine's Keys are given to lovers "as a romantic symbol and an invitation to unlock the giver's heart", as well as to children, in order to ward off epilepsy (called Saint Valentine's Malady).

Saint Valentine's Day is an official feast day in the Anglican Communion and the Lutheran Church. Many parts of the Eastern Orthodox Church also celebrate Saint Valentine's Day, albeit on July 6 and July 30, the former date in honor of the Roman presbyter Saint Valentine, and the latter date in honor of Hieromartyr Valentine, the Bishop of Interamna (modern Terni).

In the United States, about 190 million Valentine's Day cards are sent each year, not including the hundreds of millions of cards school children exchange. Valentine's Day is a major source of economic activity, with total expenditures in 2017 topping \$18.2 billion in 2017, or over \$136 per person. This is an increase from \$108 per person in 2010.

The Fairytale on Stamps By Bill Chandler

How the wedding of a princess and a set of stamps captivated a nation and a hobby 50 years ago.



When one looks back over five decades and notes that the glittering royal wedding of Miss Grace Kelly, movie star, to Prince Rainier III of Monaco took place in 1956 only nine days before the world's largest stamp show was to open in New York City, one can't help but wonder if, somehow, the two events had been professionally coordinated.

The tiny principality of Monaco on the French Riviera, in spite of its world famous casino and five star hotels, had always depended on stamp collectors for a substantial portion of its income. And of course, when it was announced in late 1955 that the country would issue a gorgeous, colorful set of stamps to honor the April 19th marriage ceremony, the philatelic world knew that the postal emissions would be the focal point of attention at FIPEX, the Fifth International Philatelic Exhibition set for April 28th to May 6th.

"Focal point of attention" would have to be an understatement. "Feeding frenzy" would be a more apt expression of the reaction by collectors when the stamps were issued.

But Grace Kelly was used to to this kind of attention. In the history of America's motion picture industry, there are few stories to match her rocket-like ascent to fame. The Philadelphia society girl had burst into the screen world in 1951 at the age of 22 in the film, "14 Hours"—not long after being discovered as a fashion model. Her next film in 1952 ("Mogambo") had her opposite Clark Gable, only 30 years her senior. And by 1955, she had won the Best

Actress Oscar for her role as the suffering wife of a Broadway alcoholic. In four brief years she had pretty much "been there, done that" in the movie industry.

Miss Kelly and Prince Rainier met when she attended the Cannes Film Festival in the summer of 1955—and by the end of that year it was announced that the two would wed the following April. It was a whirlwind courtship that, even for a prince and a movie goddess, was surprisingly brief. During this period of courtship, Rainier not only had to propose marriage, he also was impelled to stipulate that the world's most famous film star give up her career. Grace didn't want to do it, but she relented when her family glowingly approved of her husband-to-be.

If you were a stamp collector in the mid-50s when television was in its infancy, you may have been following these events on one of the three network newscasts each weeknight, or more probably, at the local movie theater where newsreels like Fox Movietone News and Universal Newsreels. And being the smart philatelist, you had predicted a set of stamps would be one of the main features of the coming nuptials.

The wedding took place on April 19, 1956, just nine days before FIPEX opened its doors at the Coliseum in New York City. Long before then, the Monaco Postal Authority had made arrangements to make sure the set of eight commemorative postage stamps would be widely distributed to the world philatelic community. Various philatelic and non-philatelic firms were given the privilege of issuing first day covers for the postal emissions. Not only did the Monaco governing entities issue their own colorful FDCs, but so did Pan American World Airways, and American philatelic firms H.E. Harris and Co., Artcraft Engravings, and the Gimbel's Department Store stamp department. In addition, the Authority arranged with the Minkus Publications organization to act as distributor for the stamps to the American stamp dealing community. The latter move made sure the stamps were a big hit on the floor of the FIPEX exhibition.

As a result, the Kelly-Rainer wedding set was the chief hit of the show right behind the stamps issued by the U.S. on the occasion of the exhibition.

Today, 50 years later, the stamps are highly collectable, but most sought after of all are used copies and commercial usages on cover. A very nice little collection can be formed of them!

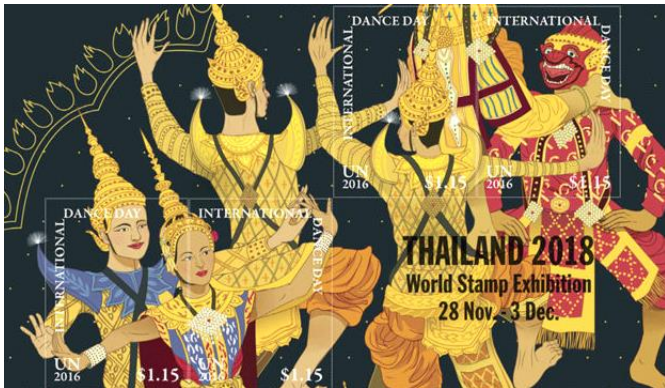
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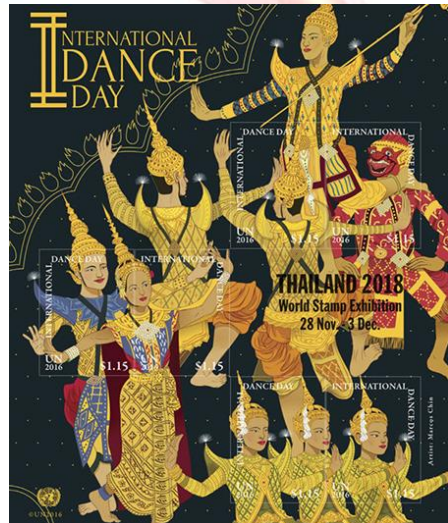
APS in Asia



When we think of APS shows we think of New York, New York or Columbus, Ohio, but not Bangkok, Thailand. Thoughts of Thailand probably include soft, sandy beaches and fresh, spicy seafood. But APS is here too, through its member organization the Society for Thai Philately.

Stamp collecting in Asia is flourishing. Stanley Gibbons of London estimates that two out of every three stamp collectors now reside in Asia. Mainland China is hot philatelic territory, but so are the countries scattered through Southeast Asia. Together with traditionally strong stamp collecting countries of Korea, Taiwan, and Japan, Asia is brimming with philatelic potential.

The latest event was the Thailand 2018 World Exhibition held in Bangkok, Thailand from November 28th to December 3rd, 2018. And quite an event it was.



I list a couple of auction items to give you a glimpse of what was up for bid.



First, an original master, hand crafted composite essay of H.M. King Rama VII was by the British Printing firm of Thomas De La Rue (left). It is dated 1927 and is almost identical to the final design approved for issue. Price Realized with buyer's premium \$21,460.

Continued on next page



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APS in Asia continued...



A rare and unique pair of a world-famous error caused by a double surcharge on a 1902 “Battambang” Provisional (right). In very fine condition, this horizontal pair was desired not only by collectors of rare Thai stamps, but also those who exhibit their stamps and who understand items such as this are exceptionally scarce. This particular pair hadn’t changed hands for 26 years. Price realized with buyer’s premium \$1,007.

The Exhibition was topped off by a visit from H.R.H. Princess Sirindhorn, who is not only a stamp collector, but has been involved in designing stamps for the Thai Postal Service. The Exhibition was under the patronage of FIP and the auspices of FIAP. FIAP being the Federation of Inter-Asian Philately which was started in the early 70s when a group of enthusiastic philatelists from Asia had a common desire to form one big philatelic family.

Some Famous Stamp Collectors



Patrick Dempsey

This American actor, mainly known for his role in the successful TV series Grey’s Anatomy has collected stamps since his youth.



Warren Buffet

Investor and businessman Warren Buffet has indicated many times in interviews that he collects stamps. He collects classic stamps of the United States of America.

The Mystery Of The WWII “Ghost Bomber” That Eerily Landed With No One On Board

By Ken Macdonald

by Ken MacDonald

It's November 1944, six months after the Allies have invaded France and pushed the German forces back. A detachment of British artillery men are dug in not far from the Belgian capital, Brussels. Suddenly, they see an American Flying Fortress, apparently flying straight at them. Has the pilot lost his mind?



The B-17, workhorse bomber of WWII. Anyone born after WWII should try to see one of these planes to appreciate the awesome chore these planes and the men who served in them performed. Air shows quite often have one you can climb around in and even take a short flight in.

The Boeing B-17 Flying Fortress was a formidable weapon of war. Boeing had started building these four-engine behemoths for the USAAC (United States Army Air Corps) in the 1930s. The B-17 went through a number of versions but the standard model, the B-17G, was armed with 13 machine guns to repel enemy attacks.

Defensive guns were mounted at the front, rear, flanks, top and belly of the plane, which first saw service with the RAF and the U.S. Army in 1941. The B-17 saw a tremendous amount of action in the European theater during WWII.

More than 1.6 million tons of bombs were dropped on Germany during the war. B-17s delivered more than 700,000 of those tons of explosives. As well as strategic bombing, B-17s were also used in anti-submarine action, as transports and for search and rescue operations.

So seeing one of those aircraft heading straight towards you was no laughing matter. As it approached, the B-17's landing gear was in the down position. Fortunately, the plane missed the gunners and landed in an adjacent field, just yards from where the British soldiers were.

As it taxied across the field a wing dipped, catching on the turf, and the plane came to a standstill. One of the four props was damaged and stopped, while the others continued to spin. The gunners then waited for the air crew to emerge from the Flying Fortress.

No one exited the aircraft! After about 20 minutes, a British Army officer, Major John V. Crisp, appeared on the scene. Nobody had emerged from the plane, so Major Crisp decided to investigate. Fearing possible booby traps, he cautiously climbed aboard the Flying Fortress.

The plane was empty. There was no crew, although there were clear signs that people had been on the aircraft not long before. By a process of trial and error, Crisp eventually found the controls that stopped the engines. But how could this plane possibly have landed with no crew aboard?

In his 1968 book *Flying Fortress*, Edward Jablonski quoted from the account that Major Crisp had written of the incident. "I looked next at the navigators table. The plane's log was open and the last words, written sometime before were 'Bad Flak.' Evidently, the plane had come under enemy attack.

Crisp continued, "We now made a thorough search of the fuselage and found about a dozen parachutes neatly wrapped and ready for clipping on, making the whereabouts of the crew even more mysterious." The abandoned plane seemed reminded one of the *Mary Celeste*, the abandoned ship found in the North Atlantic in 1872.

Crisp went on with his description of what he'd seen. "The Sperry bombsight remained in the Perspex nose, quite undamaged, with its cover neatly folded beside it. Back on the navigator's desk there was the code book giving the colors and letters of the day for identification purposes. Various fur lined flying jackets lay in the fuselage together with a few bars of chocolate, partly consumed in some cases."

The military top brass soon took an interest in this highly mysterious incident. Officers from the Eighth Air Force Service Command stationed at the Allies' forward HQ in Belgium traveled to examine the Flying Fortress for themselves. They quickly found and noted the plane's serial number.

Once the investigators had the Flying Fortress' identifying details, they were soon able to clear up the mystery of what had happened to the crew. The airmen were members of the 91st Bomb Group (Heavy), in fact, and all of them were now back at their base in England.

On November 21, 1944, the crew, led by Lieutenant Harold R. DeBolt on his 33rd mission, had set out with ten other planes on a bombing sortie to Germany. They were to strike a synthetic oil manufacturing facility in the German city of Merseburg.

In poor weather, DeBolt's aircraft had become detached from its formation. German fighter planes then attacked the B-17, and it also ran into heavy anti-aircraft fire. A shell exploded near the Flying Fortress, damaging it. Although the plane subsequently dropped its bombs, two of the engines had stopped working. DeBolt and his crew now tried to nurse the aircraft back to England. But the B-17 rapidly lost altitude, and DeBolt ordered everyone to bail out. Thankfully, British soldiers found the airmen.

Incredibly, the plane had flown on until it landed near the British gunners. The chutes Major Crisp saw were clearly spares, and one of the malfunctioning engines must have kicked back into life. It's a real tribute to the incredible engineering of the Flying Fortress that, unmanned, it was able to land on its own. The armed forces' newspaper, *Stars and Stripes*, added to the mystique by dubbing the B-17 the "Phantom Fort."

1,000 B-17s carried 2.5 million gallons of high octane fuel and required 10,000 airmen. In 1942-43 it was statistically impossible for bomber crews to complete a 25-mission tour in Europe.

Total combat casualties were pegged at 121,867. These figures are for B-17 crews if I'm reading the stats correctly. There were 4,754 B-17s lost. A total of 10,561 planes lost including: B-24s - 2,112, fighters: P-47s - 1,043, P-38s - 451, P-51s - 2,201.

Pretty horrific numbers, no wonder they were called the greatest generation—they earned and deserved it.

Minor editing was required for fit and readability—no changes were made to the story line. Read much, much more online.—Jim Sauer

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New Stamps continued...

\$25.50 Bethesda Fountain



With this new Priority Mail Express stamp, the Postal Service commemorates the Bethesda Fountain, one of Central Park's most iconic structures. Dedicated in 1873, the fountain is a gathering place beloved by New Yorkers and out-of-town visitors alike. The stamp art features a stylized depiction of the fountain. The illustration was first rendered as a pencil sketch and then scanned and finished digitally. Art director Greg Breeding designed the stamp with original art by Dan Cosgrove.

The new \$25.50 denomination pays the new rate on a Priority Mail Express regular flat-rate 12.5-inch by 9.5-inch envelope. It will replace the \$24.70 Sleeping Bear Dune stamp issued January 21, 2018, reflecting an increase of 65¢.

(70¢) California Dogface Butterfly non-machineable surcharge



The California dogface graces the seventh non-machineable butterfly stamp issued since 2010 for use on irregularly sized envelopes, such as square greeting cards, invitations or announcements.

The stamp art was digitally created using images of preserved butterflies as a starting point. The result is a highly stylized, simplified image of a California dogface (*Zerene eurydice*) rather than an exact reproduction. Nationally known artist Tom Engeman created the stamp art. Art director Derry Noyes designed the stamp.

The stamp is primarily designed to be used on 1-ounce greeting cards that are irregular in shape requiring the nonmachinable surcharge. The stamp is also good for mailing first-class letters and cards weighing up to 2 ounces.

Used after the January 27 rate increases, this stamp will pay the first-class non-machineable letter rate of 70¢ (55¢ for first-class mail plus the actual 15¢ surcharge) — a 2¢ increase in the 68¢ cost of the non-denominated Eastern Tailed-Blue non-machineable mail surcharge butterfly stamp released in 2016.

Forever (55¢) U.S. Flag 2019



With this new 2019 stamp, the Postal Service celebrates the American flag — the most recognizable symbol of our nation — on the 150th anniversary of the first U.S. stamps to depict Old Glory, the 10¢ yellow and 30¢ Eagle, Shield and Flags Pictorial issues of 1869.

The photographic image on the new Forever stamp features one of several U.S. flags on the flagpoles near the end of Chicago's Navy Pier, proudly waving in a May breeze. The photograph was taken by UPSP art director Antonio Alcalá.

Like all other U.S. Forever stamps, the new stamp will pay the current basic first-class domestic letter rate, which will become 55¢ on the day these stamps are issued, a 5¢ hike in the price of the same service last year.

ADDITIONAL OUNCE™ (15¢) Uncle Sam's Hat coil roll of 100



Originally released by the Postal Service in 2017, Uncle Sam's Hat, an additional-ounce stamp, will be available in 2019 for the first time in a horizontal coil stamp format. The value of the new stamps will be 15¢ for every additional ounce in a first-class mailing, a reduction of 6¢ from last year's cost per additional ounce of 21¢.

According to the USPS, "The stamp features eight graphic top hats in Uncle Sam's signature style, with red and white vertical stripes above a blue band with a white star and a gray brim. Beneath each hat is an oval shape representing a face, each in a different shade, meant to suggest the ethnic and racial diversity of the United States." The stamps were designed by USPS art director Antonio Alcalá.

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America's 100 Greatest Stamps

Club Member/Dealers



#55 – Scott 116 1869 10 cent Shield & Eagle



#54 – Scott CSA 1 1861 5 cent Jefferson Davis



#53 – Scott 115 1869 6 cent George Washington

Richard Clever

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