

San Jose Stamp Club

APS Chapter 0264-025791

Founded 1927, Club show since 1928

May 2019

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the San Jose Stamp
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Time to get ready!

WESTPEX has just completed which means we have come to the slowest month of the year for Bay Area Philately. There are no major philatelic events in May but there is plenty to think about and plan for.

Scout-O-Rama is on May 11th this year. Brian will be there introducing scouts to the hobby with a series of stamp projects. Brian can always use help since this activity has proven to be popular with the scouts. This is one of the annual events the SJSC participates in as part of our outreach to the community. Scout-O-Rama is a fun event for the whole community to showcase Scouting. Over 120 interactive, hands-on Scouting activities will be on display hosted by local Scout groups. Over 5,000 participants are expected to attend over the course of the day. Some of the cool activities include building and shooting water rockets, walking on a monkey bridge, shooting a bb gun, throwing a tomahawk, racing a pinewood derby car and seeing outdoor cooking demonstrations. Enjoy food for sale from a variety of unique food trucks.

The club's annual summer picnic with the San Jose Postcard Club is just around the corner. Brian can always use help organizing the picnic. Think about what you might bring. Check with Brian about areas where he needs additional help.

We still have a lot of donations to break down. Stamps on paper to soak, albums to break down, stamps to be sorted, etc. This is our source for stamps to supply the youth programs and potential items for the club sales table at Filatellic Fiesta. There is always the possibility that you may find something for your collection. Think about joining the work sessions at Brian's house.

We need more members to step up and give a presentation at the meetings. They don't have to be elaborate and any subject is fine. This is a good way to increase your philatelic knowledge and provides an attractive reason for people to come to a meeting.

Filatellic Fiesta is back to November this year. Think about how you might help. This is OUR show and let's put our best foot forward. There is job for everyone, regardless of experience or age. Talk to Brian about the various tasks that need to be accomplished. We are off to a slow start this year but if we pull together we have the time to have another great show. Let's show the philatelic community what the San Jose Stamp club is made of.

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Club Blog & Website

Blog Updates

No Activity

Website Updates

Minutes of the 04/17/19 club meeting uploaded
Minutes of the 04/03/19 club meeting uploaded
Minutes of the 02/06/19 club meeting uploaded
April 2019 Newsletter uploaded.

Remember the dates!

May 1	San Jose Stamp Club Meeting
May 15	San Jose Stamp Club Meeting

Presidents Message

A significant part of what sustains my interest in stamps is the fun I have. While my personal financial situation doesn't allow for me to spend much on new stamps, I still find lots of ways to have fun with the hobby in modest ways. It is fun for me to pick-up a wide variety of ephemera, books, art, household items, and other items with a stamp/philatelic theme.

The obvious place to start is with the USPS. If you look around the walls of my office, you'll find framed stamps, framed uncut press sheets and stamp art. The USPS also creates a wide variety of "collectables" on new issues. Once in a while, there is a new issue that holds a strong enough personal interest to me that I'll buy one of the items to put on my wall or collect dust on my shelf. When

these items are for an issue that holds little personal interest, it is very easy to scoff at them as junk and wonder why the USPS wastes time on them. Funny how our thoughts change when that "junk" is for an issue we like.

I find fun in a wide variety of places. You may have read my article on fiction books that include stamps (Lawrence Block's "Keller" series are my favorite). A new favorite is the website: www.allposters.com which if you search "stamps" you'll find a wide variety of posters featuring US and worldwide stamps in different formats.

Somehow when I'm out shopping with my wife, I just happen to spot household items that include stamps or postmarks in their design. My wife says I have an eye for these like a dog to a treat. I've found a wide variety of items including placemats, table cloths, and decorative items.

I find fun items at places like Michael's. Many of you have seen the decorative photo boxes I've purchased over the years. I have many for my own stuff because I like how they look on the shelf. Over time, many designs have included stamps in pattern. I have also used scrapbooking paper that includes stamps for a variety of uses.

If you want your favorite stamp on a coffee mug, mouse pad, or almost anything you can think of, you can use Shutterfly to make it for you. I recommend you do a high-resolution scan with your home printer/scanner to get an image. If you don't own a copy, try searching philatelic auction sites for a good quality image. You've seen a lot of these Shutterfly items in the raffle boxes we've had at Filatelic Fiesta.

What this is really all about is just having fun with our hobby. Whether you are just getting started or exhibit for gold medals, you can have fun.

Brian

Things you need to find out... Before selling a stamp collection

Did the collector spend substantial sums on the collection?

Ask yourself the following questions to help determine the value of the collection to be sold. They are the same questions that a stamp dealer asks himself before making any determination about the potential value of your collection.

If the answer is yes, did the owner buy single items, packets, lots or collections? Can you determine how much money he/she spent or how regularly the owner bought? Can you find any bills of sale, invoices or canceled checks from dealers or auction firms? Is there an insurance policy or a will with instructions?

These figures may be helpful, but one cannot depend on any of them. A collection which is made up of many low-priced items is not worth as much for resale as a smaller collection with a few higher priced quality items. The value of stamps, like the value of anything else, is what a willing buyer will pay the willing seller. This is never a fixed figure. The market fluctuates in varying degrees and at unpredictable rates.

How is the collection stored?

Is it in albums, mounted on album sheets or stock cards, or is it loose in shoe boxes or cartons? Does it list the catalog value or original purchase price next to each item? Stamps should be stored with care in a dry place away from extreme temperatures, preferably in a bank vault or safe. See that the collection is handled as little as possible.

What is the condition?

Are the stamps mint or used? Are they attached to an envelope? If they are, leave them attached!

Mint (not canceled) stamps are those which have not been postmarked. Postally used stamps have gone through the mail and bear a cancellation mark. Envelopes (or covers as they are called in philately) can have value as postal history in addition to the value of the stamp(s) attached to them. Historical value considers the writer or recipient, the place of origin or destination, the date the cover was mailed. They can also bear a design (cachet) to be a "First Day Cover" ---one which is

issued to coincide with the first-day-of-issue of a specific stamp, and carries that stamp on it.

Are the stamps singles, pairs, blocks or sheets or are they a complete unit (set) as issued---a series starting with a low value, with each following stamp increasing in value to a final high (i.e., 1 cent, 5 cents, 8 cents...25 cents...\$5)? If they are in larger multiples, do not detach or separate them, as stamps often have greater value as multiples.

The importance of condition cannot be overemphasized. The tiniest tear, the most minute thin spot, the faintest crease, or the smallest stain can reduce a stamp to a fraction of the value it would have in perfect condition.

What determines the value of a stamp collection? Catalog Value Versus Market Value

Prices listed in a stamp catalog are revised yearly. A given stamp may be bought or sold above or below catalog prices, depending upon the condition of that particular stamp. Condition refers to freshness, color soundness, centering, gum, perforation and margins.

The sale price of a stamp varies on who buys it---retail shop owner, auction or mail sale bidder, dealer at a stamp show, or another collector. Each sector of the market has its own markup and price structure.

The price paid for a stamp also depends on the role of the buyer---whether it is a retail stamp shop owner, show stamp dealer, another collector or bidder in a mail sale or public auction. When selling stamps you must remember that unless you sell to another collector or through auction, you will only obtain a wholesale price from a stamp dealer, since he must resell the collection at a profit or keep it in inventory until it is sold.

- Estimating the value of a stamp collection... Obtain A Professional Appraisal

A professional appraisal by a stamp dealer member of the American Stamp Dealers Association is recommended. ASDA members adhere to a strict Code of Conduct (see below for our Member Pledge). They are responsible for reviewing your philatelic material and placing a fair value on the stamps, with regard to the quality and current market price. Appraisal fees vary, depending on the appraiser and on the size of the collection.

Continued on next page

Selling a Stamp Collection continued...

However, it is the practice of most stamp dealers and auctioneers to waive the appraisal fee if the collection is subsequently sold to them or consigned to their auction

An appraisal can be prepared based on several approaches:

1. Catalog Value
2. Insurance (replacement value)
3. Potential auction realization
4. Retail (over-the-counter) value
5. Wholesale value (What a dealer will pay that day)

Make Your Own Inventory

(Recommended only for those with stamp knowledge.)

If you have some knowledge and experience in stamp collecting, you have an edge when selling a collection. Start by preparing an inventory or list of your stamps. The most common method of preparing a collection for sale is by marking in pencil the catalog value (keeping in mind that the catalog value is a guide and may not represent the true market value) of each stamp or row of stamps in the margin of the album page, according to one of the current stamp catalogs. (If you can't buy one, most libraries have one available in their reference section.) It is important to note that many U.S. and worldwide stamps feature the same design, and can be incorrectly identified unless the collector is familiar with perforation varieties, watermarks, or color shades.

Methods of Sale

There are several methods of sale to be considered. The appropriate method depends on the nature of the collection, the value of the material, the preference of the person selling the collection, and sometimes the geographical location of the sale.

Direct Sale to a Stamp Dealer

Selling to a stamp dealer has two advantages. The seller receives an agreed amount of money immediately and there is no fee.

Consignment to a Stamp Dealer

The seller can place the stamps with a stamp dealer on consignment. The seller should ask for an itemized receipt, a minimum price should be set, and payout terms should be arranged before the collection is consigned. If possible, the seller should have photographs or any expensive stamps in the collection, and these should be made part of the receipt. A time limit, in writing, should be placed on the sale and on the

payout.

Consignment to an Auction House

Auction offers the greatest potential for the highest sale price. The customary fee to the auction house is 10% of the sale price. There may be a wait of a few months, between the time of consignment and the date of the sale. If the collection is of sufficient value, most auction houses will, at the time of consignment, give a cash advance against the estimated sale price.

Outright Sale to an Auction House

This is the same as an outright sale to a stamp dealer.

Placement in a Mail Sale

Consignment to a mail sale can be a way to dispose of a large number of items with smaller selling prices. Fees vary and the seller should inquire about all charges.

Private Treaty

Retail stamp dealers and auction houses often act as agents to offer collections in their entirety for sale privately. Commission fees vary.

Sell at a Stamp Show

Take the collection to a local or regional stamp show. There you can show it to several potential buyers at one time and obtain the highest price offered.

Where Should It Be Sold?

When the decision has been made to the appropriate method of sale for the collection, the seller needs to have assurance of the sound reputation and financial responsibility of the stamp dealer or auction house. The seller should ask for references, and should contact the American Stamp Dealers Association to ask whether the stamp dealer is a member in good standing. Most stamp dealer members display the ASDA sign of membership in ads in the Yellow Pages or in philatelic publications. All American Stamp Dealers Association members take an oath to conduct business under a strict Code of Conduct.

Other Options: You might consider keeping the stamp collection. Throughout the years stamps have increased in value. You could try to add to the collection and enjoy the hobby. It is one which can be shared with children and grandchildren. You can also visit a local stamp club and make friends while you learn about stamp collecting and get to know your local ASDA stamp dealers.

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Selling a Stamp Collection continued...

Timing the sale of stamps

Probably the most overlooked aspect of selling one's collection is timing---whether or not the market is strong or weak. When the market is good, a collection will bring a higher price. When money is tight, it may be beneficial to wait to sell. Remember, the more knowledge the potential seller has, the more he/she can expect to receive for his/her collection or accumulation!

How to store your stamps... until you decide to dispose of them-

The condition of your stamp collection affects the final sale price because buyers all seek stamps in sound condition. Postage stamps do not bring top prices if they are torn, creased, mildewed, stuck together, pasted down or damaged by moisture. Therefore, during the time that you are determining the value of your collection, you should take the following precautions:

Storage

Keep your stamp collection at dry, moderate room temperature. Avoid attics or basements, since temperature, both hot and cold, or dampness damages stamps. When storing stamp albums, place them in an upright position. Do not stack them one on top of another, since the weight of other books will tend to make the stamps stick.

Condition

If any of the stamps are stuck together, do not attempt to separate them because you may do damage in the process. Leave them stuck together until a professional stamp dealer can look at them and determine whether they can be separated safely. Do not remove any stamps that have been postally used on envelopes. If the stamps themselves have a value, they can have an even greater value when left on an envelope. Leave the stamps in multiples, whether canceled or unused, intact, since they are sometimes more valuable as blocks or sheets than singles.

In short...

Selling your stamp collection is like any other business decision; consider all of your options, always get multiple opinions, plan carefully and be sure to do business with stamp dealers that display the American Stamp Dealers Association, Inc. symbol.

Pan Am Air System Test of 1946

by Roy Lingen

Prior to November 1, 1946, airmail rates from the US to points south of Mexico varied from 25c to 40c per 1/2 ounce, depending on the destination country. On November 1, 1946 the US Post Office dropped all airmail rates to points in the Western Hemisphere (except Canada, Mexico and Cuba, which were already lower) to 10c per 1/2 oz. This was an enormous rate drop and was worthy of promotion to the public.



1940 US airmail to Argentina - 40c postage

On Oct 23, the USPO issued a press bulletin announcing an opportunity for the public to test the speed and efficiency of the new, cheaper airmail service in cooperation with Pan Am Airways.

On one day only, November 1, 1946, collectors and other interested parties were invited to send covers to the Pan Am offices in 28 Latin American and Caribbean cities at the new 10c rate which took effect that day. Officials in the various Pan Am offices would mark the date the covers were received (generally with a dated handstamp), apply local postage to the front of the cover (at Pan Am's expense), mark the cover "Return to Sender" and hand the cover back to the local post office for airmail transmission back to the sender in the United States.

This was an opportunity for the sender to receive documented proof of the rapid turn-around time for airmail service, and marked a milestone in the rapid development in post-war air transport. Not everybody

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Pan Am Air System Test continued...

was happy, though. The philatelic press complained that the Post Office's notice was so short that their readers would find out about the event only after it occurred. I searched the weekly stamp column of the New York Times for the months of October and November 1946 and could find no mention of the event at all.

The Pan Am offices were instructed as follows:

- 1) Mark the cover "Return to Sender"
- 2) Draw a line through the address
- 3) Place proper airmail postage on the front lower left of the cover.



- 4) Stamp the back of the envelope with the date it was received in your office.
- 5) Return to the local post office

A total of 28 cities were involved in the test:
(click on any link to see a picture of a cover)

Caribbean

[St. John's, Antigua](#)
[Williamstad, Curacao, Netherlands Antilles](#)
[Ciudad Trujillo, Dominican Republic](#)
[Pointe a Pitre, Guadeloupe](#)
[Port au Prince, Haiti](#)
[Kingston, Jamaica](#)
[Fort de France, Martinique](#)
[Castries, St. Lucia, British West Indies](#)
[Port of Spain, Trinidad](#)

Central America

[San Jose, Costa Rica](#)
[Guatemala City, Guatemala](#)
[Tegucipala, Honduras](#)

[Managua, Nicaragua](#)
[Panama City, Panama](#)
[San Salvador, El Salvador](#)

South America

[Buenos Aires, Argentina](#)
[La Paz, Bolivia](#)
[Rio de Janeiro, Brazil](#)
[Georgetown, British Guiana](#)
[Santiago, Chile](#)
[Bogota, Colombia](#)
[Quito, Ecuador](#)
[Cayenne, French Guiana](#)
[Asuncion, Paraguay](#)
[Lima, Peru](#)
[Paramaribo, Suriname](#)
[Montevideo, Uruguay](#)
[Caracas, Venezuela](#)

Most people who have these covers have no idea what they are. Every time I have bought them from dealers at stamp shows, I have innocently asked, "Can you tell me the story behind these?". Not once have I received a coherent story.

I have accumulated these for 3 years, buying any I found at a reasonable price. I have accumulated only 75 covers, managing to put together only one complete set. Some cities seem to be scarcer than others. They are not rare. One probably should not even call them "scarce", but they are very much underappreciated. Nearly all my covers were acquired at prices of US\$3 - \$5, however I have seen them offered as high as \$50 by dealers who had a complete misconception of what they are. Frequently, they will be found in sets, created by one sender. I have never found one of these sets to include all 28 cities. Should these covers ever find a following, I believe any available supply will be soaked up in very short order, with inevitably much higher prices.

A word of warning: Only the 28 cities listed were actually involved in the test. I have seen lots of these offered in auction catalogs that included destinations like the Falkland Islands. These were just wishful thinking by the sender. Naturally, the cover was returned, and got the "Return to Sender" marking, but not the handling by Pan Am, nor the return postage paid.

If you are looking for interesting collectibles of the post-war boom in air transport, the challenge of acquiring a complete set of these covers is a good place to start!

Rear Admiral Richard E. Byrd (Ret) POSTAGE STAMPS by Kenneth Perry

1933

Although he was not a trained artist, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt did have a better-than-average knowledge of the elements of design. And he certainly knew what he himself found appealing as a stamp collector. His designs reflect the world events that occupied his attention as President, as well as his more personal stamp collecting interests.

Roosevelt's first stamp design was done as a favor for a friend — Rear Admiral Richard E. Byrd, who needed help promoting his second Antarctic expedition. Postal enthusiast FDR insisted that the Post Office Department carry mail bearing this stamp to the expedition base to get a 'Little America' Postmark that he knew would increase the value of the covers for collectors.

Since the Department had no means of providing for the transportation of this philatelic mail to Little America other than through the facilities of the Byrd Antarctic Expedition, arrangements were made with the expedition to accept covers for mailing through the Little America post office, bearing appropriate postmark, at a service charge of 50 cents for each letter, exclusive of the postage rate of 3 cents. The Little America stamp was first placed on sale October 9, 1933, at the Philatelic Agency, Post Office Department. The stamp was not distributed to post offices for sale to the public.

This stamp was issued for use on letters mailed through the Little America post office, established at the base camp of the Byrd Antarctic Expedition, in the territory of the South Pole.

Routes of the several Byrd flights are depicted by dotted lines, with the dates thereof in solid Gothic. Proposed new flights to the Antarctic and to the South Pole are also indicated. The position of the base camp is marked by a solid dark circle, with the wording "Little America" in solid Gothic extending parallel with the meridian to the west of the base. A clouded effect, heavy below and lighter at the top, forms a background for the central globe. Flat Plate Printing, perf 11.

1934

Special sheets, each containing six Little America stamps, were authorized for printing on the postage stamp press included in the display of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing at the National Stamp Exhibition of 1934 held at Rockefeller Center, New York, N.Y., February 10-18.

The special sheet was ungummed and un-perforated. The following printing appears in small type in blue ink on the four sides of the sheets: "Printed by the Treasury Department, Bureau of Engraving and Printing, under authority of James A. Farley, Postmaster General, New York, N.Y., February 10-18, 1934, in compliment to the National Stamp Exhibition of 1934."

The souvenir sheets of Little America stamps were first placed on sale February 10, 1934, at the branch Philatelic Agency operated in connection with the National Stamp Exhibition.

For the benefit of stamp collectors who did not attend the National Stamp Exhibition, the souvenir sheets of Little America stamps were placed on sale at the Philatelic Agency, Post Office Department, beginning February 19, 1934.



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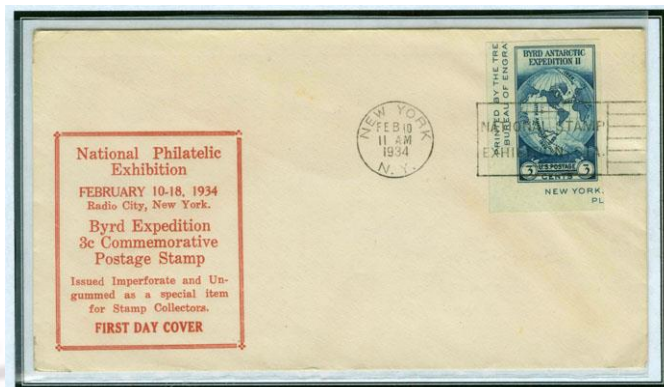
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Richard E. Byrd continued...



This beautiful souvenir sheet was issued to memorialize the second expedition of Rear-Admiral Richard E. Byrd (1888-1957) to the South Pole.



This type of Byrd Re-Issue was printed in sheets of 200, consisting of four panes of 50 stamps each with vertical and horizontal guide lines in gutters between the panes with plate numbers centered on the top and bottom of each pane.



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Richard E. Byrd continued...



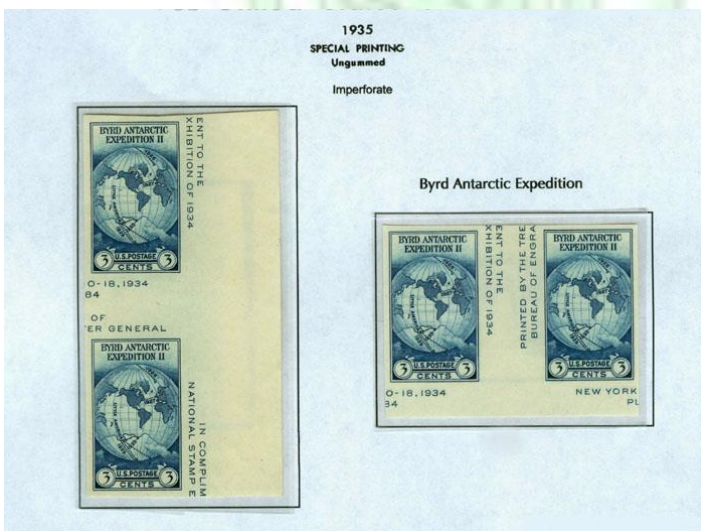
REAR ADMIRAL RICHARD E. BYRD

There are books upon books of the exploits and adventures of Admiral Byrd and these are easily found by Googling his name or visiting your local library. Only one facet that is outstanding to me is he is the recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor, that in itself shows the character of the man.

Richard Byrd died on March 11, 1957 in his sleep at his Brimmer Street home in Boston. Admiral Byrd was buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

1935

In 1935 James Farley was required to re-issue a variety of stamps which were not printed for the general public. Under order of the Congress new sheets of these stamps were released for collectors. Among those re-printed were the Byrd stamps.





It's every philatelist's dream: to find a hidden gem in amongst a long-forgotten cache of stamps, covers, and souvenir sheets. One long-time member of the American Philatelic Society, who asked to remain unnamed, discovered one of these gems when he finally uncovered a souvenir sheet that he had purchased from the US Postal Service eighteen years earlier. This 2001 souvenir sheet, for the Pan-American Exposition Invert Stamps Centennial, lay untouched for almost two decades before its secrets were revealed.

Pictured here is the sheet in question, which prominently features a significant color omission on a souvenir sheet created for the purpose of celebrating errors. The Pan-American Inverts issues (Scott 3505), released on March 29, 2001, were designed to commemorate the centennial of three of the best-known United States stamp errors: the 1c, 2c, and 4c Pan-American Exposition bicolors of 1901, which were printed with their central vignettes inverted in relation to their frames. The Postal Service endorsed the replications of invert errors as an opportunity for collectors and stamp novices alike to enjoy seeing and using a famous invert that they might not otherwise be able to experience.



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Pan-American Error Sheet continued...

The 2001 souvenir sheet (view the sheets side by side below) features replicas of the three famous inverts, and was created using the original engraved dies from 1901. The stamps were designed to appeal to traditional philatelists and are therefore as close to precise replicas as possible, the only difference being the small “2001” date on the bottom left of the reproductions. The souvenir sheet also includes four 80c stamps that were replicated from a 1901 cinderella stamp created to promote the Pan-American Exposition.



When the sheet's owner discovered the error in his collection, he sent it to the American Philatelic Society Expertizing Service (APEX) to have it expertized. APEX's expert, specializing in errors, freaks, and oddities, notes that "Due to the upward shift of the colored intaglio sleeve, a color omission occurred: green on 1-cent, red on 2-cent and brown on 4-cent. A new major error."

APEX certifies the sheet as the United States Scott 3505 variety: green omitted on No. 3505a, red omitted on No. 3505b, brown omitted on No. 3505c, unused, full original gum, never hinged, and genuine in all respects.

The American Philatelic Society's Director of Expertizing, Tom Horn, points out that the three perforated stamps with the inverted vignettes "do not have any speck of the color that is supposed to be printed on them." Therefore, if someone were to remove the stamps from the souvenir sheet, you would have three stamps with missing colors.

Horn also reminds us that there is typically no value assigned to new discoveries until they are sold.

So, for all of those who wonder whether printing errors still occur in the digital age, the answer is a definitive "yes" – you just have to keep a sharp eye out to find them. In the meantime, we can all enjoy the novelty of this error-of-an-error.

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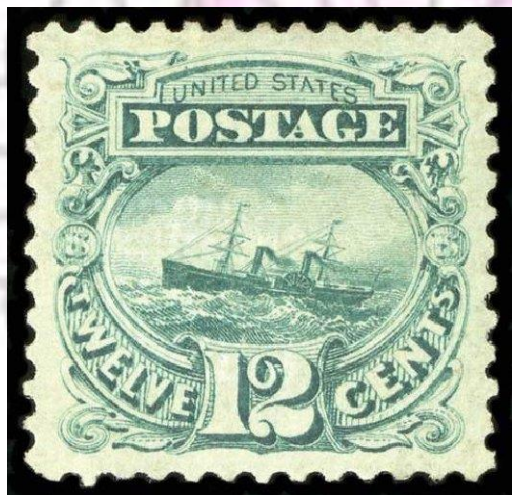
May 2019

America's 100 Greatest Stamps

Club Member/Dealers



#46 – Scott 230 1893 1 cent Columbian



#45 – Scott 117 1869 12 cent Pictorial



#44 – Scott 298 1901 8 cent Pan American

Richard Clever

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