

San Jose Stamp Club

APS Chapter 0264-025791

Founded 1927, Club show since 1928

March 2020

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the San Jose Stamp
Club on Facebook

Spring has arrived!

March signals the beginning of spring, with nature waking up from winter. It's time for the club to do the same.

The club held its first meeting at the new venue (Pearl Avenue Library) in February. The meeting room is well laid out, with plenty of chairs and tables. There is also a built-in A/V system using a projection TV with a large screen. The location is central and not that far from Hilltop Manor. Driving should be about the same as before. Unlike Hilltop Manor, this new venue is free. The only downside is that we will only meet once a month.

The club is meeting only once a month which means meetings take on much greater importance. Brian is working hard on filling the presentation calendar which will make the meetings more enjoyable as well as educational. If you have presentation you can give let Brian know. In addition, Brian is working on a new program of outings to replace the usual second meeting we used to have. More on both presentations and outings in this month's Presidents Message.

March is a slow month for Bay Area philately with just the South Bay 3 dealer show. The usual trio of Gary Hoecker, Tom Kinberg/Stamp Art, and Richard Clever/Asia Philatelics will be there. For those who don't mind driving a little, there is also FRESPEX in Clovis. Both are dealer only shows, no exhibits.

The kickoff meeting for Filatelice Fiesta was on February 19. Since we are moving back to the fairgrounds, so an early start on this year's show is vital. We need to sign-up more dealers. Planning for the dealer mailing is under way. In addition, plans for canvassing dealers at WESTPEX is also in the works. Key areas that have coverage are Bourse, Banquet, Facilities, Boy Scout Merit Badge, Post Office, Raffles, Sales and Auction. Critical areas that need attention are Societies, Presentations, Exhibits and Awards. Additional non-critical areas that need attention are Hospitality and Registration. There are jobs for everyone. Think about how you can contribute to the success of our show and let Brian know as soon as possible. The show is the single most important annual event for the club, with a tradition that dates back to 1928. Let's make sure we do everything possible to ensure the 2020 show is successful.

The club has several new members and possibly more coming. If you see a new face, introduce yourself. Let's make sure the meetings are friendly and inviting. We are first and foremost a social club.

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Club Blog & Website

Blog Updates: No Activity

Website Updates

Minutes of the 01/15/20 club meeting uploaded
February 2020 Newsletter uploaded

Remember the dates!

Mar 4 San Jose Stamp Club Meeting
Mar 7-8 South Bay 3 Dealer Show (Napredak)
Mar 14-15 FRESPEX (Clovis)

President's Message

I'm announcing a major change in our club. I'll hope you'll be excited about this as I am. In response to going from 2 meetings a month down to one, I am recommending that we add an activity to the 2nd half of the month. I think it will be a lot of fun to get out and do things together.

The objective is that we'll have a meeting on the 1st Wednesday with a speaker, and a club activity later in the month (nominally the 3rd Saturday). Sound interesting? Sound fun? Sound like something you want to be part of?

Ideally, the meeting and the activity will have a connection. For example, in April, I hope to have someone speak about what's new at WESTPEX, then we'll carpool up to the show. For May, I'm trying to line someone from the Western Philatelic Library speak at our May meeting then have group tour up there on the 3rd Saturday. No, not every speaker or activity will have a natural pairing. While that is nice, I don't believe it is essential to make this an exciting new chapter for the club.

Please look at the table of proposed speakers and help me fill in the blanks.

Brian

Month	1 st Wednesday	Activity	Activity Date	Comment
February 5	Removing self-adhesives from paper			
March 4	Errors, Freaks & Oddities by P. Adams			
April 1	WESTPEX Update Kristin Patterson	Visit WESTPEX	Saturday 4/25	
May 6	WPL & APRL Libraries	WPL Library Tour		Scout-O-Rama May 9th
June 3	American Airplanes by J. Steinwinder	Trip to Castle Air Museum	TBD	
July 1	Lundy Postmaster	Tour of PO	TBD	
August 5	The Holy Land by R. Warshawsky	Summer Picnic	Sat. 8/19/2020	
September 2	Legends of the West by J. Steinwinder			
October 7	Build merit badge kits			
November 4		Filatellic Fiesta	11/14 – 11/15	
December 2		Christmas Party	12/09/20	Party w Postcard Club

The Earliest U.S. Postage Stamps



On July 1, 1847, the United States Post Office Department released its first two stamps, marking the beginning of what came to be known as the 47-year “Classic Period” of postage stamp production in the U.S. It was a period of experimentation with different techniques for printing, gumming, and perforating stamps. The very earliest stamps were not perforated, meaning that they had to be hand-cut from the sheet with a knife or scissor. The backs of stamps were gummed by hand, though later, machines would take over that task. Between 1847 and 1894, five different private banknote companies printed U.S. stamps, using a variety of different paper types. After 1893, the job of printing postage stamps was that of the United States Bureau of Engraving and Printing.

Despite the arrival of postage stamps, most Americans in 1847 still mailed their letters without stamps. It has been estimated that only one in fifty customers actually purchased a stamp for their mail. Stamp use went up somewhat in 1851, when the Post Office Department modified its rates so that prepaid letters cost 3¢, while postage for the same letter cost 5¢ if paid by the receiver. The requirement that the postage for all letters be prepaid was implemented on April 1, 1855. Beginning on January 1, 1856, all letters were required to have postage stamps on them.

The earliest stamps are known as Regular Issues (to distinguish them from other kinds of stamps that were later printed, such as commemoratives).



R, W, H & E advertising

The Rawdon, Wright, Hatch & Edson Issue of 1847

America’s first two postage stamps, the 5¢ Benjamin Franklin and 10¢ George Washington, were designed and printed in 1847 by the New York City banknote engraving firm of Rawdon, Wright, Hatch & Edson which had produced the New York Postmaster Provisional stamps earlier. Operating under a four-year contract, the company engraved the initials “RWH&E” at the base of both stamps that it printed. This can easily be seen in the stamps today, sometimes requiring magnification. Although Rawdon, Wright, Hatch & Edson produced only two different stamps (another company won the second printing contract in 1851), the quality of their designs set a standard for future postage stamp releases. The designs for both stamps had been made years earlier by the noted painter, Asher Brown Durand, originally for use on banknotes.

The production process began with engraving a precise image, in reverse, onto a steel die. A band of softer steel, called a “transfer roll”, was rocked over the die to produce an impression of the image. The transfer roll was pressed onto a printing plate, producing multiple reverse images. That plate was then used for printing the stamp. Both denominations were printed onto a thin bluish wove paper in sheets of two side-by-side panes of one hundred stamps each. The dies used for printing the first two postage stamps were not made especially for them, but were ones that happened to be in stock, having been used previously for printing bank notes.

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Both stamps were put on sale at the New York City post office on July 1, 1847, and they arrived at the Boston post office on the following day. Other post offices were supplied during the month of July. The first person to purchase a pair of 1847 stamps is believed to have been Congressman Harvey Shaw of Connecticut, who kept the 5¢ stamp for himself and presented the 10¢ stamp to his state governor.

Once used for posting a letter, a stamp was meant to be cancelled. Postmasters at the larger post offices received an official cancellation hand-stamp with a circular, seven-bar enclosed grid. Smaller post offices were expected to cancel each stamp by hand, with an “X” in pen, but many obtained unofficial hand stamps, or even custom-made their own.



1847 5¢ Benjamin Franklin with various cancels including circular seven-bar grid and X in pen and

ink



The 1847 Regular Issue stamps were only used for four years. During that time, postal rates were 5¢ for letters travelling fewer than 300 miles, and 10¢ for letters going farther. On July 1, 1851, new postal rates (along with a new issue of stamps) rendered the founding pair – both the 5¢ Franklin and 10¢ Washington – obsolete. After that date, neither stamp was accepted for postage. This event was one of only two instances in U.S. postal history that stamps were demonetized; the second was at the beginning of the Civil War, a decade later.

The specific stamps selected for focus in this section are simply to illustrate how American patriots came to be commonplace on U.S. postage. The Classic Period of United States stamps features 47 years including reprints of previous stamps, reuse of the same image on different stamps, multiple varieties of many stamps, varying colors of the same stamp, five separate printing contractors, a wealth of technological advancement and changes in postage rates. Innovations such as perforations and grilling came into being, one short-lived and one lasting. What didn't change very much at all was the subject matter: American founding fathers and patriots. The postage stamps of the Classic Period can be a fascinating foundation to any stamp collection and requires the expert guidance of a philatelic expert.

The 1847 5¢ Benjamin Franklin – America's first postage stamp



General Andrew Jackson had initially been considered for the honor of appearing on the nation's first stamp, but it was decided to recognize America's first Postmaster General, Benjamin Franklin, instead. Franklin had been appointed by the Second Continental Congress in July of 1775, and served until November of 1776. The 5¢ stamp features an image of Franklin based upon a painting by James Barton Longacre. The stamp itself has a colorful past. Although generally described as printed in light brown ink, there are actually more than 25 different color shade classifications for this stamp. While some shades are fairly common, others are quite rare.

The 5¢ Franklins also changed in appearance from one printing to the next. The stamps were printed on five separate occasions, with the first printing being the sharpest. Each time the stamps were printed again, a fuzzier image resulted due to abrasion caused by earthen pigments in the brown ink that was used. By the third printing, the image had become quite blurry due to residual ink on the plate. The plate was then acid-etched prior to the fourth and fifth printings, making deep lines sharper while fine lines almost vanished.

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There is sufficient literature available that a skilled observer can identify which printing a particular Franklin stamp comes from. Over the span of the five printings, about 4.4 million of these stamps were produced and about 3.7 million sold. As America's first official national postage stamp, the 5¢ Benjamin Franklin ranks highly with almost all collectors of U.S. stamps.

The 1847 10¢ George Washington



The 10¢ Washington stamp image was based on a portrait by Gilbert Stuart. It is unusual among U.S. postage stamps because the denomination on the stamp is given in Roman numerals. There are fewer variants of this stamp than of its 5¢ counterpart. A non-abrasive, carbon-based black ink was used and the printing plates did not become noticeably damaged with time, so all four printings of this stamp are nearly identical. The stamp does not exhibit an extensive range of color shades. Some postmasters complained about its black color, however, because it made cancellation marks difficult to see. Relatively few of these stamps were printed – about 1.05 million in all. Of that number, about 863,800 were sold. The 10¢ George Washington is also a favorite of most collectors of U.S. stamps.



Bisected 10-cent stamp used for 5 cents postage

About 100 of the currently existing 10¢ Washington stamps have been bisected, or cut in half, often on the diagonal. This was done so that the stamp could be used in place of two 5¢ stamps. Most likely, this was permitted in order to use up the remaining supply of 10¢ stamps prior to July 1, 1851. On that day, both 1847 stamps were officially demonetized, and no longer valid for sending mail. Nevertheless, about 50 examples of invalid uses of this stamp after that date are known.

In 1851, new postal rates went into effect to encourage the public to use the federal postal system more. People could send a letter ten times the distance for 40% less than before. Along with the reduced rates came the need for new stamps. A six-year printing contract (later extended to 1861) was awarded to Toppan, Carpenter, Casilear & Company. All stamps in this series were produced in both perforated and imperforate formats. They were designed by Edward Purcell, with vignettes most likely engraved by Joseph Pease. Two of them – the 3¢ and 5¢ – are bordered by intricate scrollwork, engraved by Cyrus Durand with a geometrical lathe he had invented. Because all the stamps in this series had complex border designs and were printed with several tones of ink, there was considerable variation when the stamps were printed.



The 1851 1¢ Benjamin Franklin

Printed in indigo blue ink, the 1¢ stamp again features Benjamin Franklin, based on a bust by Jean Jacques Cafferi. A penny was the newly-established rate for "circulars" (junk mail). This stamp was printed several times, in sheets of two hundred, over ten years. Beginning in 1851, the stamp was released as imperforate; perforations were added in 1857. The ornate edges of this stamp caused printing difficulties, particularly with the top and bottom edges. The stamp is classified into many types and varieties (and Scott Catalogue numbers) according to the relative completeness of the border design. The stamps with intact borders, assigned Type I, are the rarest among the imperforated specimens of this stamp. Type V, the most common, has incomplete borders on all four sides. The 1¢ Franklin has been called the most studied stamp in history and some philatelists

collect and concentrate only on the varieties of this stamp.

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The 1851 3¢ George Washington

On March 3, 1851, the cost for mailing single letters was reduced from 5¢ to 3¢, making the Washington stamp the most commonly used of the 1851-57 issue. The design shows George Washington in profile, from a 1785 terra cotta bust by Jean-Antoine Houdon. Over its ten years of use, the 3¢ Washington was printed in various shades of orange and red and had minor design changes. Most stamps issued were printed on white wove machine-made paper. Like the 1¢ Franklin, this stamp was printed without perforations until 1857. The color diversity, subtle design variations, and presence or absence of perforations have resulted in many collectible varieties.



The 1857 5¢ Thomas Jefferson

Featuring a design based on a portrait by Gilbert Stuart, the red-brown 5¢ Jefferson was the first U.S. stamp to celebrate the third President. Unlike the other stamps in this series, it was not issued (in imperforate form) until 1856. The following year perforations were added, and more than 2.3 million perforated stamps were eventually issued. The stamp's value gave it few domestic uses; instead, it was likely intended to cover the U.S. Internal Rate for British packet ships transporting mail between the United States and England. Applied to an envelope in strips of three, it was often used to send a letter to France.



The 1855 10¢ George Washington

According to the Postage Stamp Act of March 3, 1855, postage for letters travelling more than 3,000 miles was raised to 10¢, making a 10¢ postage stamp an urgent necessity. The dark green 10¢ Washington was issued on May 12, 1855. The design was based on a portrait by Gilbert Stuart. The frame and lettering were engraved by Henry Earle. Design variability and the presence or absence of perforations resulted in many variants of this stamp and five recognized types. More than 5 million imperforates were printed, and 16 – 18 million in the perforated format. This stamp was often used for sending a letter across the country from coast to coast.



The 1851 12¢ George Washington

When the 12¢ Washington was released on July 1, 1851, it had the highest value ever printed on a U.S. stamp up to that time. The image came from the same Gilbert Stuart portrait as the 10¢ stamp, but it was printed in black ink. Because 12¢ covered half the regular rate of a letter to England, it was often used in pairs. About 8.3 million were printed, of which 2.5 million were imperforate and the remaining 5.8 million perforated. Like the 10¢ George Washington stamp of 1847, this 12¢ stamp suffered being bisected vertically or diagonally, to cover the 6¢ postage rate. Soon, however, the Post Office Department outlawed bisected stamps.

In 1857, when the Post Office Department began perforating stamps, all the designs of 1851 were re-released in the new perforated format and an additional three designs were added.

After the outbreak of the Civil War (1861), the government declared existing stamps invalid for postage and quickly issued redesigned stamps. The designs of this series are similar enough to the old designs to be familiar, but still easily distinguished. These are the oldest United States stamps still valid for postage.

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Between 1867 and 1871 the Post Office Department applied embossed impressions to its stamps in a process referred to as “grilling”. The function of the grill was to make it more difficult to wash off cancellations in order to reuse stamps. The extent to which reuse of stamps was an actual problem is not clear. The first grills covered the entire stamp, but later examples only cover part of the stamp. Depending on the condition of the stamp, a grill can be difficult to see and study. Grills are distinguished by the size of the embossed area and by the number of “points” in the grill.



An array of stamp grills

Following the short run of the 1869 Pictorial Issue, a new series of more traditional portraits was released by the National Bank Note Company in 1870, ushering in a period of stamp production collectively called the Banknote Era. During this time numerous similar-appearing stamps were produced as contracts changed hands among three printing and engraving contractors. Stamps varied by paper type and grill, but also by a series of intentional plate variations known as secret marks. While there are some examples available, stamps of this era are some of the most scarce and sought after in all of philately.



Some of the Banknote Era stamps

When the Continental Bank Note Company took over the printing contract in 1873, it took over many of the original plates and dies of its predecessors. The designs are, therefore, similar or identical to those printed earlier. The 1¢ through the 12¢ can be identified by “secret marks” added to the designs. The 15¢ can be distinguished by plate wear and shade variation, and the 30¢ and 90¢ can be distinguished by shade differences. Although both National and Continental printed the 24¢ stamp, there is no way to tell the issues apart; there is no secret mark or consistent color variation. There is one exception: a single example of the 24¢ exists on ribbed paper which was only used by Continental.

The National, Continental and American Bank Note Companies ultimately merged under the name of the American Bank Note Company which assumed the contract for printing stamps in 1879. When American first took over the contract, it used the Continental plates. The original plates were imprinted Continental, so the imprint on these issues does not always accurately reflect the printing firm. The American stamps are distinguished from the Continental printings by paper type. American used paper that is described as “soft porous.” When held to a light, soft porous paper looks mottled or quilted.

The American Bank Note Company re-engraved several denominations in 1881. The stamps printed on soft porous paper can be distinguished from the earlier printings by subtle design changes.

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In 1883, the domestic letter rate was reduced to 2¢ per one-half ounce. To accommodate the change two new stamps were issued: the 2¢ Washington (red brown) and 4¢ Jackson (blue green). In 1887, the 1¢ Franklin was redesigned with a frame similar to the 2¢ and 4¢ stamps.

1890-93 marked the last regular issue stamps printed by the American Bank Note Company. Although similar to previous issues, they are smaller and different in their shades of color, introducing the look and style of U.S. definitive stamp issues for the next 50 years. The Bureau of Engraving and Printing, a part of the U.S. Department of the Treasury, was about to take responsibility for producing American stamps.

Post Offices with St. Patrick's Day Names

Interested customers can write to these Post Offices for postmarks to keep or to share with friends.

Enclose a stamped, addressed card or letter in another envelope or box labeled "St. Patrick's re-mailing" and address it to the postmaster of one of the towns listed below. Please allow enough time for postmarking, re-mailing, and delivery.

Clover, SC 29710
Clover, VA 24534
Erin, NY 14838
Erin, TN 37061
Green, KS 67447
Green, OH 44232
Ireland, IN 47545
Ireland, WV 26376
Limerick, ME 04048
Saint Patrick, MO 63466
Shamrock, OK 74068
Shamrock, TX 79079



Pictorial postmark offered at the Saint Patrick, Missouri, Post Office in 2001. Pictured in the March 8, 2001, issue of the Postal Bulletin.



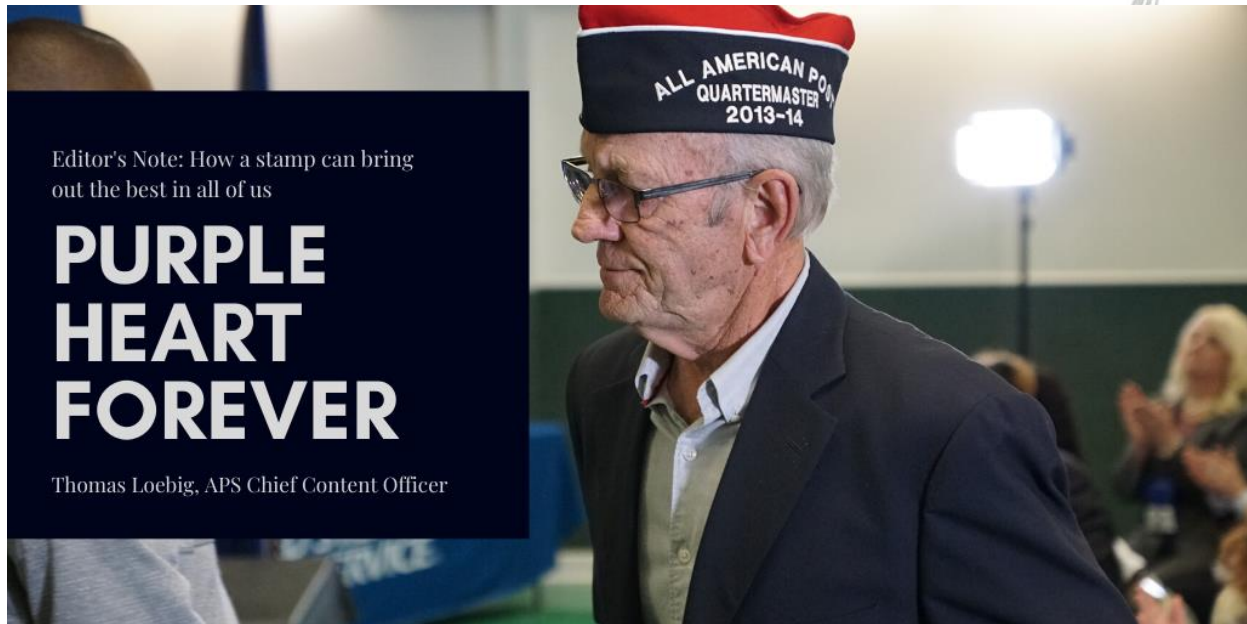
Image of pictorial postmark offered at the Shamrock, Texas, Post Office in 2006. Pictured in the March 30, 2006, issue of the Postal Bulletin.

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Like many cherished pastimes, the stamp hobby can soothe the soul. In these turbulent times, stamps also can remind us why we have the freedoms that mean so much to us.

I found one of those reminders on Friday, October 4, at a dedication ceremony for the new Purple Heart stamp held at INDYPEX in Noblesville, Indiana.

I arrived to find members of the Indianapolis Postal Service Color Guard, practicing the Presentation of Colors. This team of veterans has presented the flag at hundreds of events, yet they made sure no soldier would be out of step.

It didn't take long for close to 200 people to arrive. Stamp collectors lined up early to purchase the stamp and first day of issue postmark for their collections. The crowd was a microcosm of America: young and old, a melting pot of races and ethnicities. Many had served our country with distinction and honor, dating back to World War II. A

representative of the Daughters of the American Revolution was an invited guest.

Yes, this was a day to release a new stamp — but more about honoring those who gave so much.

After the anticipated flawless Presentation of Colors, Linda Reid of the Indianapolis USPS sang a rousing rendition of The Star-Spangled Banner, which resonated through the hall.

Speeches solidified the reason for the event. APS President Robert Zeigler said, “We are a free country and the Purple Heart is a reminder of why we are free, how we are free and the great price we have paid to remain free.”

A recipient of the Purple Heart was the next speaker, Specialist Fourth Class Mike Tomes, US Army.

Tomes received his Purple Heart during his 1969–71 tour of duty in Viet Nam. A military policeman, he was part of a convoy escort when hit with shrapnel. Tomes was quite humble as he spoke, showing great respect for those who received a Purple Heart but never returned home.

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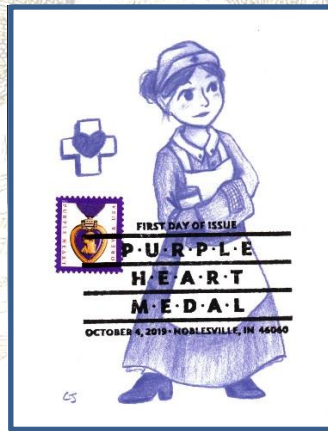
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Tomes then joined Zeigler, Indianapolis Postmaster Christi Johnson Kennedy and USPS District Manager Todd Hawkins in unveiling this resplendent stamp. While this is the 11th time a US Purple Heart stamp has been issued, the crisp photography and design of the 2019 edition is marvelous, and a fitting tribute.

Within a few hours of the event, all of us returned to our “real world.” But thanks to this very special stamp, each attendee had a few hours to honor and remember the sacrifice of Mike Tomes and the other 1.8 million Purple Heart recipients.

Thank you for your service.



APS member Casey Jo White shows her artwork designed to commemorate the Purple Heart issue.



Indianapolis Postmaster Christi Johnson Kennedy, Robert Zeigler, Mike Tomes, and USPS District Manager Todd Hawkins.

2020 USPS Rate Changes

US Postal Service Rate Changes as of January 26, 2020

No change in price of Forever stamp

The United States Postal Service price changes, announced in Fall 2019, officially took effect on January 26, 2020.

The new prices, approved by the Governors of the Postal Service, raised Mailing Services product prices approximately 1.9 percent. Shipping Services prices vary by product.

The new prices include no increase in the price of a First-Class Mail Forever stamp, which remains at 55 cents. The single-piece letter additional ounce price remains at 15 cents. The price of postcard stamps is still at 35 cents, and 1-ounce flats continue at \$1.

The Mailing Services price changes include:

Product	Former	New
Letters (1 oz.)	\$0.55	\$0.55
Letters additional ounces	\$0.15	\$0.15
Letters (metered 1 oz.)	\$0.50	\$0.50
Flats (1 oz.)	\$1.00	\$1.00
Outbound International Letters (1 oz.)	\$1.15	\$1.20
Domestic Postcards	\$0.35	\$0.35

The domestic Priority Mail Flat Rate Retail price changes are:

Product	Former	New
Small Flat-Rate Box	\$7.90	\$8.30
Medium Flat-Rate Box	\$14.35	\$15.05
Large Flat-Rate Box	\$19.95	\$21.10
APO/FPO Large Flat-Rate Box	\$18.45	\$19.60
Regular Flat-Rate Envelope	\$7.35	\$7.75
Legal Flat-Rate Envelope	\$7.65	\$8.05
Padded Flat-Rate Envelope	\$8.00	\$8.40

According to the USPS press release, "The Governors believe these new rates will keep the Postal Service competitive while providing the agency with needed revenue."

The complete Postal Service price filings with prices for all products can be found on the PRC site under the Daily Listings section at prc.gov/dockets/daily. The price change tables are also available on the Postal Service's Postal Explorer website at pe.usps.com/Price Change/Index.

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Confederate Stamps as Battlefield Souvenirs By Patricia Kaufmann

Readers of this column already know that my passion is the story behind the cover. But some of the most intriguing items are stamps found with contemporary notes on them, such as those illustrated here. The first is a Scott CSA #5, a scarce unused 10¢ rose and a faulty stamp, but with a wonderful note on the back “Taken from the pocket of a Confederate soldier dead on the battlefield of Stone(s) River”. This certainly brings the War full into perspective.



The Battle of Stones River, also known as the Battle of Murfreesboro, was fought from December 31, 1862 to January 2, 1863 in Middle Tennessee. Of the major battles of the Civil War, Stones River had the highest percentage of casualties on both sides. Total casualties in the battle were 23,515: 13,249 on the Union side and 10,266 for the Confederates. This was the highest percentage of casualties of any major battle in the Civil War, higher in absolute numbers than the famous bloodbaths at Shiloh and Antietam earlier that year.

The battle was tactically inconclusive, although Bragg was traditionally considered to be defeated since he withdrew first from the battlefield. He received almost universal scorn from his Confederate military colleagues. Only the support of Joseph E. Johnston and President Jefferson Davis's inability to find a suitable replacement saved his command. But a case can also be made that it was at least a strategic Union victory. The battle was very important to Union morale, as evidenced by Abraham Lincoln's letter to General Rosecrans: “You gave us a hard-earned victory, which had there been a defeat instead, the nation could scarcely have lived over.”



A second example of such a notation appears on an unused Scott CSA #11c, 10¢ greenish blue right sheet margin pair with a contemporary notation in the margin, “Sent home from the South 1863 by J Beecher New Haven”. That bit of information sent me to the military records and I was fortunate enough to specifically find only two soldiers with the name of J Beecher from Connecticut and only one from New Haven, which pretty authoritatively pegs it as the right person.

Jeremiah B. Beecher of New Haven, CT enlisted on August 11, 1862 as a private. On August 25th he mustered into Company “E” of the 15th Connecticut Infantry, the day it was organized, and mustered out on June 27, 1865. He was listed as a prisoner-of-war March 8, 1865 at Kinston, NC and was paroled a couple weeks later on March 26th, place not stated.

The 15th was known as the “Lyons Regiment” and participated in many notable battles such as Fredericksburg. They were variously part of the Army of the Potomac, Department of Virginia and North Carolina and Department of North Carolina. Most of their movements in 1864 and 1865 were in the area of New Bern, Plymouth and Kinston, NC. Records show the 15th as occupying Kinston on March 14, 1865, only a week after Beecher's capture at what was known as the Battle of Southwest Creek, as there was a first Battle of Kinston earlier on December 14, 1862.

The 15th performed provost duty at Kinston and New Bern until June 1865. During the war, 1,617 men served. Although I found conflicting data, one important source shows that the regiment lost four officers and thirty-four enlisted men who were killed in battle, as well as five officers and 142 enlisted men by some form of disease for a total of 185; fourteen died in Libby Prison. Jeremiah Beecher was clearly one of the lucky ones.

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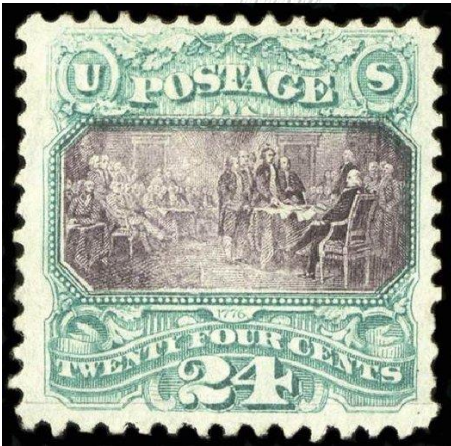
America's 100 Greatest Stamps



#16 – Scott 143L1 1861 2 Dollar Pony Express



#15 – Scott 85a 1868 1 cent Franklin Z Grill



#14 – Scott 120 1869 24 cent Pictorial

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