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## Filatelice Fiesta 2021

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## *Inverted Jenny Plate Block and 1¢ British Guiana Sold at Auction.*

06/08/2021

How often is something that sells for \$4.86 million a bargain? It happened when famous shoe designer Stuart Weitzman sold his rare stamps at a Sotheby's auction.

The **Inverted Jenny Plate Block** sold for 'only' \$4.86 million. It's worth more. The stamps opened around \$2.5 million and stalled at \$3 million. I kicked myself for not registering to bid at this auction. \$3.5 million would be a steal. After 30 seconds, more bids arrived and the block sold for about \$4 million. The auction firm added their \$800,000 commission and the lucky bidder got what will turn out, ten years from now, to be a bargain. I sold this block to Stuart several years ago and miss owning it. The new owner will get great pleasure from his stamps.

The **1¢ British Guiana** sold for more than I expected. The price, with commission, is \$8.3 million. That's a lot of money to anyone and the new owner must be excited with their purchase.



**Inverted Jenny Plate Block**

*Sold for \$4,860,000*



**1 cent British Guiana**

*Sold for \$8,300,000*

# San Jose Stamp Club

APS Chapter 0264-025791

Founded 1927, Club show since 1928

July 2021

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## Club Blog & Website

**Blog Updates** No Activity

### Website Updates

June 2021 newsletter uploaded

## Remember the dates!

### Presidents Message

This month I'd like acknowledge all the hard work many of you have been contributing to the club. As I've been working through the many donations we've been fortunate to receive, I am reminded how much so work many of you contribute.

Jim Steinwinder: Where to start? Jim writes this monthly newsletter for us; built and maintains our club and show websites; donates generously to our club auction; and does a wide variety of other things. Just prior to the pandemic, Jim donated a PC projector the club. I expect we'll put it to use as soon as we get back to meeting in the library.

John Kochever: John has sorted through multiple huge boxes of world-wide stamps; stripped down old albums; and plowed through many miscellaneous boxes of "stuff" and returns the stamps neatly sorted into glassines by country and popular topics. John spends an extraordinary number of hours in his stamp room sorting stamps for the club and several dealers. The great thing about this for you is that is has put some terrific stamps into our club inventory. Come take a look.

Dave Gilman: Our club's "Super Soaker". He has reduced the mountain of donated stamps on paper down to a mere ant hill. This is tremendously helpful as getting stamps off paper GREATLY reduces the volume of material but also make it much more attractive to collectors.

Carolyn Johnson: She has been doing a very difficult job of sorting the stamps the US issued prior to 1920. Several shoe boxes had accumulated of these early issues and Carolyn has been getting them sorted.

David Occhipinti: As the club VP, I run all my crazy ideas by David first. Whatever you feel about my ideas, David helps me think them through before I publish them. Secondly, as many of you know, he's an expert on FDCs and a wide range of covers. He's spent many hours going through all the covers we get.

Preston Chiappa: There is a lot less bulk in my living room because Preston (and Angie) have taken very large (and heavy) albums and stripped them down to glassines of stamps.

Andy Hilton: I have Andy on speed dial as I keep him busy with club & show "stuff". He is our club & show treasurer as well as FF bourse chairman. His attention to the details of these jobs is appreciated.

Spouses: A HUGE thank-you to all you wonderful spouses who have directly helped in the above work or just allow your beloved to spend time on work for the club! Your cooperation is greatly appreciated. I need to make an especially big thank-you to my wife Amee for letting me take over so much of our home with "stamp stuff".

The biggest hazard of recognizing these people is the chance of missing or slighting someone. I don't presume to acknowledge everything everyone has done on behalf of the club, but to recognize those who have gone "above and beyond". If I've overlooked anybody, please accept my sincerest apology. I will be happy to acknowledge anyone in a future newsletter.

*Brian*

## BEP Produces Its Last U.S. Stamp



U.S. #3632 was printed by the BEP for the last time on June 10, 2005.

On June 10, 2005, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP) printed its last U.S. stamp.

The BEP was established in 1862, following the outbreak of the Civil War. When the firing on Fort Sumter began, the nation was already on the verge of bankruptcy and was in no position to finance a war. This matter, along with other war issues, prompted President Lincoln to call a special session of Congress. During this session, Secretary of the Treasury Salmon P. Chase suggested issuing non-interest-bearing notes that would circulate as money and a system of

domestic taxation.

Congress adopted the Chase plan, and as a result the first government-issued paper money came into existence. That same year, the President appointed a commissioner of internal revenue, who was given the authority to assess, levy, and collect taxes. Items such as medicine, perfume, cosmetics, alcohol, and tobacco were taxed, and stamps were provided as proof of collection of the tax. The BEP began by printing only the beer and cigar stamps, but by 1878, nearly all revenue stamps were produced by them.



U.S. #2875 was issued for the 100th anniversary of the first BEP stamps.

In 1894, with the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury, the Bureau submitted a bid for the contract to print the new series of postage stamps. Their bid was almost \$7,000 less than the lowest bid submitted by the three private companies also competing for the contract. Despite loud protests that the Bureau was not capable of producing the stamps, they were awarded the contract.



U.S. #256 – The first U.S. postage stamp produced by the BEP.

The BEP used the same dies previously used by the American Bank Note Company for their first series of stamps, but made small changes to them so the stamps could be distinguished from the previous issues. The BEP printed its first postage stamps on July 1, 1894. The very first stamp produced by the BEP was #256, the 6¢ Garfield, issued less than three weeks later on July 18.

Soon, the BEP began producing most U.S. postage stamps. In the coming years there were several major milestones. The BEP produced its first coil stamps in 1908, first used the rotary press in 1914, and began experimenting with electronic controls in the perforating process.

During World War II, the BEP produced Allied military stamps that were used in Italy, France, Germany, and Austria. The BEP printed its first full-color stamp on the Giori Press, #1094, in 1957.

For about 75 years, the BEP produced nearly all U.S. postage stamps (except for the 1943 Overrun Countries printed by the American Bank Note Company). This began to change in the late 1960s when the U.S. Post Office began issuing contracts to private security printers. BEP stamp production dropped significantly, to less than 50% of all stamps in 1997. The last BEP-produced stamp was #3632, printed for the last time on June 10, 2005.



## President Grover Cleveland



**US #564** was from the last series of flat-plate printed stamps.

President Grover Cleveland, died on June 24, 1908, in Princeton, New Jersey.

Stephen Grover Cleveland was born in Caldwell, New Jersey, on March 18, 1837. He was a distant relative of General Moses Cleveland, the namesake of Cleveland, Ohio. The future president was named after the first pastor of his father's church. However, he preferred to go by his middle name of Grover later in life.

The Cleveland family moved to Fayetteville, New York, in 1841, where Grover spent much of his childhood. After his father died, Grover left school to help support his family. Grover later set out west, stopping in Buffalo, New York, where he worked as a clerk in his uncle's office and was introduced to the influential law partners of Rogers, Bowen, and Rogers. He then worked as a clerk in their office before being admitted to the bar in 1859.



**US #693** – from the Series of 1926-31

Cleveland remained with the firm for three years before leaving in 1862 to start his own practice. The following year, he was made assistant district attorney of Erie County. Cleveland had a

prosperous law career. He became well known for his intense concentration and hard work, often presenting his arguments from memory.

A major stepping-stone on Cleveland's path to the presidency came in 1881. Up to that point, the Republican Buffalo government had grown increasingly corrupt.

So the Democrats sought out the most honest candidate they could find – Grover Cleveland. Cleveland won the election by more than 3,500 votes. He spent much of his term as mayor battling the interests of party machines. Cleveland frequently worked to protect public funds, building his reputation as an honest politician.



**US #827** – from the Presidential Series.

In 1882, the New York State Democratic Party selected Cleveland as their candidate for governor. He won the election by more than 192,000 votes – the largest margin of victory in

the state up to that time. Within his first two months in office, Cleveland sent the legislature eight vetoes.

Two years later, Cleveland was a natural choice for the Democratic presidential candidate. He won the election of 1884 by one-quarter of a percent of the popular vote, and with an electoral vote of 219 to 182. When he delivered his inaugural address the following March, he did so without the use of notes, which no other president had done before.

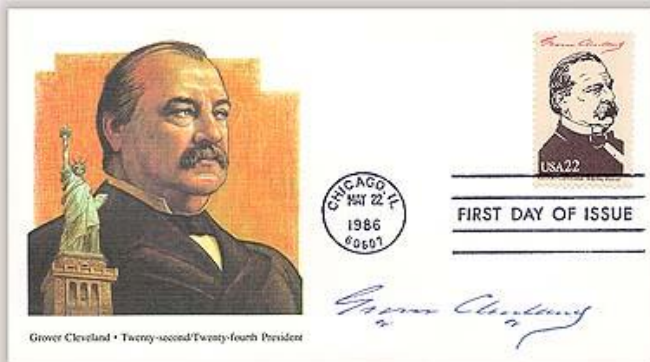
Cleveland worked to reform other parts of the government, such as in 1887, when he signed the legislation establishing the Interstate Commerce Commission. He also worked with the secretary of the Navy to modernize, and cancelled construction contracts that resulted in faulty ships. Squaring off against the Republican Senate, Cleveland used his veto power a great deal more than any other president up to that time. He vetoed hundreds of private pension bills for Civil War veterans, believing Congress should not override the Pension Bureau's decision.

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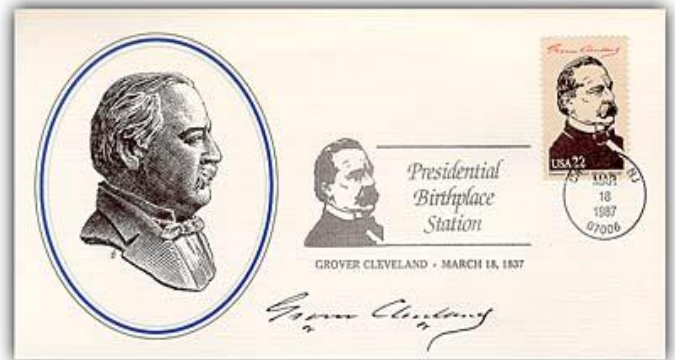
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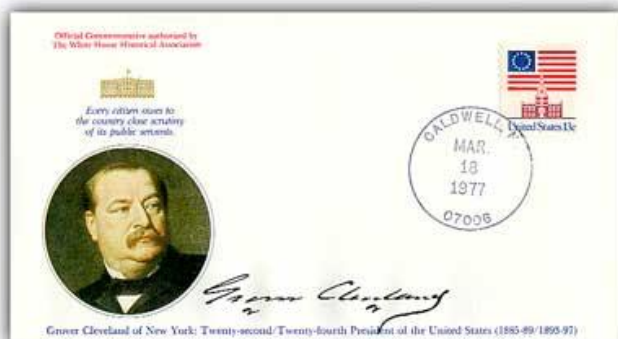
## US #2218d – 1986 Cleveland First Day Cover

As a non-interventionist opposing expansion and imperialism, Cleveland had little concern for foreign policy. He was against the previous administration's Nicaragua Canal Treaty, and discouraged the Senate from talks about the Berlin Conference Treaty, which would have opened doors for the US in the Congo.



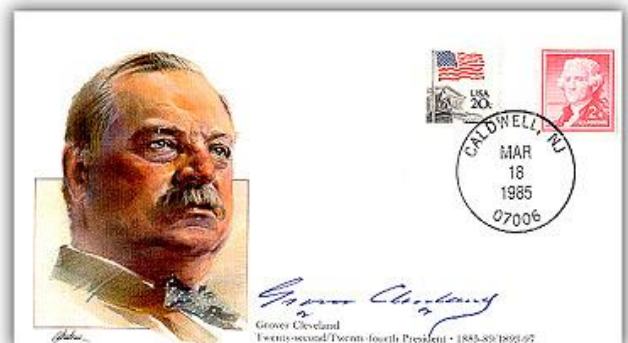
## Item #81127A – Commemorative cover marking Cleveland's 150th birthday.

As the election of 1888 approached, the tariff issue took center stage. The Republicans, with Benjamin Harrison as their candidate, campaigned to keep tariffs high, gaining the support of industrialists and factory workers. Cleveland stuck to his position that high tariffs were unfair to consumers. Although Cleveland narrowly won the popular vote, Harrison took the Electoral College. This was the third time in US history that the winner of the popular vote did not win the election.



## Item #96110 – Commemorative cover marking Cleveland's 140th birthday.

Concerning civil rights, Cleveland saw Reconstruction as a failed experiment and hesitated to use federal power to enforce the 15th Amendment guaranteeing African-Americans the right to vote. Cleveland took a more positive stance concerning Native-Americans, saying in his inaugural address that, "[t]his guardianship involves, on our part, efforts for the improvement of their condition and enforcement of their rights." He supported the Dawes Act, which would distribute Indian lands to individuals, rather than being held in trusts by the Federal government. Cleveland saw the act as a means to lift the Native-Americans out of poverty and join white society. However, it actually weakened the tribal governments and many individuals sold their lands.



## Item #81410 – Commemorative cover marking Cleveland's 148th birthday.

While Cleveland looked forward to the peace of private life, his young wife, Frances, instructed the staff to take good care of the furniture and decorations, "for I want to find everything just as it is now, when we come back again." When asked when they would return, she said, "four years from today." Little did President Cleveland know just how right she would be.



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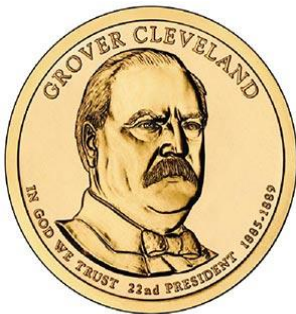
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**Item #4462963** – 1993 Cleveland Gold Plated Medal

While Cleveland happily enjoyed private life in New York City, President Harrison's administration passed the McKinley Tariff and Sherman Silver Purchase Act. Cleveland saw both of these policies as dangerous for the nation's economy. While he initially decided not to speak out about his outrage, he later felt it was his duty to address these concerns. Cleveland submitted an open "silver letter" to a meeting of reformers in New York. This letter made Cleveland a national name once again, just as the 1892 election approached. He went on to win that election, returning to the White House as his wife had foretold.



**Item #CNPRES22D** – Presidential Dollar marking Cleveland's first term. Shortly after Cleveland re-

entered office, the Panic of 1893 struck the stock market and the country was in a state of acute economic depression. After 15 weeks of debate, the Senate repealed the Sherman Silver Purchase Act, eventually returning the Treasury's gold reserves to safe levels.

Next, Cleveland then turned his attention to reversing the McKinley tariff. Though he considered the new Wilson-Gorman Tariff Act to be "a disgraceful product of the control of the Senate by trusts and business interests," he still considered it an improvement over the McKinley Tariff and allowed it to become law.



**Item #CNPRES24D** – Presidential Dollar marking Cleveland's second term. Anti-Cleveland agrarian and silverite Democrats took control of the party in 1896, rejected his administration and the gold standard and nominated William Jennings Bryan. Cleveland supported the Gold Democrats' third-party ticket but decided not to accept their nomination for a third term. In the end, Republican William McKinley won the election.

After leaving the White House in 1897, Cleveland retired to his estate at Westfield Mansion in Princeton, New Jersey. He served briefly as a trustee of Princeton University and consulted with President Theodore Roosevelt during his time in office. After several years of poor health, Cleveland became seriously ill in 1907 and suffered a heart attack the following year, dying on June 24. His final words were, "I have tried so hard to do right."

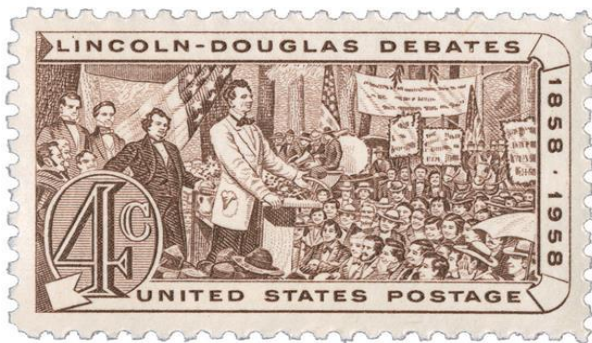
## Kansas-Nebraska Act



**US #1061** was issued for the 100th anniversary of the Kansas Territory.

On May 30, 1854, President Franklin Pierce signed the Kansas-Nebraska Act into law. The act had been created to settle tensions over slavery and open new lands for development, but instead only proved to create more division and move America closer to Civil War.

In the 1850s, Congress was deeply divided over the issue of slavery. This was particularly true over the fate of new US territories – there was a great struggle to see whether the practice of slavery would be allowed in the new territories or not. Earlier laws had been passed to address this. The Compromise of 1850 had, in part, left the issue of slavery up to the settlers of each territory (popular sovereignty). Additionally, the Missouri Compromise banned slavery in territories north of the 36°30' parallel.



**US #1115** – The act was largely written by Stephen A. Douglas (who later squared off against Abraham Lincoln in a series of 1858 debates). Stephen A. Douglas had been pushing for a transcontinental railroad since 1845. Part of his plan for the railroad involved organizing a formal Nebraska Territory. He submitted a proposal that passed in the House but was stalled in the Senate. Slavery wouldn't have been allowed because the territory would have been north of 36°30', but a group of senators refused to approve it if slavery wasn't allowed.



**US #1060** was issued for the 100th anniversary of the Nebraska Territory.

The bill was reintroduced in early 1854. The amended bill would divide the former Nebraska Territory into two new territories – Kansas and Nebraska. The act would also allow residents of Kansas and Nebraska territories to decide for themselves whether to allow slavery within their borders. The act would also repeal the Missouri Compromise of 1820, which had banned slavery in most northwestern regions of the country.



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**US #819** – The act was signed into law by President Franklin Pierce.

The bill passed the Senate on March 4 and the House on May 22. President Franklin Pierce then signed it into law on May 30, 1854, officially establishing the Kansas and Nebraska Territories.

The Kansas-Nebraska Act outraged many Northerners. They considered the Missouri Compromise to have been binding. Many in the pro-slavery South supported the new act. Rather than stem the tide of war, the Kansas-Nebraska Act led to immediate hostilities. As the vote on slavery approached, abolitionists and pro-slavery factions rushed to the territories to influence the outcome.

In the first election, Kansas residents voted to allow slavery within their territory. Antislavery settlers alleged the vote was marred by fraud (more votes were counted than there were legitimate voters) and rejected the results. They held a second election, one in which the pro-slavery faction refused to vote. Each group established their own legislature within the territory, operating in direct opposition to the other.



**US #1183** – Kansas achieved statehood on January 29, 1861. Violence soon erupted between the pro-slavery Border Ruffians and the abolitionist Free-Statists. The death toll rose, leading to the phrase “Bleeding Kansas.” To support the pro-slavery settlers, President Franklin Pierce ordered Federal troops into the area to stop the violence and remove the abolitionist legislature. A third election was held. Pro-slavery supporters prevailed, and vote fraud was alleged once again.



**US #1328** – Nebraska achieved statehood on March 1, 1867. As a result, Congress rejected the constitution adopted by the pro-slavery settlers and statehood was denied. Eventually, anti-slavery settlers in Kansas outnumbered pro-slavery residents, and statehood was granted shortly before the start of the Civil War. Kansas was admitted as a free state on January 29, 1861. Nebraska, whose residents chose to ban slavery, was admitted as a state in 1867.



## Start of V-Mail Service



US #2765e – from the 1993: Turning the Tide sheet

On June 15, 1942, the Post Office Department inaugurated its V-Mail Service.

Prior to the war, ships and airplanes that operated on regularly scheduled routes transported mail intended for an overseas destination. A friendly Europe saw to their safe and speedy delivery under the terms of the Universal Postal Union.



US #905 was issued to bolster support for the war effort.

The outbreak of World War II changed all this; ships no longer sailed on a regular schedule and enemy submarines lurking in the water made it impossible to guarantee delivery. Planes had to fly a roundabout route. That meant using more petroleum which was already quite scarce. Since fewer flights were made, cargo space became extremely valuable.

Recognizing that correspondence to and from the Armed Forces in battle zones was vital to the war effort, the Postal Department introduced its V-Mail Service on June 15, 1942. The service took its name from the “V for Victory” symbol developed during the war.

Those sending messages by V-Mail used a special combination letter and envelope that was given preferred sorting and transportation. Specially designed forms were made available for free at stationery stores and distributed to service personnel overseas. V-Mail forms had limited space for a message on one side and instructions for sending on the other. Once sealed shut, they would apply a stamp. At first, people weren't allowed to enclose any other items, but eventually, the post office allowed people to send pictures of babies under a year old, or those that had been born after their fathers had left for the service. Military authorities read all of the letters and censored them if need be.



World War II  
1943: Turning the Tide



US #2765e – Mystic First Day Cover

Once received at the V-Mail stations, these letters were opened and then filmed at a rate of 2,000 to 2,500 per hour to be transferred to microfilm. About 1,600 letters could fit on one roll – making them about three percent of their original weight and volume. For instance – 150,000 regular letters would weigh about 1,500 pounds and fill 22 mail sacks. The same letters microfilmed weighed just 45 pounds and fit in one mail sack – which freed up valuable space for other items on transport planes.

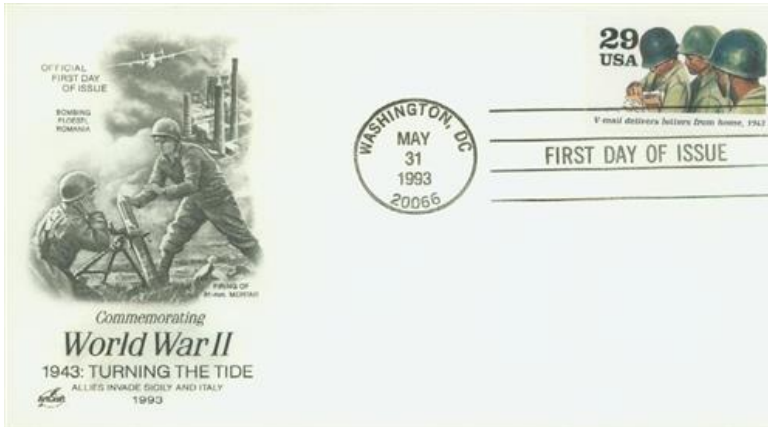
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When the letters reached their destinations, they were reproduced onto five-by-four inch photographs and sent to the recipient in special V-Mail envelopes. The film wouldn't be destroyed until the recipient received their letter. If they didn't, the letter would be reprinted.



## US #2765e – Classic First Day Cover

Servicemen and women could send their letters for free. They simply had to write “Free” along with their name, rank, military branch, and return address in the upper left corner. For civilians, the cost was 3¢ for surface mail and 6¢ for Airmail, which was later increased to 8¢.



## US #C26 – WWII-era airmail that covered the 8¢ rate for V-Mail traveling overseas.

During 1943, V-Mail reached its peak – in one month 20,120 rolls of film containing 33,355,554 letters were handled. By the time the service was suspended on November 1, 1945, more than one billion letters were sent by V-Mail. After that, people were allowed to continue to use V-Mail stationery until the remaining supplies ran out in March 1946.

## U.S. Issues Its Only Certified Mail Stamp



### US #FA1 – The Certified Mail stamp pictures a letter carrier.

On June 6, 1955, the US Post Office issued its first and only Certified Mail stamp, US #FA1. The stamp gave mail special protection and provided the sender with proof of delivery.

The US first implemented a registered letter system on July 1, 1855. For the next 56 years, mailers could pay the registration fee, which ranged from five to twenty cents over these years, with cash or stamps.

Continued on next page



## Certified Mail Stamp Continued

Though there wasn't a Registered Mail stamp issued during this time, there were Post Office Seals, also known as Official Seals. They had no franking power, meaning they didn't pay for the delivery of mail, but they did serve an important purpose. The first official seals had one specific role: to seal large "registered packages" containing registered letters that were being transported, thereby preventing tampering with this very secure class of mail.



**US #OXF1** – 1872 Registry Seal Then on December 1, 1911, the Post Office issued US #F1, America's first and only Registration stamp for the prepayment of registry fees. This new stamp could only be used to pay the registry fee and was not valid for regular postage. When used in addition to regular postage, this stamp provided special care and handling for an extra fee for a letter or package. Upon receiving the item, the addressee was required to sign a receipt.



**US #F1** – 1911 Registration stamp There was some confusion among users and postal clerks around these stamps, which led to their misuse. As a result, the postmaster general abolished the Registration stamp in 1913, but allowed the remaining stock to be used up. After that, the registration fee could be paid by using regular postage stamps. Then in 1955 the US Post Office announced that it would issue a new Certified Mail stamp. According to the postmaster general at the time, "Certified Mail, a new service of the Post Office Department [was] designed to give mail patrons most of the advantages of registered mail but at a lower cost and less trouble."



**US #FA1** – Certified Mail Classic First Day Cover Certified Mail service officially began on June 6, 1955 with the issue of #FA1. It could be used on first class mail for which the sender claimed no insurance, but wanted proof of delivery. Certified Mail is a form of registration – it gives mail special protection and provides the sender with proof of delivery. This was used in addition to the regular postage and required the recipient to sign for his letter or package upon delivery. No additional Certified Mail stamps were ever issued after #FA1, but regular definitive stamps were often used to pay the fee.



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(Hawaii Stamps & Covers, Other Worldwide Stamps, Linder and Lighthouse Stamp Supplies)

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