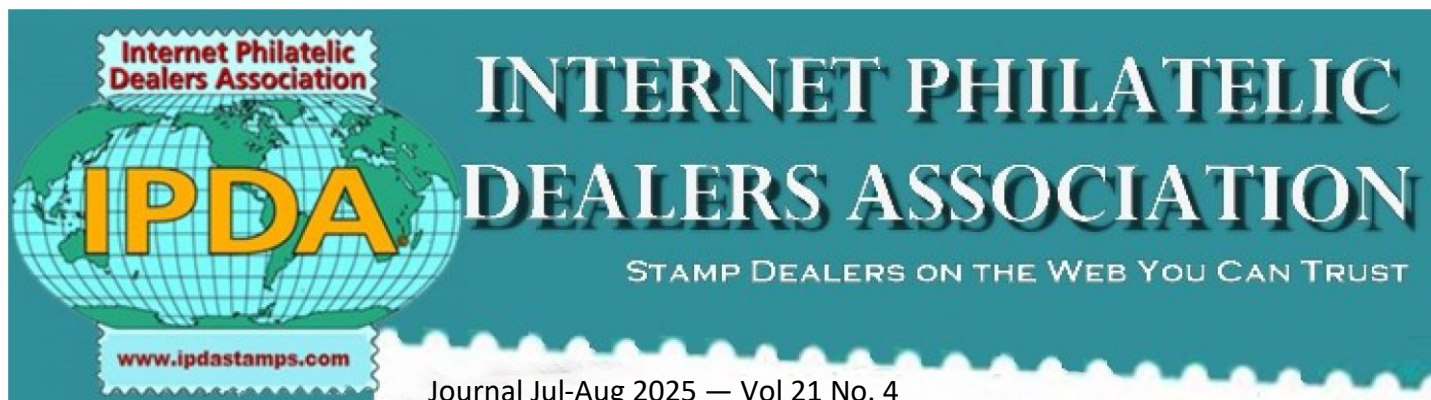




Journal

The Stamps That Almost Sparked A War





The IPDA Newsletter is published bi-monthly by the Internet Philatelic Dealers Association. Opinions expressed in any articles are strictly those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official views of the IPDA or any of its officers. To submit an article, contact the editor, Ted Tyszka, ted.talks.stamps@gmail.com.

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Chairman's Message



Hello to everyone!

I hope everyone is happy, healthy, and busy with your philatelic endeavors. I want to spend a little bit of time on membership in IPDA. I hope that over the last couple of years you have been happy with the direction of IPDA and its efforts to support you as members, to promote your businesses and to promote the values that IPDA holds in the philatelic marketplace.

We can all sometimes get distracted by many other things both in life and in business and I am just as guilty of that. But one thing I have found is that if I spend just a little bit of time and effort to reach out to a few non-member colleagues who sell online and invite them to join us, it can be quite productive.

Not everyone I communicate with will jump on board the IPDA ship. Some will tell me to go pound sand...some will think about it...some will recognize the value in membership and apply. But regardless of the results, I always expand my horizons and end up with new friends (usually).

So...my challenge to you, our members, is to take a few minutes to reach out to those quality online stamp store operators (you don't have to know them personally) and invite them to join us as members. I have developed a little "sales pitch" that I use to send to those who seem to be good candidates for membership and will be happy to share that with you upon request. Just send me an email and I will fire it right back to you. Or you can certainly produce your own blurb as well. What is the worst thing that can happen?

Someone could tell you to go pound sand! Or...you can make a new friend and IPDA could gain a new member. I'm betting more on the latter than the former.

In Mid-May, IPDA and HipStamp teamed up on a well promoted weekend exclusive sale weekend. About a dozen IPDA member stores participated and most results reported were very positive. As a result, we will be planning on

doing this again this fall and hopefully running it for an entire week. You pick the discount you are comfortable with; you pick the items you want to offer for the sale...it is in each store's control as to how each wants to do it.

I can personally vouch for it as I was, as they say around these parts, plumb tuckered out after that weekend with picking, packing, and shipping orders out to my regular customers along with a batch of new ones.

We are still looking for a new Marketing & Media Director to fill Luree's shoes. She set a strong foundation for the position and the new director will have a very easy time stepping into the role. Please consider stepping up and offering your services to the IPDA.

Please consider putting your name in the hat to be highlighted in the coming months for our monthly Journal and website Dealer Spotlight. It is free advertising to you as an IPDA member as part of your membership benefits. Again, contact our newsletter editor Ted Tyzaska (ted.talks.stamps@gmail.com) for more details.

We have recently added a page on the IPDA website called "Testimonials". This is a place where our members can share feedback from their customers which demonstrate why customers should do business with an IPDA member-dealer. A few examples are already posted and if you have any you would like to share, take a screenshot of it and send it to Michael Dodd and he will get it listed on the page. (See [page 5 for more details](#).)

I, along with my family and the IPDA Board of Directors wish you all the very best in your 2025 endeavors. As always, if you have any questions or comments, my "door" is always open at ipdachair@gmail.com.

Greg Doll

Chairman, IPDA

IPDACHAIR@GMAIL.COM

HELP WANTED

The IPDA is still in need of a Director of Marketing and Advertising. The position entails writing promotional content on various social media platforms, e.g. Instagram, Bluesky, Facebook, etc. You would also interact with the promoters of any stamp shows in which IPDA might have a presence, either with a booth, or with having the IPDA logo displayed on the show's promotional items.

Please consider donating your time and talent to the growth and success of the IPDA. For more information, contact [IPDA Chairman Greg Doll](#).

Q: IS YOUR STAMP DEALER A BADGED DEALER

A: YES, OF COURSE, THEY HAVE THE IPDA BADGE ON THEIR HIPSTAMP STORE

IPDA - DEALERS YOU CAN BUY FROM WITH CONFIDENCE



CAN YOU DESIGN AND CREATE IPDA ADVERTISING MATERIAL?

CAN YOU WRITE PROMOTIONAL CONTENT TO X, FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM, BLUESKY AND OTHER SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS?

CAN YOU GET THE IPDA BRAND NAME OUT TO THE PHILATELIC COMMUNITY THROUGH WHATEVER CHANNELS YOU SEE FIT?

CAN YOU SUPPORT THE IPDA BY BECOMING THE DIRECTOR MARKETING & ADVERTISING?

PLEASE SUPPORT THE IPDA - SEND YOUR NAME TO THE IPDA CHAIRMAN AT IPDACHAIR@GMAIL.COM





HipStamp's IPDA Sale Event A Success

by Ted Tyszka

This past May, HipStamp ran a special weekend IPDA Sale Event for IPDA dealers. This means that HipStamp promoted it in the HipStamp newsletter and ran a banner on their home page advertising the event along with a display listing the participating dealers.

14 IPDA dealers responded to the offer to participate and for that weekend offered discounted prices on their items. The amount of the discount was entirely up to the discretion of each dealer.

How did it turn out? In short, it was an unqualified success. I received feedback on the event from several deal-

ers each of whom reported higher than average sales volume for the weekend. I, myself, received double my previous high number of orders for a weekend, with half of those being first-time customers.

The popular opinion among members who participated is that we should continue having these sale events, and the IPDA directors have been discussing the idea of running future sale events at regular intervals, perhaps semi-annually.

The sale event was a great way to get the IPDA name in front of the stamp-buying public and to demonstrate the value in dealing with IPDA dealers. If you are a HipStamp dealer, please consider signing up to participate in any future events.



QR Code Opens IPDA Sign-Up Page

by Ted Tyszka

Sanford Weiss has had a QR code generated which, when scanned, opens a browser page at the IPDA dealer application page. Greg Doll has said he has a QR code which he prints onto each of his customer invoices that directs the user to the IPDA web site.

This is another good tool for promoting the IPDA and to make it as easy as possible for a dealer to go to our web-site and fill out a member application.

Below is the QR code created by Sandy Weiss. You can take a screen shot of this page and crop out all of the surrounding text, saving just the matrix and its accompanying text as a jpg image. You can then pre-print this image on your invoice paper, in a spot that will normally always be blank, when printing an invoice.

Scan This QR Code For More
Information To Join The Internet
Philatelic Dealers Association (IPDA)



Promote Your Online Store

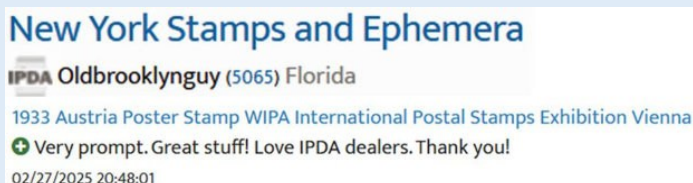
Every now and again we get very nicely worded positive feedback from customers. Hopefully more often than every now and again. We see this when customers leave kind words, for example, on the eBay or Hipstamp Feedback forms.



How is this for an idea: Why not have an IPDA web page showing IPDA member feedbacks? An IPDA dealer Testimonials page, so to speak. It is, perhaps, an opportunity for collectors who are checking out IPDA dealers to see what others think of us.



After all, once a feedback has been posted on Hipstamp, for example, and more and more feedback is added, automatic or otherwise, your positive feedback is basically lost to viewers, unless a prospective customer scrolls through pages and pages of feedbacks looking for one that is not Automatic feedback.



So, now you have an opportunity to promote yourself by showing the actual customer feedback you have received and which you would like to tell others about. Promote yourself on the IPDA website Testimonials page. It's as simple as this:

Send the following to the General Secretary at ipdasecretary1@gmail.com

<your online store name, the store URL, and then the Feedback Comment>

Send to the General Secretary and he will get it onto the IPDA Testimonials Page.

From the Editor's Desk



We want to hear from you! Tell us your stamp stories. What's your favorite stamp? What's your greatest stamp find? Tell us a stamp joke or a riddle. Send it to yours truly, Ted Tyszka, at:

ted.talks.stamps@gmail.com

and you will be rewarded with my undying gratitude.

To Be Auctioned 21 Sep 2025

New Zealand's Rarest Stamp

by Ted Tyszka

Every stamp collector, at some time, has dreamed of finding a previously undiscovered postage stamp rarity, years or even decades after it was produced. The Guyana 1c Magenta was discovered by a 12-year-old boy 17 years after the stamp was produced. Sweden's Treskilling Yellow color error was found by a young stamp collector, Georg Wilhelm Backman, in 1886, among his grandmother's letters, 31 years after it was issued. The Baden 9-Kreuzer Green color error eluded detection for 44 years.

From 1902 to 1907, New Zealand produced a series of 12 definitive stamps, including a 4d brown and blue value (issued in 1904?) depicting Lake Taupo with Mount Ruapehu, an active volcano, in the background. As is known now, one sheet (presumably) went through the second

printing pass upside-down from the proper orientation, producing a sheet of 80 stamps with the center vignette inverted with respect to the frame. The error apparently went unnoticed by all who came into contact with it—the printers, the postal clerk (or clerks) who sold it over the counter, and postal customers who purchased copies for their mail.

On the 21st of March, 1904, one copy of this error stamp was used to post a letter from Picton, a town in the Marlborough Region of New Zealand's South Island. At some unknown point in time after that, a young boy, Jack Dennett, a stamp collector in England, came into possession of the stamp and dutifully placed it in his stamp album, still oblivious to the error to be seen on the stamp.



The invert error is a variant of Scott Nr 113. While it was once catalogued as Scott Nr 113b, it has since been delisted and is now only mentioned in a footnote. That should change again after the upcoming auction establishes a market value. The Stanley Gibbons Catalogue lists it as Nr 322c but does not provide a value.

Flash forward to the year 1930. The young collector is now a farmer. Great Britain, like many countries around the world, was suffering through a severe economic depression—fallout from the Great Crash in the United States. Desperately searching for items he can sell for cash, Dennett turned to his boyhood stamp album. This is when the inverted center was finally discovered, 26 years after it first saw the light of day. And despite the fact that there originally had to have been 80 copies of this stamp produced, no other example has been discovered.

Dennett, shocked at his find, sent the stamp to a dealer, seeking an opinion on it. The dealer wrote back asking how much Dennett wanted for his error stamp. No dummy, he, Dennett sent the stamp to the Royal Philatelic Society of London to be expertized. The RPSL issued a certificate attesting to the stamp's authenticity, and Dennett consigned it for auction with Plumridge & Company. In their auction of March 27, 1931, a French dealer, the legendary Théodore Champion, purchased the stamp for £161, equivalent to about £15,000 today.

With the early provenance of the stamp being sketchy, all that can be said is that, in 1942, the stamp was sold to someone supposedly identified as the Marquis de Rosny—though I am unable to find reference to anyone with that name or title since the original Marquis de Rosny, Maximilien de Béthune (1559-1641).

The stamp doesn't pop up again until Oct 21, 1980, when it was purchased in a private treaty sale by Robert W. Lyman of New York, on behalf of an investment syndicate, for \$18,000. The stamp was then recertified by the Friedl Expert Committee.

Though there is no record of a sale in 1990, the British Philatelic Association issued another certificate in that year, presumably to a new owner. Despite its rarity and high-profile sales, to this point, the stamp had not generated the buzz and excitement of other famous error stamps, and 3 subsequent attempts to sell the stamp—one in 1992, 1993, and 1997—generated little to no interest, and the stamp failed to sell.

The 1993 attempt was an auction by Stanley Gibbons, New Zealand, with a reserve of NZD \$160,00, or USD

\$86,000. In the 1997 offer, auction house Dix Noonan Webb, Ltd. placed an estimate of £40-50,000 on the stamp.

At the Pacific '97 International Philatelic Exhibition in San Francisco, Australian dealer Glenn Stephens has reported, George Holschauer, of Colonial Stamp Company in Los Angeles, told him he had the stamp available for sale. It's not clear if Holschauer actually had possession of the stamp or if he was acting in association with Mowbray Auctions, but in 1998 New Zealand Post purchased the stamp at a Mowbray auction for NZ\$160,000, the same as the reserve price SG was seeking in their 1993 auction. This suggests there may have been no other competing bids for the stamp.

New Zealand Post is on record as having said they would never sell the stamp, and in 2010, they presented it to New Zealand's national museum, Te Papa, on a long-term loan. However, in [a news release dated June 15, 2025](#), New Zealand Post announced that their prized possession is headed to auction on September 20, 2025. The stamp will be auctioned by Mowbray Collectables of Wellington.

Antony Harris, head of NZ Post's stamps and collectables department, said it has been "a privilege" for NZ Post to have been the owner of the Taupō invert for the past 27 years. "We're thrilled to have the opportunity to facilitate a landmark event for stamp collectors with its public auction," said Harris.

Mowbray has described the stamp as one of the most fascinating and historically significant stamps ever to appear on the market. And some experts anticipate that the inverted Lake Taupo stamp will break records, solidifying its legacy as one of the most sought-after postage stamps in history. After the last auction of the Guyana 1¢ Magenta failed to meet its previous selling price, one might rightfully be wary of this breathless hyperbole. Nevertheless, many collectors around the world will be waiting in anticipation of the auction result. And with the release of the stamp from its institutional confinement and (hopefully) back into a collector's hands, this stamp might now gain the wider recognition within the hobby enjoyed by the other great philatelic rarities.



Keep Up the Hunt

by Lee Coen

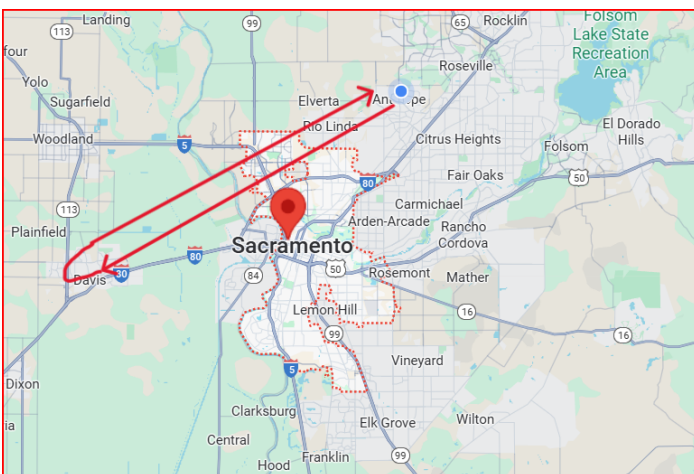
If you're into stamps like us stampers, this should blow your mind:

As a member of many stamp clubs here in California I was forwarded a text from a lady want to 'toss', yes toss, her stamps.

Here is the text:

My problem: I have 23 13x18x12 transparent plastic boxes which I need to donate somewhere. The boxes contain, albums, stamps on paper, stamps in packets, mint US stamps, covers. Unfortunately, they are mixed together in the boxes. If you are willing and able to go through these boxes and use, sell, give, ((toss)) these items, I would be grateful and give you \$100 to pick them up.

Did she say \$100.00? It was Saturday and after a hectic week at work and the wife and I jumped into the car for a 'quick' drive, only 40 miles away. This shouldn't take very long.



From Antelope, California to Davis, California, a college town, this should be an easy quick drive. It's Saturday, and all the daily commuters should be at home and driving on the freeways. It's only about 40 miles away. The wife and I are enjoying and singing to the music on the

radio when we encountered this-



Well, so much for a quick jaunt to pick up some free stamps. After an hour of heavy traffic and some re-routing from that lady that lives in my phone, telling me where all the short cuts were, we finally made it to this nice lady's house.

When the owner opened the garage door, I lost my breath. I'm thinking a bunch of stamps on paper and some first day covers. I think my eyes opened bigger than they are meant to as I stepped back from the garage door. I must be dreaming. The wife asked me if I was alright. I guess my wide eyes got the wife's attention. There were 23 boxes of stamps, albums and supplies. Someone wake me up, I know I'm dreaming, I just know I am. This doesn't happen every day, not in California. Free stamps?



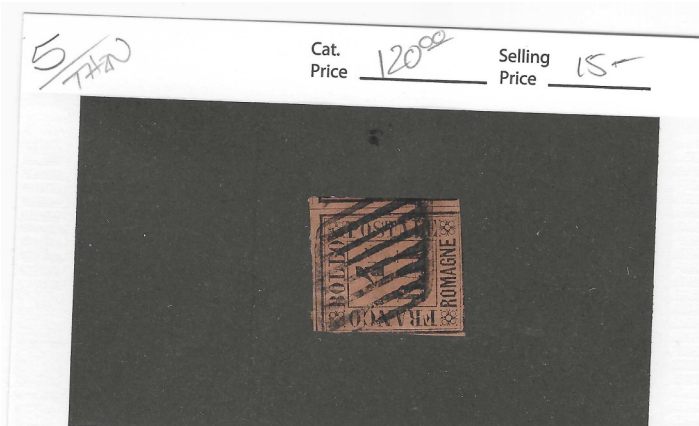
(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)

We quickly loaded half of the boxes and informed the owner we will return later today for the second half of this haul. You guessed it, they all didn't fit in my little commuter car I drive every day for work. Current temp in California this day? 95F and very humid. After the final load and some traffic, we thanked the owner and she replies with, 'Hold on. I have your money.' We tried to turn down the gas money, but the owner replies with, 'You guys need gas money.' A fresh crisp \$100.00USD bill was placed in my hand. 'Are you sure?' I asked. I have to be dreaming, this doesn't happen in today's world. Money is tight for everyone, even for us stamp sellers/collectors.

17 boxes went to the storage unit, yes 17 big boxes of stamp stuff, and 6 went to the house with the wife and myself. I spent the remainder of Saturday going through 6 big boxes of 'stamp' stuff. After several hours of throwing out the old Linns stamp news, papers and other rubbish, I was done. Albums, supplies, 102b stamp cards, 2 boxes of them, and stamps that seemed to multiply after each box I went through.

Anything good? Here are a few highlights of what I found:

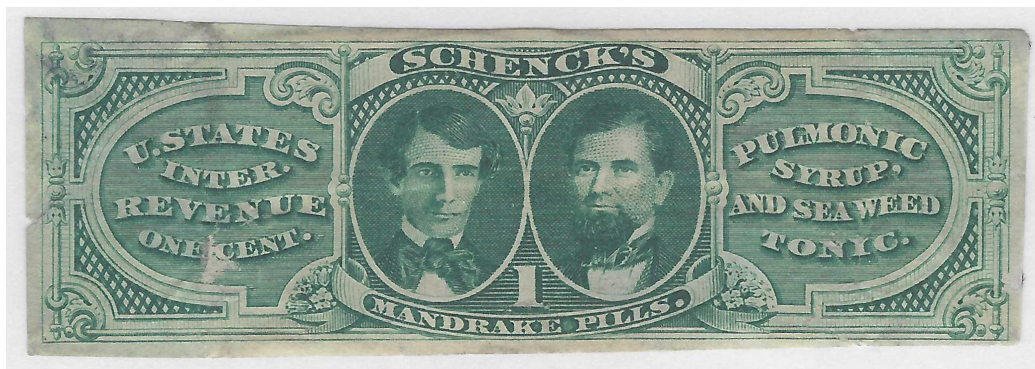


Italy, Modena with thin.



Italy, States with thin.

Half way through box #4 I stumbled across a dealer's book of Match and Medicine revenue stamps from the 1890's.



USA, Scott#RS212D, CV\$3.00USD

In closing, we perspired more than I ever thought possible for just some stamps. As a very experienced stamper I am blown away that this lady just wanted to get rid of this group of boxes. The cost of just the albums, 20+ in just these six boxes, and other supplies has to be well over \$500.00 and I still 17 more boxes in our storage unit to peruse.

Stamps are out there, trust me. Join a club, network with other collectors/stamp clubs and answer all texts/emails about free stamps. We filled up the car to the max on the gas gauge and spent the remainder of the day in cool AC in the house.

Keep up the hunt! (I will).

Borders In Dispute

And a postage stamp almost ignites a war.

By Ted Tysza

Throughout the history of postage stamps, these innocuous pieces of paper have frequently been used as a means for countries not simply to collect revenue for postal services, but as a medium for making political statements. Thus the issuing of postage stamps by newly independent countries, or the overprinting of a nation's stamps by a hostile occupying country, is one of the first orders of business.

Another type of political statement for which postage stamps have been utilized can occur when a country declares their rights to a disputed territory or a border. Such was the case in 1937, with a set of stamps issued by Nicaragua.

This set, Scott Nr C186-C192, comprised 7 stamps, all with the same design, a monoplane over a map of Nicaragua, with portions of El Salvador, Costa Rica, and Honduras included.

In the north, there is a territory ostensibly belonging to Nicaragua (according to the shading on the map) but labeled, *Territorio En Litigio*, or Disputed Territory. To understand the dispute, we have to go back over 100 years,

to 1820, when the Spanish Empire included most of what is today's Central America, including Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Costa Rica (and the Mexican State of Chiapas), lacking possession of only Belize, a British Colony, and Panama which was part of the Vice-royalty of New Granada, which eventually became Colombia. These Spanish territories together comprised the five provinces of the Captaincy General of Central America.



The Spanish Empire in Central America, 1794.
Comayagua is Honduras, and the western portion of Guatemala is the present-day Mexican State of Chiapas.

So, with that stage set, here are, briefly, the events that led up to the 1937 Nicaragua stamp set:



The 15c value of the 7-stamp set, Scott Nr C186-C192 (1937)

- In 1821, the Captaincy General of Guatemala declared (and received) independence from Spain.
- The First Mexican Empire (also newly independent from Spain) annexed all of the former Central American provinces (with varying degrees of cooperation from them).
- When the First Mexican Empire collapsed, in 1823, the five Central American Provinces formed the “United Provinces of Central America.”
- Between the years of 1838 and 1840, this federation, too, fell apart, leading to the five provinces becoming independent republics.
- Each new republic adopted the legal doctrine of *uti possidetis juris*, which states that newly independent states inherit the boundaries which were in place during their colonial administration.

It is at this point where the dispute over the boundaries of the “disputed territory” raises its head. The eastern part of the border between Honduras and Nicaragua was never clearly defined, especially along the Mosquito Coast, due to dense jungle, numerous rivers, imprecise surveys, vague historical demarcations, and issues involving indigenous populations. But as long as the provinces of Honduras and Nicaragua were part of the same kingdom, it didn’t really much matter. But now that they

were independent countries? It mattered . . . a lot. Disputes arose between the two countries which failed to get resolved until . . .

The Gámez-Bonilla Treaty of 1894

After a number of persistent border incidents, Honduras and Nicaragua came to recognize the need for a formal approach to settling their dispute. César Bonilla, Secretary of State for Honduras and Dr. José Dolores Gámez Guzmán of Nicaragua, were tasked with representing their respective country’s interests in negotiations. The key provisions of the treaty were –

- The establishment of a commission, with an equal number of representatives from each country, to physically survey and delineate the entire boundary line.
- The adherence to *uti possidetis juris*, and
- A provision for international arbitration, in case there were points of dispute which could not be resolved by the commission.

On the map, shown at left, the portion of the border from the red pin to the Caribbean Sea was under dispute by Nicaragua.

While the drawing up of the western part of the border, from Portillo de Teotecacinte (marked with the red pin on the map) to the Caribbean Sea, was a point of contention between the two parties which proved to be intractable. The decision would have to go to arbitration.

In accordance with the treaty, the boundary dispute was submitted to King Alfonso XIII of Spain for arbitration, a decision amenable to both sides. In 1906, the king ruled in favor of Honduras, a ruling which President Zelaya of Nicaragua fully accepted . . . at first, going so far as to sending a telegram to the Honduran President, Manuel Bonilla, acknowledging the satisfactory settlement of the boundary dispute by friendly arbitration.

The next year, though, 1907, Zelaya made an about face and demanded clarification of some obscure and contradictory points. For four years his questions remained unresolved and in 1911 Nicaragua’s Foreign Minister declared the arbitration award null and void, citing alleged procedural irregularities and an overstepping of powers by the



The portion of the border from the red pin to the Caribbean Sea was under dispute by Nicaragua.

arbitrator. Honduras insisted that the arbitration ruling was fair and legal and refused to relitigate the matter. For 3 decades, the feud simmered, finally coming to a boil in 1937, with Nicaragua's issuance of the stamps showing an alleged disputed territory.

Honduras reacted with outrage. They viewed this stamp as a blatant and hostile attempt by Nicaragua to resurrect a claim that Honduras considered settled by the 1906 king's arbitration award. The arrival of mail bearing these offending stamps in the Honduran capital of Tegucigalpa reportedly sparked riots, and Honduran police had to prevent an angry mob from storming the Nicaraguan Embassy. Both countries began sending troops to the disputed border region, bringing them to the brink of armed conflict. Three members of the Organization of American States—USA, Mexico, and Costa Rica—stepped in to mediate. This mediation led to a de-escalation of tensions and defused the immediate threat of war; however, it did not resolve the underlying dispute.

The dispute continued to fester for another 13 years until, in 1957 both countries agreed to submit their dispute to the International Court of Justice (ICJ), at The Hague, Netherlands. After meticulously reviewing all of the pertinent documents since the beginnings of the dispute, on November 18, 1960, the ICJ delivered a decisive judgment in favor of Honduras, affirming that the arbitration award made by King Alfonso XIII, in 1906, was, indeed, valid and binding. Nicaragua had freely participated in the arbitration proceedings and had, likewise, freely accepted the designation of the king as arbitrator, thus obliging Nicaragua to abide by the decision.

Following the ICJ judgment, a new commission was formed to carry out the surveying and the demarcation of the border in accordance with the 1906 arbitration award. Boundary markers were placed and the land border was finally settled.

The Honduras-Nicaragua border dispute spanned 140 years. The 1937 incident illustrates how even seemingly innocuous national symbols such as postage stamps can carry immense political weight.



IPDA Brochure Download

The IPDA brochure is a pdf document which dealers can download and print, and may be used as a handout to promote the IPDA at shows and stamp bourses. You can download it here . . . [IPDA Brochure](#).



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Serving the philatelic
community since 2002

Stories Behind the Stamps

by Lawrence Fisher

The following articles first appeared on the [Stories Behind the Stamps](#) blog, May 5, 2025, and is reprinted here with permission from the author.

Syria's 2024 Stamp:

A Defiant Symbol of Arab Solidarity with Gaza



Yvert et Tellier Nr 1882, issued Sept 2024.

In late 2024, in the last days of the Assad regime, Syria issued a powerful postage stamp that resonates far beyond its borders. This stamp carries a strong political message of solidarity with Gaza during the ongoing Israel-Gaza war. Prominently featured is the emblem of the Arab League, along with the words "With Gaza" in both Arabic and English. The design is deeply evocative: on the left, a close-up of a keffiyeh-clad figure gazes out with determination, while the right side depicts destruction with the Palestinian flag rising defiantly amidst the rubble.

This stamp is part of a broader initiative by Arab League countries. According to the Kuwait Times (January 13, 2024), the Arab League agreed during its 44th Session of the Arab Permanent Postal Committee to issue a joint postage stamp in honor of Gaza. The aim: to show unified Arab support for the Palestinian people. As stated by Abdullah Al-Humaida, Acting Assistant Undersecretary for Kuwait's Ministry of Communications for the postal sector, Gaza "had been subjected to a vicious war by the Zionist occupation forces since October 7, 2023, resulting in more than 23,000 deaths and around 60,000 injuries."

The political and historical weight behind this stamp cannot be ignored. While Gaza initiated the war after their barbaric invasion on October 7th, 2023, the likes of which the world has never known and hopefully will never know — this stamp firmly positions Syria and several other Arab states in solidarity with Gaza.

So far, stamps under this initiative have been issued by Syria, Qatar, Oman, Djibouti, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, and Jordan. Curiously absent, however, are stamps from the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt—despite Egypt presiding over the meeting where the decision was made. And intriguingly, no stamp from Kuwait itself has surfaced, even though it was Kuwait's delegation that publicly championed the initiative. I should add that these stamps are not cheap, and many were also issued in souvenir sheets giving a feel that they are intended for the collector, but I have seen the stamps on mail!

From a philatelic perspective, the Syrian stamp's production quality leaves much to be desired. The printing is coarse, with muted colors and visible pixelation that dulls the impact of the original design. This is typical of recent Syrian issues, where resource constraints and sanctions have led to lower-quality outputs compared to the sharper, more vibrant prints seen in Gulf states like Qatar or Oman.

This postage stamp is more than a collector's item; it is a symbol of the political fault lines and alliances that continue to shape the Middle East today.



Nixed On Route 66

by Dan Golden

This article first appeared in "Stamping Around," the newsletter of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club (Texas), and is reprinted here with permission of the author and the "Stamping Around" editor.

Every year for Thanksgiving, my wife and I travel to Chicago to spend the holiday with my parents. Traditionally in lieu of shopping on Black Friday, my family would always spend the day together and go on a family outing to one of the many world-famous museums in and around the city. And there are plenty to choose from, the Field Museum, the Museum of Science and Industry, the Art Institute of Chicago, the Shedd Aquarium, and the Adler Planetarium, among others.

In keeping with that tradition, my wife and I headed downtown on Black Friday, braving the 2°F windchill with our not-yet 2-year-old daughter in tow, and headed toward the Art Institute. Along the way I managed to get a few "Extreme Philately" photos that will find a use in some future articles. As we approached the Art Institute, I noticed something across the street from the museum that I had never noticed before: the origin point of US Route 66, seen in this photo, below.



Above the origin point, at the northeast corner of the intersection of Adams St. and Michigan Ave. hangs a sign on the light post that reads: "BEGIN HISTORIC ILLINOIS US 66 ROUTE," seen above.



Furthermore, just one block down the street, below the Adams/Wabash "L" station, can even be seen the first Route 66 road signs! Upon recognizing the significance of everything around me, I took the photos in preparation for this article, thinking to myself all the while: "Surely there must be a stamp commemorating Route 66."

When I got home I got to work looking through my collection and any and all accompanying catalogues to find such a stamp. But alas, to both my extreme shock and profound disappointment, no such stamp could





Photos by Dan Golden

(again, if I am wrong about this, somebody please correct me). It has, however, been commemorated numerous times elsewhere in movies, TV shows, and quite famously in music with the song, “Get Your Kicks on Route 66” (the title of that song partly inspiring the title of this article). Yet even with all of this other recognition it still lacks a stamp of its own.

Perhaps that will change soon. April 30, 2026 will mark the roadway’s 100th anniversary and I can only hope the USPS will seize the opportunity. I would make the suggestion myself, but the Citizen’s Stamp Advisory Committee (CSAC) requires that all ideas for stamp subjects be proposed at least three years in advance of the issue date. As we are now long past that suggestion deadline, I can only hope that another person equally upset at the lack of a Route 66 stamp made his suggestion known to CSAC already.

One way or another, it would seem as if Route 66’s possible depiction on a postage stamp is at the mercy of USPS. I can only hope that next year the decision makers will do the right thing and give Route 66 the recognition it deserves.

be found. I am willing to be corrected on this, but from what I can tell there appears to be no stamp that honors Route 66! What an incredible missed opportunity!

As I once conversed with a dealer at a TSDA show, he mentioned in passing: “Anything worth remembering has been depicted on a stamp.” Using that logic it would seem as if USPS has not deemed Route 66 to be worth remembering. I find that to be tragic. For a highway that has had such an impact on the American psyche, it feels almost insulting.

Route 66 runs through Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and California. Historically, several big cities, including Chicago, St. Louis, Tulsa, Oklahoma City, Amarillo, Santa Fe, Albuquerque, Flagstaff and Los Angeles lie along the route, many of them owing their development and growth to the highway itself! So impactful has Route 66 been, that it has even been nicknamed the Main Street of America. Yet even with all this, is it not worthy of being on a stamp?

There is so much history tied up in Route 66, that it is a shame it has never received a philatelic recognition



[Editor’s Note: A “personalized” US Postage stamp from Zazzle featuring the Route 66 sign, ordered by Peter Elias in 2015. While it is not a “USPS” stamp, it is never-the-less valid US postage]



My Postcard From France

by Lee Coen

I purchased a nice post card with my favorite subject: Mozaffar-eddin-Shah Qajar. I completed an exhibit on this subject and continue to search for any material related to the King of Persia in the 1900's.



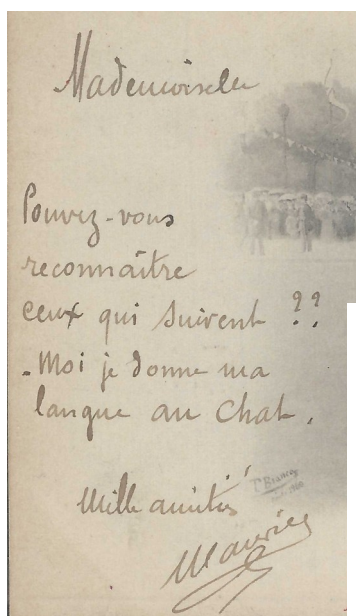
After some cropping of the post card, I have learned that the date is correct—1900. This is the time frame when the Shah was on his 'European tour' per se, to acquire more funds for his entourage and their travels.



Being a life long mechanic, industrial mechanic as well as an automobile mechanic, I noticed the headlights on this vehicle to include the fur coat on his lap. We can surmise that it must have been cold in September in France. I have traveled the world many times, just not France in September. Noticing the very nice flowers surrounding the vehicle to include the rims/wheels, I think he was driving in style for the time period.



On the front, left side as viewed, we find a short note to the receiver of this postcard:



Translation:

Mademoiselle,
Can you recognize those who follow??
-I give up (literally, "I give my tongue to the cat").
A thousand best wishes,
Mazries

After translating the words in French to English we learn that the sender, and probably most of France, aren't really fond of the visiting Shah from Persia/Iran. A quick search of the web, you can find many references and other post cards with the Shah's image on them, often being referred to as 'The cat'.

(Continued on page 17)

(Continued from page 16)



I paid USD \$30.00 for this card; it's a bit soiled, and this is the first card with this image I have found on the web offered for sale. I rarely look for postcards, but the subject matter caught my eye. It should find a home in my never-ending Scott #366 exhibit next to this set of stamps showing our main subject.



Keep a keen eye out when searching the web. Postcards can give you a small view into the past, no matter what country you collect.



Stamp of the Month

by Nisarg Sutaria

Finland

1885 10m Brown And Rose

Scott Nr 37, SG Nr 107, Mi Nr 26a, Fac Nr 26

2025 Scott Catalogue value (single) \$450



The 10m brown and rose is one of Finland Post's finest definitive stamps. Produced in 1885, it depicts the Finnish coat of arms. Only 7,500 of the 10m value were issued. Many of those were likely used on packages and subsequently discarded, making this a really rare stamp. Its design differs from the more popular 1890 10m brown and rose in that it contains the number "10" in all four corners.

On May 16, 2008, Spink auctioned a very lovely mint block of four 10m brown and rose stamps for \$1,450. It was uncommonly nicely centered and margined, very lightly hinged, and in extremely good condition.

Reference : <https://findyourstampsvalue.com/rarest-stamps/most-valuable-finnish-stamps>

A Brief Life - Lasting Appeal

The Parcel Post Stamps of the USA

by Ted Tyszka

In 1879, fourth-class mail service had been created for merchandise and other mailable matter weighing 1 pound or more, although “or more” only meant up to 4 pounds; anything heavier had to be shipped by private companies.

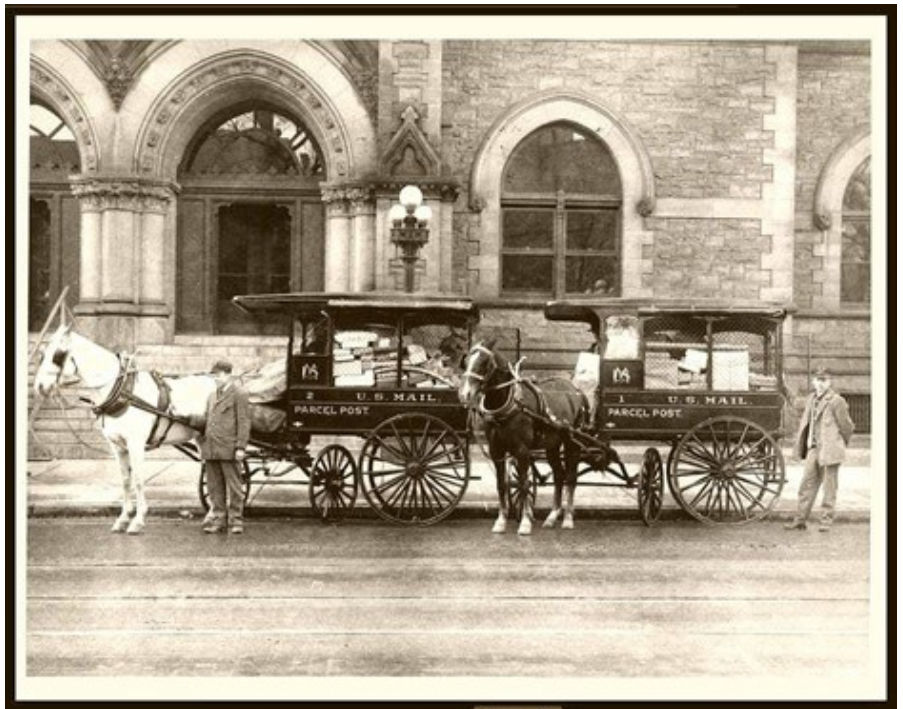
However, these companies focused their business on the profits to be made on high-volume routes between larger cities and towns well-served by the railroads. Many smaller rural communities were underserved or even neglected completely by these companies because the lower volume of delivery and long distances over poor roads proved to be unprofitable. Rural customers who did not happen to live near a railroad depot might be able to get delivery to their door, but only at exorbitantly high rates. Since the 1880s, rural Americans had been crying out for a national parcel post service. Unfortunately, moneyed interests stood in the way.

Four powerful and influential congressmen—Senators Platt and Depew of New York, Senator Aldrich of Rhode Island, and Representative Cannon of Illinois—were vehemently opposed to a parcel post service operated by the Post Office. Of course, their stance couldn’t have anything to do with the fact that all four had vested financial interests in private express companies or railroads; Platt’s father was even the director of the United States Express Company.

The arguments against parcel post advanced by the 4 congressmen were that there was not really a great demand for the service, and that, in arguing for the service, Postmaster General John Wanamaker was acting only in his own financial self-interest as an owner of a store in Philadelphia that would profit from the service. None of the opponents would acknowledge the fact that the loudest voices calling for a parcel post service were, in fact, rural Americans.

Due to the continuing active public backlash against the high prices and monopolistic practices of the private carriers, political pressure was brought to bear on Congress. By 1911, either through attrition of parcel post opponents or by changes of minds, congressional support for the private express companies had waned sufficiently that on August 24th, 1912, Congress finally passed a law providing for the delivery of packages by the Post Office.

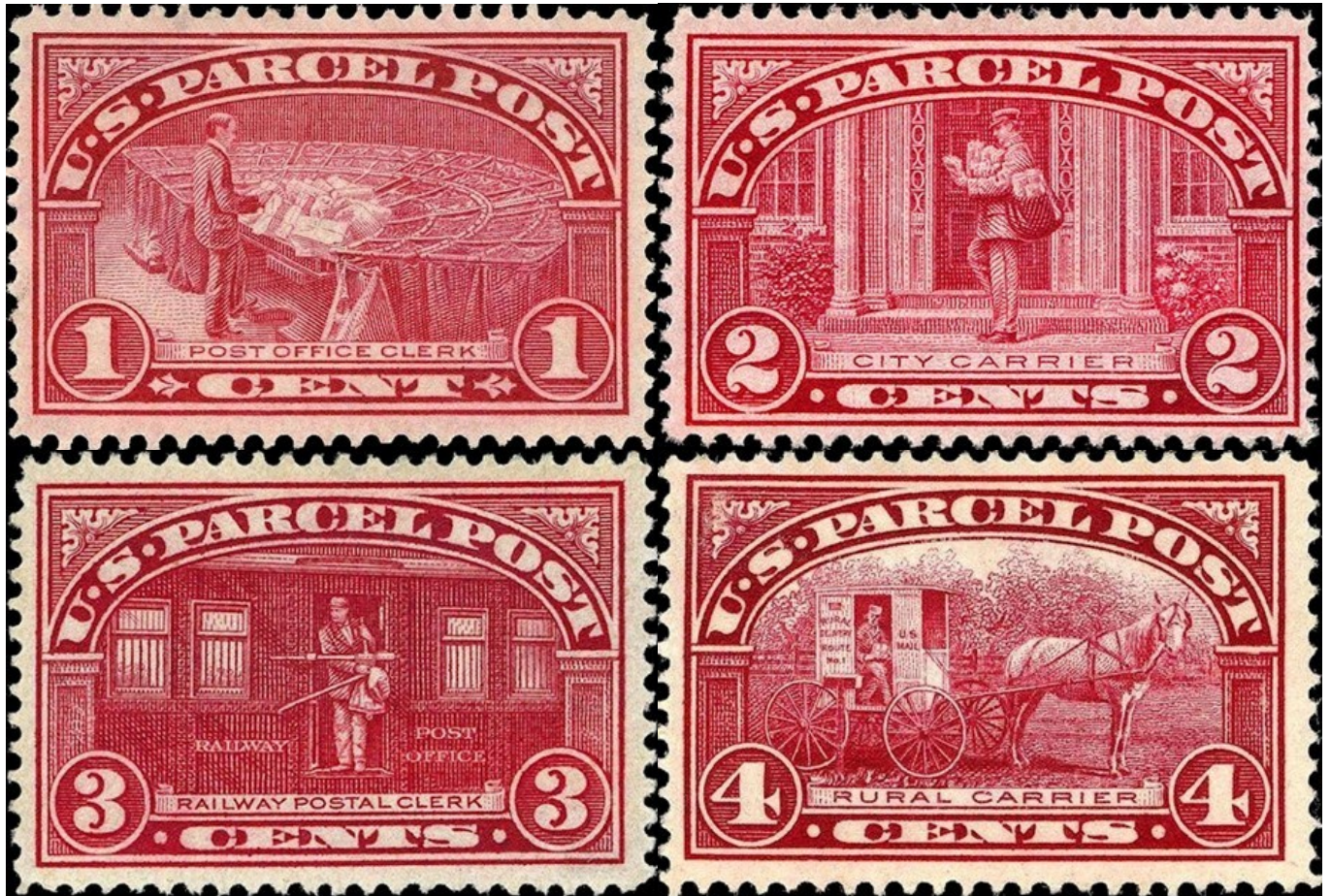
Just 4 months later, on January 1st, 1913, the United States Post Office Department inaugurated their new Parcel Post service for the delivery of packages at the 4th - class postage rate and with the intent of providing the same universal door-to-door delivery for packages that postal customers enjoyed with first-class letter mail. The



U. S. Mail Parcel Post delivery wagons, 1913.

Post Office raised their maximum weight limit to 11 pounds, and charged rates that were affordable for everyone. The service was immediately welcomed by postal customers and proved a boon to the mail-order giants Sears Roebuck and Montgomery Ward. With over four million packages handled in the first week of service, the popularity of Parcel Post quickly grew, and in the first 6 months, over 300 million parcels were shipped. 5 years after the introduction of Parcel Post, Sears Roebuck revenue had tripled.

To go along with this new service, the Post Office also produced a new class of stamps for Parcel Post. 12 stamps were produced, in denominations ranging from 1¢ to \$1. These stamps were required to be used on parcel mail; regular first-class stamps were prohibited. Likewise, parcel post stamps could not be used on regular mail.



Scott Nr Q1-Q4 (1913)

The first 4 stamps to be produced, in November 1912, were the 1¢, 2¢, 5¢, and 25¢ values. These were followed in December by the 4¢, 10¢, 15¢, 20¢, and 75¢ values. The original intent was for all 12 to be produced and ready for use by

Dates of Release:

1¢, "Railway Postal Clerk" - Nov 1912.

2¢, "City Carrier" - Nov 1912.

3¢, "Railway Postal Clerk" - Apr 5, 1913. The initial design reportedly focused too much on a mail truck rather than the postal clerk, leading to a redesign, delaying its release.

4¢, "Rural Carrier" - Dec 12, 1912.

5¢, "Mail Train" - Nov 1912.

10¢, "Steamship and Mail Tender" - Dec 9, 1912.

15¢, "Automobile Service" - Dec 16, 1912.

20¢, "Airplane Carrying Mail" - Dec 16, 1912.

25¢, "Manufacturing" - Nov 1912.

50¢, "Dairying in America" - Mar 13, 1913. The original design for the 50-cent stamp was intended to depict a steel mill, similar to the 25-cent stamp. However, this was changed to "Dairying in America," featuring dairy cows and a farm. This design change caused a delay, with it eventually being issued on March 13, 1913.

75¢, "Harvesting" - Dec 18, 1912.

\$1.00, "Fruit Growing" - Jan 3, 1913. The \$1.00 stamp was also subject to a redesign (though, I have been unable to glean the details of what exactly was wrong), delaying its release until January 3, 1913.

the start of service. However, three of the designs were deemed unsatisfactory (as noted in the chart on the previous page), and did not arrive until after service had begun, in 1913.

Due to Postmaster General Frank Hitchcock's desire to have a uniform design among all the stamps in the series, they were all printed in a carmine-rose color, with similar frames around the central vignette. They were larger than the regular first-class issues of the time, both being 26 mm high, but the parcel post stamp measuring 38 mm wide versus the 22 mm width of regular definitives.



Size comparison between regular definitives and parcel post stamps.

The 12 stamps, while not issued as separate sets, can be divided into 3 groups of 4 stamps with common themes:

- The 4 low-values depict postal workers.
- The middle 4 show mail transportation methods.
- The 4 high values depict some of the industries which would be utilizing Parcel Post service.



Scott Nr Q5-Q8 (1913)



Scott Nr Q9-Q12 (1913)

Three of the denominations—20¢, 25¢, and 75¢—were the first time to be seen on United States postage. An interesting point about the 20¢ “Airplane Carrying Mail” stamp is that it is the first US stamp to depict an airplane (a mail plane, at that), 6 years before the appearance of the first airmail stamp.

Of course, where there is postage, there is also postage due, and 5 Parcel Post Postage Due stamps were produced at the same time as the regular Parcel Post stamps. One might wonder why postage would be due, since mailing parcels required counter service by the sender. If the mailer did not have sufficient funds to pay the mailing rate, or if the cost of delivery of the parcel was intended to be paid by the recipient, a postage due stamp would be applied, to be paid by the addressee.



Scott Nr JQ1-JQ5 (1913)

As popular as Parcel Post grew to be with postal customers, so too did their unpopularity grow with postal clerks. The uniform color and the design similarities proved too difficult for postal clerks to easily distinguish at a glance; the stamps were too large for their intended space on small parcels; and the non-standard sheet size

was still being delivered to post offices as late as 1921. The 20¢ Parcel Post rate proved so useful, though, that a 20¢ denomination was added to the Washington-Franklin series of stamps in 1914, an ultramarine Ben Franklin, Scott Nr 419 (shown below).



Scott Nr 419 (1914) "Parcel Post" stamp.

of 180 stamps cut into panes of 45 made counting more difficult for accounting purposes versus the 50-stamp panes of regular stamps.

The outcry from postal clerks was sufficient for the Post Office Department to eliminate its prohibition against the use of regular stamps to mail parcels. A proposed plan to produce a new series sized the same as regular definitives and with all stamps in different colors did not come to fruition, and a mere 6 months after their introduction, Parcel Post stamps were dropped from further production. Remaining stamps were kept in stock to be utilized as regular postage, with the little-used high val-

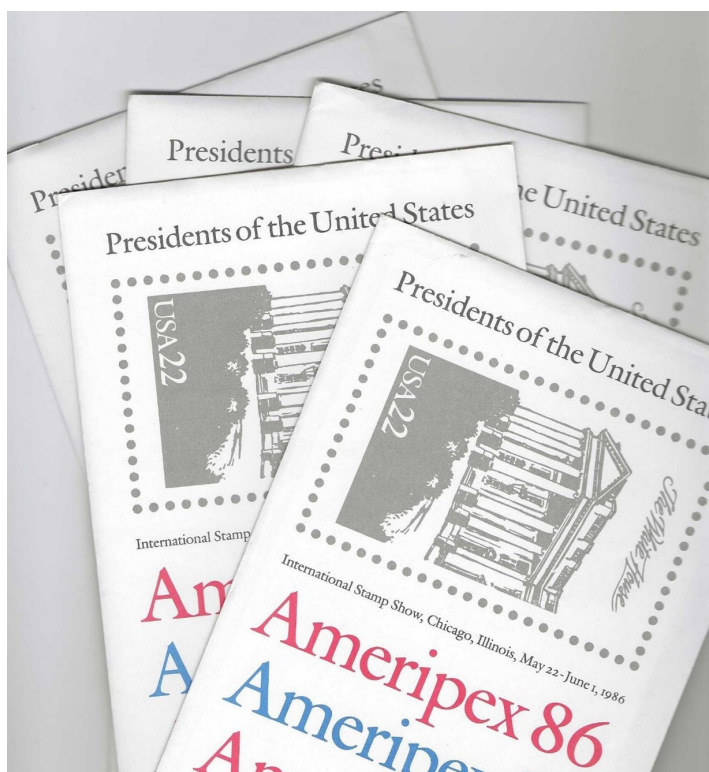
Likewise, with Parcel Post Postage Due stamps now obsolete, they were also pressed into use as regular postage due stamps. The 25¢ value saw particularly heavy use, as there was no corresponding postage due stamp in the regular series.

The Parcel Post stamps are popular among collectors, with their attractive designs printed in brilliant carmine-rose. Centering can be an issue with these stamps and the 45-stamp panes means there is a higher proportion of straight-edge copies compared to stamps printed in 50-stamp panes. But the appeal of these stamps has lasted far beyond their brief production period.



A Modern-day error?

by Lee Coen



Ameripex 86 packets.

We can all see the 'green' squares in the picture on the right, with an example of one sheet from the packets of four from 1986. A quick check of the web provides us with some number of sheets to scan through with our short-wave UV light. This number might stagger you as you search for this error:

5,825,050 of EACH sheet were printed and then tagged. There are 4 sheets in each packet. This makes a total of 23,300,200 sheets to scan/check for this error.

I rummaged through my 5 packets of mini sheets for this error in tagging. No luck on my end—typical. What makes this article intriguing is how many of the single stamps have been used as postage for letters in 1986? Based on the printing number mentioned above, millions and millions of these stamps are out there waiting to be found. They could be in the five cent bins at your local stamp club or in a box lot in an auction. The one question I have is how are these potential errors going to be valued? As collectors/dealers we all know that value is established by what someone will pay for an item.

Maybe these errors will sell for millions, who knows?

I received an email for LINNS stamp news. Another error has been found. This error is a tagging error during the tagging process. It got my attention. As someone that buys many collections/lots, I ran, yes ran, upstairs and dug through one of the many bins of stamps I still have to wade through. I found them!

So, what is the error? All collectors/sellers like to find errors; they tend to lead to more money to buy more stamps with. A tagging error? What is 'Tagging' on stamps?

"Tagging" on stamps refers to a fluorescent coating applied to the stamp, invisible to the naked eye but visible under ultraviolet (UV) light. This coating, often called a "taggant," allows machines to quickly and efficiently detect stamps on mail, aiding in the automation of mail sorting. It looks like the author of the LINNS article found some pretty nice errors-

[Linns.com](#) | [Scott Catalogue](#) | [Subscriptions](#) | [Amos Advantage](#) | [Digital Archive](#)




New tagging-omitted error discovered on U.S. 1986 Ameripex '86 souvenir sheet

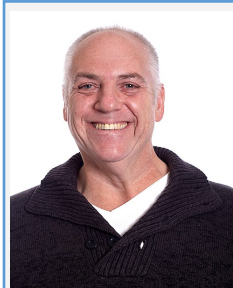
The stamps (from top to bottom) picturing presidents Warren G. Harding, Franklin D. Roosevelt and Dwight D. Eisenhower are completely missing the tagging.



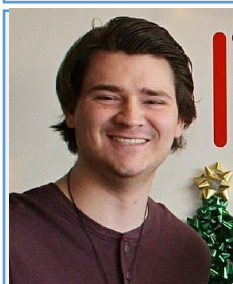
This Month's Contributors



Lee Coen: A 25 year APS member and former Chairman of the IPDA, Lee is a collector turned seller. Having traveled the world, due to his parents' work, he wound up, in 1978, in Iran, which, no doubt, explains his love of and specialization in the stamps of Persia. He is a disabled vet who served in the Gulf war. He is married to Shelley, and loves his cats and dogs and all animals, and is especially known for his fondness for rattlesnakes or not.



Lawrence Fisher: Lawrence Fisher is an award-winning philatelic exhibitor, and the author of the non-philatelic non-fiction book, "Kill Me Now!" He publishes the blog, "Stories Behind the Stamps," from where this month's article first appeared, as well as the YouTube channel of the same name. His "Stories Behind the Stamps" article first appeared on his blog of the same name and is reprinted here by permission. He also has a "Stories Behind the Stamps" YouTube channel. Visit his blog, here: [Stories Behind the Stamps](#) and see his YouTube channel here: [Stories Behind the Stamps](#)



Dan Golden: Arriving late to the philatelic game, Dan picked up the hobby at the age of 26 and fell in love with it immediately. A fan of mail from the day he was born, Dan has been collecting stamps since 2021. His collection includes stamps from the United States, Ireland, Germany, and Vatican City. His particular areas of philatelic interest include baseball, hockey, ships, maritime themes, maps, trains, architecture, and Christmas. Beyond stamps, he is a lover of sports, reading, and learning new things. Dan lives with his wife and daughter near Dallas, TX.



Nisarg Sutaria: Nisarg Sutaria hails from Ahmedabad, India. He has a BE in Mechanical Engineering from Nirma Institute of Technology, India (1999), and an MS in Manufacturing Engineering from Western Michigan University, USA (2001).

Philately is one of his hobbies, while horology (the study of the measurement of time) is another of his passions. You can contact him via email:

nisargsutaria78@gmail.com. Mobile and WhatsApp Phone Number: +91-9924248850



Ted Tyszka: Ted Tyszka started collecting in 1974 and after moving to Portugal in 2024 has narrowed his collecting focus to Germany and area, and Portugal and area. He also has a few topical interests: Literature and Fiction Writers; Classical Music; and Stamp Design Errors. He has [a Hip-Stamp store](#) which you can find by a store search for the name TATyszka or his user name "youpiao." He also has a [YouTube channel](#) and a [Substack newsletter](#), both also under the name, "Ted Talks Stamps."

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