



NEWSLETTER

Vol. 52 No.9 September 2024

The 1847 Issue: America's First Definitive

PART 2

Douglas Files



Legal business cover with two 10-cent 1847 stamps

Technical features of the 1847 issue

The general process used to create the 1847 issue was as follows: A die was created by engraving the image in reverse onto soft steel. The steel was hardened and then a soft steel transfer roll was repeatedly rocked across the image on the die. Then the transfer roll was applied to a plate 200 times which created reverse images on the plate. When the plate was inked and applied to paper, it created a large positive image. The paper was then gummed and could be cut into 200 individual stamps.

The paper used to print the first U.S. stamps was a bluish-tinted wove paper produced by Wilcox Ivy Mills in Chester, Pennsylvania. A thin gray paper was also used. For the 1850 print run a tough, thick, hard bluish paper was normally used but stamps with whitish paper also exist.

The dextrin gum on the 1847 issue was usually thin and transparent, and the gum bled into the paper. Nowadays original gum is crackly, but few examples of 1847 stamps with original gum still exist. The common gum of the time was made from burnt potato starch and gum Arabic. The mixture was heated and applied to the back of stamp sheets with a soft brush. The amount of heat applied changed the underlying color of the gum from whitish to amber to brownish.

The 1847 stamps were issued gummed but imperforate. At the post office the worker would use scissors to cut off the number of stamps a customer wanted.

Postal History

From 1845 to 1851 domestic postage rates cost 5 cents for a half ounce letter to travel less than 300 miles. If the distance to be travelled was more than 300 miles the rate was 10 cents. It may be worth noting that 10 cents in 1850 is equivalent to about \$4.50 today. It is interesting that no 2-cent stamp was issued in 1847.

"Drop" letters cost two cents and they were quite common at that time. That rate applied when a person dropped off their letter and the addressee picked — continued on page 4

Meetings / Activities

Meetings are held on 1st and 3rd Mondays (adjusted for holidays) at Christ Church 3440 Shroyer Rd Kettering OH 45429

For the Zoom invitation and link, please email daytonstampclub@gmail.com

Member's Socializing and Silent Auctions begin at 7:00 PM - Club Meeting & Programs begin at 7:30 PM Board Meetings begin at 7:00 PM.

Sep 2—No Meeting—Labor Day Holiday - Church Closed.

Sep 9— Board Meeting—AIRPEX Review

Sep 14— TUSCOPEX2024 Stamp Show, Tuscora Stamp Club, New Philadelphia Park Pavilion, 161 Tuscora Ave. NW, New Philadelphia, slworham@frontier.com.

Sep 16—Club Meeting & Program - In Person & Zoom CLUB AUCTION #5

Sep 20-22 — INDYPEX 2024, Hendricks Co. Fairgrounds, 1900 E. Main St., Danville IN 46122 Hrs Fri 10-5, Sat 10-5 & Sun 10-3, info@indianastampclub.org

Sep 23 - 4th Monday; Club Meeting & Program - In Person & Zoom—Duck Stamps; DSC Member Speaker - Pat Westby.

Oct 7—Club Meeting & Program - In Person & Zoom; My Favorite Stamp from My Birth Decade - Member Participation - 4-6 Minutes

Oct 14—Board Meeting.

Oct 21—Club Meeting & Program - In Person & Zoom How to Prepare Collection for Disposing of Collection - Video & Handouts.

Nov 4 - Club Meeting & Program - In Person & Zoom; CLUB AUCTION #6

Nov 11— Board Meeting; Set 2024 calendar & budget review.

Nov 18 - SILENT AUCTION 7:00-7:25PM; Club Meeting & Program - Club Election for 2025; Christmas Seals Exhibit / Discussion with Bill Streisel, Doug Files, et al

Dec 2—Holiday/PEX Party Start at Church— Dinner Party At Church

Dec 9—Board Meeting

Dec 16—No meeting—Enjoy the Holiday Season!

DSC NEWSLETTER

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Danzig "Luposta 1932"

The Greatest Airmail Exhibition Ever

By Jeff Fisher

I recently bought a Zeppelin cover/postcard which on one side had a graphic advert for an event in Danzig from 23 to 31 July 1932. The front side had a series of Danzig airmail

stamps that were overprinted as well as a Zeppelin special cancel for the round trip from Danzig. It also has a cancellation from a place called Ronne. I was very curious about the ad and so after a consultation with Mr. Google I found out some interesting facts.

First of all, the Luposta is a contraction of German meaning Airmail Exhibition and the event was a huge 9 day exhibition.

In the early 1930s Danzig got the idea from similar French events to host an air mail exhibition. The exhibition was touted as a way to promote tourism and the city. The event was

planned for the end of July 1932 with philatelic competitions, stamp fairs, stamp auctions as well as displays from various aircraft manufacturers and post offices.

The event culminated with a visit from the LZ127 Graf Zeppelin. One aspect to raise money for the exhibition the organizers arranged a lottery selling tickets with the winner receiving a flight on the Graf Zeppelin. The flight itself was a one day affair with



the Graf Zeppelin flying out over the Baltic Sea to Sweden and returning over the Danish island of Bornholm.

Bornholm is a large island located between Sweden and Danzig in the Baltic Sea. Over the town of Ronne which is the largest on the island, the Graf Zeppelin flew low and dropped mail that had been posted to locations in Sweden and, like my postcard, to Copenhagen, Denmark. The forwarded mail like mine was canceled in Ronne.

Danzig itself has an interesting place in history. It was often in and out of various European spheres of influence especially that of Germany (Prussia) and Poland. Also France when, during the Napoleon period, Napoleon declared Danzig a semi-independent state of the French Empire and named it the Free City of Danzig. It was also in and out of Poland as Poland was also in and out as a country. Danzig founded in the 10th century by the Polish ruler, was an important deep water port that became very prosperous and as such was always important to the various political factions.

Taken over by Prussia in the late 18th century, it was German until WWI. After WWI, Danzig was claimed by Poland and thus lost to Germany. However, in 1920, The League of Nations in the Treaty of Versailles, created the Free City of Danzig, an independent city-state, leaving it out of Poland. Danzig was then annexed again by Germany in 1939 but finally became part of Poland in the Potsdam Agreement of 1945. Today Danzig is known as Gdansk.

It is truly amazing what one can learn from a simple postcard!



Change of September Dayton Stamp Club Meetings

NO MEETING September 2 —Labor Day

September 9 –DSC Board meeting

September 16—DSC Meeting and Auction

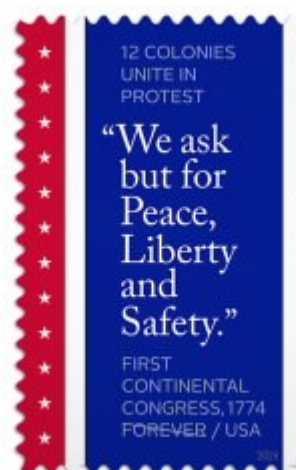
September 23—DSC Meeting and Program
Duck Stamps



New September USPS Releases



Sept. 14. Holiday Joy Forever booklet



Sept. 5. First Continental Congress 1774. Forever stamps pane of 20.



Sept. 14. Hanukkah Forever stamps, pane of 20.



Sept. 14. Christmas Madonna and Child Forever stamps, pane of 20.



Sept. 25. Kwanzaa Forever stamps, pane of 20.

— continued from page 1; Am.'s 1st Definitive

it up at the post office. Thus all the post office had to do in this case was to store the letter until the recipient showed up to get it. When a business sent out circulars – 1840s junk mail – it paid 3 cents each. It was much harder to transport a letter from the East Coast to the West Coast in those years so the rate for that was 40 cents per half ounce (Or roughly \$18.00 in today's money, making recent USPS rate increases not seem so bad). Ten covers with Scott #1 and #2 are known today which travelled to California and two are known which originated in California and travelled to the Eastern U.S. Fewer than 20 covers exist where both the 5-cent and the 10-cent stamps were used on the same envelope.

The Post Office Department never authorized the 1847 stamps to be bisected and used on mail, but this may have occurred. Experts are uncertain if any of the bisect covers which exist are genuine.

As mentioned above, in the 1840s the Post Office Department issued official killer cancels to post offices which brought in more than \$300.00 a year in revenue. Smaller offices just used pens to cancel stamps. Most of the handstamps in use in the late 1840s were made by the B. F. Chambers Company. Their design was usually a circled 7-bar grid (that is, a circle with 7 bars across it) but some variations occurred. For example Norwich, Connecticut used 4-bar and 5-bar grid cancels. Waukegan, Illinois precancelled stamps with a red 6-bar grid cancel. Some cities in New York used 8 or 9-bar grids and Brattleboro, Vermont used a 13-bar grid. Some postmasters struck stamps twice to create a crisscross pattern. Several other non-grid pattern cancels were used in cities across the nation. For example Pontiac, Michigan employed a dotted open grid and Tallahassee, Florida used a small green dotted grid cancel. Fancy killer cancels were also used such as the well-known Binghamton, NY herringbone and the St. Johnsbury, Vermont scarab.



Most cancels in the late 1840s were struck with black, red or blue ink, though brown, pink, violet and green inks were used in some towns. Covers from California, Florida, Texas and Iowa were scarce in the 1840s so these are highly sought. Auxiliary markings can also render an 1847 cover more desirable to collectors. Several covers bearing the stamps from this issue exist with railroad and waterway markings (such as "steamboat"). There are also about 200 express mail covers bearing stamps from this time period.

Approximately 300 1847 covers exist which were sent from the U.S. to Canada and 14 of these bear both U.S. and Canadian stamps – after Canada be-



gan to issue stamps in 1851. This was before the birth of the Universal Postal Union so in general mailers would pay for the postage in both nations or else send their mail requiring postage due at the destination. However, a special treaty between the U.S. and Canada allowed for all the postage in both countries to be paid in U.S. stamps only.

Around 200 covers are known with 1847 stamps paying for a letter to travel to Europe. Most of these were sent to Great Britain, France or what is now Germany. For mail traveling from the United States to Great Britain, the British government began a little fracas in 1847. They wanted Americans to use the British ship line (Cunard) instead of the American one (Ocean Line). So the British post office refused to accept prepayment of overseas mail unless it travelled by the Cunard Line. Otherwise they double charged a 24-cent or 29-cent rate for letters travelling on American ships. After the U.S. retaliated in 1848 a treaty was concluded between the two nations, establishing a reduced rate of 5 cents for mail travelling from either nation to the other. Printed matter rates (for business circulars) were only 2 cents per 2 ounces under the treaty.

Letters were also sent from the U.S. to other countries at this time and some of these bear several 1847 stamps. The rate to China, for example was 45 cents and a special rate to Cuba was 12.5 cents. In July the U.S. dispatch agent at Panama received some 1847 stamps and these were applied to mail travelling across Panama. (Note: This mail traveled by land. The Panama Canal was only finished in 1914.)

During the four-year period of use of the 1847 stamps the use of stamps on letters was still a novelty for Americans. In fact, experts estimate that during this time fewer than 2% of mail bore stamps. At the start of the 1850s the vast majority of letters were still stampless. Still, philatelic author Bob Allen estimates that 3.6 million 5-cent stamps and more than 850,000 10-cent stamps were issued, counting all five printings.



The 1847 stamps were declared no longer valid for postage in July 1851. The main reason for this was that they no longer paid for any common postal rate. The first class rate had been decreased to 3 cents for a half ounce pre-paid letter travelling less than 3000 miles. It should be noted, however, that mail could still be sent stampless but the rate to *receive* a letter which had not been pre-paid was still 5 cents. Thus in the early 1850s there was a 2-cent penalty for not pre-paying for postage. In 1855 stamps were made mandatory on mail. This has remained true into the 21st century. The devaluation of the 1847 issue represents one of only two times stamps have been de-

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Postage Stamp Coloring Pages

by Cary Kaufman

Those of us who have young grandchildren or even great-grandchildren, are often looking for fun ways to introduce stamps and stamp collecting to them. We want things that will grab and hold their attention and that they can relate to. There is an online site that might just have a fun and easy way to do that.

Blue Bonkers, reachable on the internet, offers free printable, kids Activity sheets and coloring pages. Included is their collection of Philatelic Stamp coloring sheets. Their coloring pages are a fun way to color and learn about people, events, history, and more. Come back often to see additional stamp coloring sheets. They will be adding more as time goes on. Remember to print out extra coloring and activity sheets for those driving trips! To reach the site, copy the following url into your internet browser: http://www.activity-sheets.com/coloring_page/stamps/ If you haven't done it before, go to Google.com on your computer and type the url into the search box as shown below (you do not have to include <http://www>).



Example from BlueBonkers



Thank you, for sharing Venice Stamp Club



— continued from page 4; Am's 1st Definitive valued in the United States. The other time was at the beginning of the Civil War when government leaders wanted to prevent Confederates from using existing stamps they had in Southern post offices.

A new stamp series was issued in 1851 and people could exchange their old stamps for ones from the new series from July through September of that year.



Word of the demonetization of the stamps was slow to circulate so many of the old series were still used on mail.

The plates used to print the 1847 stamps were officially destroyed on December 12, 1851 in the presence of the postmaster of New York City. Around the time of the devaluation, the remaining copies of #1 and #2 were destroyed. According to post office records, 688,000 five-cent stamps and 159,000 10-cent stamps were incinerated in 1851.

Reprints

The 1851 series was not produced by the Rawdon, Wright, Hatch and Edson company, which had declined to bid on the new contract. Although the plates for the 1847 stamps had been destroyed, the transfer rolls may not have been. This is probably how the American Bank Note Company – the successor firm to Rawdon, Wright, Hatch and Edson – produced reprints of the original stamps in 1858, 1878 and 1895. When the U.S. Post Office commissioned official reprints of the first issue in 1875 they created a new die at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. The invoice for the new die – which contained both stamps – still exists and 11,450 reprints of the 5-cent Franklin and 10,000 reprints of the 10-cent Washington were produced. It may be misleading that Scott assigned numbers 3 and 4 to these reprints because they were never intended for use as postage stamps and they were not the 3rd and 4th stamps to be produced. Instead numbers 3 and 4 were sold only by special order from the post office and they were never valid for use on mail. One reason for the reprints was that the Centennial Expo was taking place in Philadelphia in 1876 and the post office wanted to display a copy of every stamp which the United States had issued up to that point.

On June 25, 1895 the reprint plates and the reprint transfer rolls were both destroyed by order of postal officials. The die used to make the plates, however, still exists today. It was used several more times to print proofs. For example in September 1881 the reprint die was used to print Atlanta Cotton Exposition proofs, and in 1903 it was used for Pan-Pacific proofs. This reprint die was used again in 1947 to

create the familiar centennial souvenir sheet (Scott #947).

Philately

Philatelists expect that around 5% of the 1847 stamps which were issued still survive in collections. Because of the intricate engraving of this issue, the stamps have not been often forged, with the exception that the fraudster Jean de Sperati produced a strong forgery of the 10-cent Washington. However he printed his forgeries by offset printing instead of the gravure printing used for the genuine stamps. About 15,000 covers bearing the 5-cent stamp and 3,500 with the 10-cent stamp still exist. However it is estimated that five to ten percent of these covers may be fake.

In the 2020s very fine used copies of Scott #1 sell for around \$500.00 and copies of #2 in the same condition retail for three times as much. Very fine unused #1's can command upwards of \$3000.00 and unused #2's can go for as much as \$20,000.00. Covers with the 1847 stamps used in 1847 are quite scarce and collectors particularly seek these out.

Plating

Elliott Perry "plated" the 10-cent 1847 stamp and reported what he had found in 1924 (see the Collector's Club Philatelist magazine). This means that he examined minute details of each stamp to find which position on the plate each occupied. Recall that the stamps were printed in sheets of 200, but Perry found 212 varieties of the 10-cent stamp. This meant that 200 original varieties were printed. Then 12 stamp dies on the plates were re-touched to strengthen framelines. The 5-cent 1847 stamp may have been plated more recently.



1848 cover bearing a strip of 6 10-cent Washington stamps

This 1848 cover was sent by Benjamin Rush of Philadelphia to his father who was serving as the American Ambassador to France. It shows a strip of 6 10-cent Washington stamps from the 1847 series. The cover was carried on the railroad from Philadelphia to New York City. Then it embarked on the

British Royal Mail Ship Europa, travelling from New York to Liverpool, England. From there, it went by rail to Dover, England and then took a ferry across to Boulogne, France. In France it took its third train ride to get to Paris, only about two weeks after it was mailed.

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The cover in the accompanying photo is the only



1848 Hyde Park, NY to England cover bearing the 5-cent Franklin stamp.

known one from Hyde Park, New York that has an 1847 stamp. This cover traveled from Hyde Park to New York City for 5 cents. Then it went aboard the British steamer Acadia to Liverpool, England. The

recipient had to pay 1 shilling to the British post office for the letter's trip across the Atlantic Ocean and inland postage. Soon after this cover was sent the United States and the United Kingdom concluded an 1849 treaty where all postage could be prepaid in the country of origin for mail travelling between the U.S. and the U.K.

Overview

The 1847 series still garners much interest nearly two centuries after its appearance. By studying these stamps we can learn about printing processes, stamp production, postal history and the history of stamp collecting. These stamps are too expensive for many collectors to own, but they still hold an allure. They were the first. They are beautifully engraved. And they travelled in interesting ways on letters. We could do worse than to study this intriguing issue.

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NO MORE PRINTED LINN'S STAMP NEWS

"Philatelic Foreword" by Jay Bigalke

This week's issue of *Linn's Stamp News* marks the moment it will be produced only in a digital format. The final print edition, the 5,000th issue, is currently with the printer and operating under a slight delay.

Scott Stamp Monthly, which resumed in March 2023, will continue to be available as a print product with a digital edition. Those with current *Linn's* print-only subscriptions will have their SSM subscription extended, or be given a credit toward purchases on [AmosAdvantage.com](https://www.AmosAdvantage.com).

In a memo to staff members, Amos Media CEO Rick Amos attributed this decision to a bigger focus on digital and website content.

September 27 – 28 2024

Ohio Precancel Club (OPC) Fall Gathering:

McKinley Fraternal Order of Eagles
Aerie 2370, 5024 Monticello Ave
NW, Canton, Ohio 44708.



Friday 9am-9pm and Saturday 9am-3pm.

Four Dealers expected with millions of precancels.

The facility is large, well lit and plenty of tables with electricity available for computers.

Access to the venue is direct walk-in with no steps.

Parking and admission is free.

Plenty of reasonably priced lodging in the area.

The OPC business meeting will be at 2pm on Friday.

For more information, contact:

Bill Latchic at 740-260-2891 or

Marty Adams, martyprecancel@gmail.com

Change of September Dayton Stamp Club Meetings

NO MEETING September 2 —Labor Day

September 9 —DSC Board meeting

September 16—DSC Meeting and Auction

September 23—DSC Meeting and Program— Duck Stamps

Great American ★2024★ COIN & COLLECTIBLES SHOW

**September 11-14,
2024**

**Tampa Convention Center
333 S Franklin St, Tampa,**

