

Early U.S. First Day Covers

By Douglas Files

Many of our club's members are no doubt familiar with modern U.S. first day covers (FDCs). We see them commonly in the philatelic marketplace, and many collectors exist. For those who are not familiar, first day covers are envelopes bearing a stamp, cancelled on the first day the stamp was issued by the U.S. Postal Service. Since the 1930s many of these FDCs have borne a cachet, that is, a design printed on the left side of the envelope. For some stamp issues hundreds of different cachets exist, and catalogues list these. In addition, many different cancellations have been used for some stamp issues.

Some philatelists collect FDC's cancelled in different cities on the day of issue of the stamp. Additionally, in the 21st century, both black cancels and colored cancels are available for most issues.

All the described features of first day covers bear further scrutiny but the current article will limit itself to U.S. FDCs prior to 1925. In the early years, not too many collectors prepared and saved these envelopes, so they are

relatively scarce and expensive.

The Scott Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps has usually carried listings for first day covers, for as many stamps as are known to have first day covers. For some early issues no cover cancelled on the date of issuance is known to exist.

Also, many U.S. stamps from the 1800s were available in Washington, DC before they could be obtained in other cities. However, other stamps were issued to many cities and the postmasters were instructed to not sell the stamps until a certain date. Thus, first day covers for some stamps can be

found from various American cities.

Values are listed in the Scott Specialized Catalogue by the Scott number of the stamp involved. The legend of the book informs the reader that Scott values are for covers in very fine condition, with readable post-

marks and with sound stamps, not off-center. Generally un-addressed first day covers sell for more than addressed ones,
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A British penny black cover, used on the first day of sale. In 2006 it sold for \$45,000 at auction. Image by General Post Office of the United Kingdom - Image [1] linked on this webpage, Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=14699362>

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.

APRIL

4/7 My Biggest Stamp Mess with Photo - Member Participation 4-6 Minutes

4/14 Board Meeting

4/21 **AUCTION #3 - Regular Member Auction**

MAY

5/2-3 Ohio Precancel Club (OPC) SPRING Gathering. McKinley Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie 2370, 5024 Monticello Ave NW, Canton HRS: Fr 9am-9p Sat 9am-3pm.

5/5 Rattlesnake Island Post DSC Member Speaker - Jack Matheney

5/12 Board Meeting

5/19 *****SILENT AUCTION 7-7:20PM***** Red, White, and Blue item from your Collection

Member Participation 4-6 minutes

JUNE

6/2 **>>Club CASH Auction PREVIEW 7:00-7:25PM<<** International Baseball

DSC Member Speaker - Joe Shearer

6/9 Board Meeting

6/16 **AUCTION #4 - Club CASH Auction**

JULY

7/7 German Influence on Airmail to South America DSC Member Speaker - Jeff Fisher

7/14 Board Meeting

7/21 6:30PM Picnic at Church Picnic Shelter

AUGUST

Aug 1&2—Greater Cincinnati Philatelic Society Bourse CINPEX 2025, Friday and Saturday Hrs: noon to 6pm and

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DSC NEWSLETTER

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Greg Brown, photographer

How Many Stamps are in a Coil Strip

With two stamp designs and a plate number interval at an odd number of 27, it's to be expected that a stamp design will repeat. And that is the case for the new United States nondenominated (10¢) American Vistas coil stamps issued Feb. 21.

Shown below is a strip of seven stamps starting with the mountains design followed by the sailboat design. The same sequence repeats with a plate number on the mountains stamp, the third stamp from the left on the strip. This is followed by two mountains stamps and then a sailboat stamp at the end of the strip.

Thankfully this sequencing is actually a nonissue for the Scott catalog editors. Historically for stamp issues with two designs, catalog editors only list a strip of

five with the plate number in the center.

And it also works for this coil stamp issue. With just a strip of five, a balance of each design is achieved with the three mountains stamps interspersed with two sailboat stamps. The mountains stamp with the plate number is in the middle of the strip.

The author figured it was worth writing this up for our readers because Stamp Fulfillment Services in Kansas City, Mo., is selling strips of the coil stamps in the full 27-stamp plate number interval, which is brilliant. This allows collectors to see and possibly collect a longer strip that includes this odd stamp sequencing quirk found with some coil issues. Repost from *LINN'S STAMP NEWS* March 24, 2025 by Jay Bigalke



A strip of seven United States nondenominated (10¢) American Vistas coil stamps. Because of an even number of designs and an odd plate number interval, one design on the coil strip repeats, as shown with the fifth and sixth stamps from the left on the strip. Historically for stamp issues with two designs, catalog editors only list a strip of five with the plate number in the center. The mountain stamp with the plate number is in the middle of the strip of five stamps.

— continued from page 1 Early first day cover and early FDCs with cachets also command a premium in the philatelic marketplace. The legend also warns the reader that the prices listed are for covers cancelled on the date of issuance, not *before* it. Because some postmasters erroneously sold stamps before their issuance date, many covers exist with cancellations before the official date they should have been placed on sale. Covers cancelled before the issuance date are often less valuable to collectors than those cancelled on the official date.

Classic U.S. stamp first day covers can command high prices at auction. Moreover, first day covers from before 1920 exist in such small quantities that all prices are listed by Scott in italics. This means that the items so seldom come up at auction that the editors

cannot be certain about prices. The first FDC listed in Scott is for the 1-cent blue stamp issued July 1, 1851. It was cancelled in Boston, Massachusetts and the first day cover carries a value of \$120,000.00. (The author does not have one in his collection). A single first day cover is known for Scott numbers 210 and 211 (both on the same envelope) and this unique item carries an estimated value of \$50,000.00. First day covers for the Columbian Exposition stamps range from \$4,500.00 for the 2-cent to \$65,000.00 for the \$2.00 value. A notation mentions that since January 1st was a Sunday, January 2nd is also accepted as an alternate date of issuance for the Columbian commemoratives. The Trans-Mississippi Expo, Pan Amer-

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Volunteer Work Week: Registration Open

Volunteer Work Week 2025 will take place from July 14 to July 18, 2025 at the American Philatelic Center in Bellefonte, PA. The week begins on Monday at 9 a.m. with a welcome reception, followed by a tour of the APC. Participants will then work on a project in an assigned department. The amount of time and number of days spent volunteering are up to each participant. Come for the week, come for a day — we look forward to working with you! [Click here](#)

April 9: Danish Royal Family Sex Scandal (1768-1772) with Henrik and Iva Mourtisen (Sponsored by the [Collectors Club of New York](#)) [Click here to register](#)

April 23: Stamp Act of 1765-Instructions for the Distributors with Roger Brody (Sponsored by the [Collectors Club of New York](#)) [Click here to register](#)

April 30: Deadline for exhibit entry forms for SAVPEX 2025 (Sponsored by The Philatelic Society of the Orange Free State under the auspices of the [Philatelic Federation of South Africa](#)) [Click here to register](#)

Meetings / Activities

(Continued from page 1)

10am to 4pm. United Methodist Church in Monfort Heights, 3682 West Fork Rd. Cincinnati 45247.

8/4 My Other Hobby - Member Participation - 4-6 minutes

8/11 Board Meeting AIRPEX Preview

8/18 Panel of DSC Members Discuss

What and Why They Collect Foreign

Stamps by DSC Member Carol Costa

Aug 22-23 (Fri-Sat) ****AIRPEX @ IBEW Hall (F:12-6pm; Sa:10am-4pm)****

SEPTEMBER

9/1 No Meeting Labor Day Holiday - Church Closed

9/8 Board Meeting AIRPEX Review

9/15 **AUCTION #5 - Regular Member Auction**

9/29* 5th Monday Stamp/Cover That Illustrates an Item on My Bucket List (or would, if I had a one) Member Participation - 4-6 minutes

OCTOBER

10/6 **>>Club CASH Auction PREVIEW**

7:00-7:25PM<< Mineral & Fossil

Stamps DSC Member Speaker - Greg Brown and Pat Westby

10/13 Board Meeting

10/20 **AUCTION #6 - Club CASH Auction**

NOVEMBER

11/3 *****SILENT AUCTION 7:00-**

7:20PM*** Round-Table Discussions on Buying & Selling via APS, eBay, & Hip-Stamp

11/10 Board Meeting Set 2025 calendar & budget review

11/17 Club Election for 2025 & How to Evaluate (or Research) a US Cover DSC Member Speakers - Dennis Callison & Doug File

DECEMBER

12/1 HolidayPEX Party Starts at 6:30 pm

pm at Church Dinner Party at Church

12/8** 2nd Monday **AUCTION #7 - Auction** - Type TBD

12/15** 3rd Monday Board Meeting

Revised: 3/1/2025

April Dayton Stamp Club Meetings

April 7 — Program: My Biggest Stamp Mess with Photo—Member Participation

April 14 — Board Meeting

April 21 — [AUCTION #3—Regular Member Auction](#)

What was the first commemorative postage stamp issued?

In 1923, the newly forged country of Iraq issued a series of stamps high-lighting key features. Every philatelist knows that the first postage stamp in the world was the Penny Black -- a one-penny stamp from Great Britain in 1840 (Scott #1). But a question to which many in philately might not have a quick answer forthcoming is this one: What was the first commemorative postage stamp issued?

The stamp wasn't from Great Britain, the United States, Brazil, or any early stamp-producing nation. The first commemorative stamp -- or so is claimed by some -- was reddish, featured an image of a train, was denominated in five centavos, and came from the South American country of Peru in 1871.

Here's the story: In the spring of 1851, a railroad was opened in Peru. The train set out from Lima (Peru's largest city) and travelled about 10 miles to Callao, which was a significant port city at the time. The names of those cities -- Lima and Callao— are inscribed on the stamp (on the top and right sides respectively). An additional city named Chorrillos is named on the stamp, and that seaside resort town would be the site of a future railroad station later in the decade.

Four locomotives (the Callao, the Lima, the Castilla, and the Oyague) were put into active service for this train route. The trains were built in the United Kingdom and shipped to their South

American home. They were built by Robert Stephenson Limited, a company with a large footprint in 19th-century South America.



The five-centavo "Trencito" (little train) stamp of Peru from 1871 (Scott #19) — it is considered by some to be the first commemorative stamp in the world in Peru.

With the launch of this railway service in 1851 and the opening of a second additional railway to Chorrillos (and other locations) in 1858, train service in Peru (and indeed throughout South America) was off to the beginning of a very successful expansion.

In 1869, special stamps were ordered to be used to service mail between the cities along the railway line. Then, in 1871, a new stamp was issued, coincidentally, on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the establishment of

that first railway in Peru (Scott #19). The stamp paid the postage rate for mail shipped by way of this train line. The stamp, nicknamed "Trencito" ("little train") depicts a left-facing locomotive engine along with the coat of arms below it. Names of three cities (Lima, Callao, and Chorrillos) are imprinted on the margins, with a five-centavo denomination at the bottom margin. Of note, on a good copy of the stamp one can also see the details on the coat of arms: a llama, a native tree, and a cornucopia, beneath which are the words "Porte Franco" (franked mail). The stamp is found in various shades, but Scott only lists two shades: scarlet (Scott #19) and pale red (#19a).

—continued on page 5

— continued from page 4 — First commemorative postage stamp

So, why doesn't everyone immediately note this as the first commemorative stamp, the way they note the Penny Black as the first postage stamp? There is a good reason for this: the matter is far from settled. While some consider this stamp "the first commemorative stamp," many do not. They say that the stamp was issued in 1871 not to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the railroad, but rather, coincidentally, to provide postage for the new rate that went into effect.



An example of a Trentino stamp of Peru on a letter — this one being sent to Valparaíso, Peru by way of the railway established in the Lima area in 1851.

So, while every stamp tells a story, the story this stamp tells -- while filled with facts -- leads different folks in philately to different conclusions. Commemorative or not-Commemorative -- that is the question. That being said, by retrospection, the stamp certainly does highlight the year of the 20th anniversary of the railway, and its imagery of the train shows its focus on that railway. So, while this stamp may or may not be the first commemorative stamp in the world, there is at least some claim — even if by way of hindsight.—repost from *Brandywine Valley Stamp Club* newsletter March 2025.

DAYTON STAMP CLUB

REQUESTS:

- NEW Members
WELCOME
- MORE Newsletter
ARTICLES
- ADDITIONAL
Auction ITEMS

US Postal Service Quote

Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds. While the Postal Service has no official motto, the popular belief that it does is a tribute to America's postal workers.



REQUEST for information!

TUDOR HOUSE

On Independence Day 1976, at the post office parking lot in Dayton, I purchased an envelope with a cover. It was from a company here in Dayton, Tudor House. Over time, I collected their first day covers. I sold off all other brands. Now, I collect Tudor House exclusively.

At some point, they stopped producing covers and, I assume, went out of business.

Tudor House was a member of the Dayton Stamp Club. Unfortunately, that is about all I know about the organization and nothing about its owners. There is no information online that I can find.

If anyone has information on Tudor House, George would appreciate hearing from you!

George Hummel
tagguy176@aol.com

April New Stamps

Historic Battlefields

Stamps celebrating historic battlefields of the American Revolution to be issued April 16. The 15 United States non-denominated (73¢) forever commemorative stamps, three each: Battle of Lexington & Concord, Battle of Bunker Hill, Battle of Trenton, Battles of Saratoga, and Battle of Yorktown. Each honoring historic battlefields of the American Revolution. The pane off 15 stamps memorializes five turning points in the fight for American independence the Postal Service said. "Watercolor paintings depicting scenes of five battles appear along side photographs of sites involved in each battle."



Dahlias



The 10 Dahlias forever stamps in a double-sided pane of 20 and coils of 3,000 and 10,000 will be issued April 25 at the Westpex stamp show in Burlingame, Calif.

Pow wows



Pow wows Forever Stamps April 25. Four (73c) forever commemorative stamps : Crow Hop, Women's Traditional, Women's Fancy Shawl, and Men's Hoop, pane of 20.

— continued from page 3 —Early first day cover
ican Expo and Louisiana Purchase
Expo issues all garner high prices as
well, with the high-denomination
FDCs ranging from \$30,000.00 to
\$172,500.00.

The first U.S. first day cover listed for less than \$1000.00 in Scott is the 1909 Lincoln issue (Scott #367). The first ones under \$100.00 are for various stamps from the 1922-1926 definitive issue. Several of these definitives have FDCs which can be found in sufficient quantities to keep the prices in the lower than \$100.00 range.

References

First Day Covers, Scott Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps, 2017, Amos Publishing, Sidney, Ohio

First Day of issue, Wikipedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First_day_of_issue, accessed 2 Dec 2024

**MONDAY
APRIL 7
MY BIGGEST STAMP
MESS
WITH PHOTO
MEMBER PARTICIPATION**

The Trans-Mississippi Issue of 1898

by Neil Schneider

This is the story of the many steps taken to produce the Trans-Mississippi Issues. Edward Rosewater, publisher of the Omaha Daily Bee, was involved from the beginning. The stamps were originally intended to be bicolor. However, the explosion of the U.S.S. Maine in Havana Harbor February 16, 1898, and the ensuing Spanish American war intervened. Congress quickly imposed a series of war taxes. The demand for tax stamps from the Bureau of Engraving increased geometrically. Bicolor stamps would have required twice the press time and so the decision was made to scrap the bicolor design and print them all in one color.

The stamps were available at the Post Office starting June 17, 1899. They were unpopular with the philatelic press. One influential philatelist, John N Luff, wrote a scathing review in Meekels's Weekly Stamp News, which is quoted in the book.

As a result of the shortage of revenue stamps some of the Trans-Mississippi issues were overprinted I.R. Some of these have very high values in Scott Catalog, reflecting their rarity. The Trans-Mississippi stamps were watermarked "USPS" in double line sideways and perforated 12 x 12. They were printed 100 to a sheet bisected vertically and horizontally with cut lines.

Production numbers as of December 13, 1899, were: 4-cent 135,000; 10-cent 135,000; 50-cent 55,000; and 2-dollar 1,100. A few days later, all postmasters were ordered to return all Trans-Mississippi and Columbian stamps to the Washington D.C. Post Office for destruction. In March 1900, all these were incinerated creating a scarcity and raising the value of the remaining stamps. The Postmaster never reported the number of stamps, only the value of \$5,617,691. The plates were reported to have been de-

stroyed February 1899. Today philatelists view the Trans-Mississippi issue as some of the most beautiful United States stamps. The one major error occurred in some of the 8-cent printings. A horizontal perforation was missed creating a horizontal imperf. These are shown in the book.

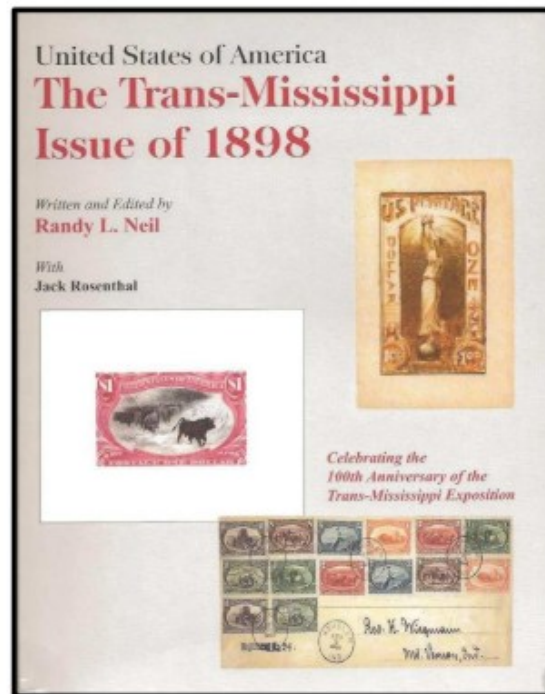
Chapter One covers essays and proofs. There are images of the wash drawings done by Edward Rosewater. "Posthumous" die proofs were held by President Franklin Roosevelt until his death. Harmer Auction held a sale in February 1946. Some of the proofs with control numbers are displayed in the book.

Chapter Two is all about the 1-cent denomination. The Mississippi River is the focus of all the stamps. Several different vignettes were discussed. Marquette on the Mississippi was chosen. The vignette was based is a painting by William Lamprecht from Marquette University in Wisconsin. The painting

actually shows Marquette on the Wisconsin river. The 1-cent I.R. overprinted is unusual and quite valuable. The official United States Post Office Department bulletin announcing the decision to not print the Trans-Mississippi stamps in bicolor is shown in this chapter, however no reason is given.

Chapter Three covers the 2-cent denomination. The first choice was the James B. Eads Bridge. Edward Rosewater, publisher of the Omaha Daily Bee, lobbied for this choice. Instead, a photograph of a plowing scene from a wheat field near Amenias, North Dakota was used as the basis for the vignette. Evan B. Nybakken was the depicted plow operator. Just as the photo was being shot a gust of wind caught his hat and he reached to catch it, obscuring his face. He died in June of 1934. This is the first stamp to depict people who were still alive. French's Story of 2-cent plate varieties ends the chapter.

— continued on page 8





Chapter Four is about the 4-cent denomination. The original idea for this stamp was to use a Frederic Remington painting, "Indian on a Horse". Instead, the vignette was derived from an engraving in a book titled "History of The Indian Tribes" by Army Officer Seth Eastman.

Chapter Five covers the 5-cent denomination. From the start the United States Post Office Department was committed to including the image of John C. Fremont on a stamp. First it was the 8-cent, later the 2-cent and finally the 5-cent. There were multiple images to choose from. The final vignette was a modified version from a woodcut representing pathfinder planting a flag on a peak in the Rocky Mountains. There are images in this chapter of Edward Rosewater's drawings. The largest reported canceled multiple of this 5-cent stamp is a complete right pane of plate number 621 used on a parcel.

Chapter Six is about the 8-cent denomination. This Trans-Mississippi stamp was derived from an 1897 Frederic Remington painting titled "Federal Troops Convoying a Wagon Train. The

vignette is titled "Troops Guarding a Train. It's very faithful to the original.

Chapter Seven depicts the 10-cent denomination stamp "Hardship of Emigration". The source of the design was a painting by Augustus Goodyear Heaton. In 1992, the original drawings for the vignette were found in a drawer, among other drawings at the Bureau of Engraving. It was also discovered that the stamp was based upon a print rather than the painting. Chapter Eight covers the 50-cent "Western Mining Prospector". This is another stamp based upon a Frederic Remington painting titled "The Gold Bug". Only 530,400 were issued. Un-

known numbers were destroyed by the United States Post Office Department.



Exposition Station
Handstamp Postmark

Chapter Nine describes what is often described as one of the most beautiful United States stamps. Only days before it went to press the color choice was changed from light brown to black. I wonder if it would be as popular had it been printed in the

original color choice. The "Western Cattle in Storm" is based upon a Scottish painting "The Vanguard" depicting Scottish cattle not born and bread in the United States.

Chapter Ten is about the 2-dollar stamp depicting the Eads



Bridge. Two shallow draft packet boats are shown going under the bridge. Two electric cars and two horse drawn vehicles are on the bridge. It would not have been popular to include this vignette depicting a Missouri bridge on the 2-cent, most widely used stamp. So the decision was made to print it on the less used 2-dollar, primarily for packages.

Chapter Eleven is "A Census Of The Higher Value Issues On Cover" prepared by William Crowe from the records of the Philatelic Foundation and auction houses, listed on the page. For any philatelist wanting to know the history of the Trans-Mississippi Issue of 1898, this is the volume to get. It is full of illustrations of the stamps and covers.

This is only a brief synopsis of all the great information contained in this book.