

Stamps Pack a Punch: The Highlights of Perforation

By Douglas Files

Do you want to “punch above your weight” in stamp collecting? One way to do so is to know about perforation. Broadly speaking, perforating stamps is only one way of separating them. The larger field is properly called “stamp separation”. When Great Britain issued the first “Penny Black” postage stamps in 1840 they were issued in sheets and no method of separation was supplied. Postal clerks used razor blades or scissors to separate the stamps. From a collector’s point of view these methods of separating the stamps led to damage, but early on, not many people collected stamps so minor damage didn’t matter.



Perforated U.S. Stamp

In 1847 inventor Henry Archer proposed that a machine place tiny cuts between individual stamps so that they could be torn apart from each other. Archer’s first machine made cuts rather than round holes, which in philatelic terms produced a type of rouletting. Great Britain implemented this system around 1850. Rouletting helped people separate the stamps but there were side effects. Because the knives cut through multiple sheets of stamps simultaneously, the knives were dulled and had to be replaced frequently. Machinery inventors studied this problem and noted that if small holes were placed in the stamp sheets the cutters and beds beneath them lasted much longer before having to be replaced. Notably, Rowland Hill, the man behind the first British postage stamps, was never convinced that perforations were needed. One of his co-workers snarked, though, that Hill only liked ideas he developed himself.



Rouletted U.S. Revenue Stamp

The United States issued its first postage stamps in 1847 and the sheets were imperforate. The next several U.S. stamps were also distributed without perforation. But within ten years nearly all U.S. stamps as well as those from all nations were perforated. It was such a common practice that the public expected postage stamps to be perforated. Perforation became so iconic and so expected that current self-adhesive Forever stamps are given an edge pattern that mimics perforations. Some imperforate stamps have been issued by the U.S. Postal Service – and other countries - but they have generally been the exception rather than the rule.



Close-up of the National Postal Museum’s machine, showing matching sets of pins and holes

Stamp separation thus began imperforate, moved into rouletting and only later changed to regular perforation. In the mid-1850s a “rotary” perforating process was developed by British inventors Henry and William Bemrose. Their process was converted to a round perforating machine instead of a rouletting machine by Toppan Carpenter, printers for the U.S. government. One main point for perforating is how many holes to cut. If the holes are too far apart the stamps will not separate cleanly. If they are too close together, the stamps

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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.

MAY

5/2-3 Ohio Precancel Club (OPC) SPRING Gathering. McKinley Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie 2370, 5024 Monticello Ave NW, Canton HRS: Fr9am-9p Sat9am-3pm. Bill Latchie 740-260-2891 or Marty Adams.

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

6/20-21. Colopex 2025. Madison County Fairgrounds, 205 Elm Street, HRS: Fri 10am-6pm; Sat 10am-5pm. The Columbus Philatelic Club. Guy M. Purington, 6830 Shook Road, Columbus, OH 43217. PH: 614-306-3701. Email: gpurington@homesteadcos.com. Website: www.colopex.com.

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

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DSC NEWSLETTER

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come apart before people want them to. Additionally, the size of each hole matters.

The usual way to describe the number of perforation holes is called the "gauge". Specifically collectors refer to how many holes there are in 2 centimeters. If there are 12 holes per 2 cm the stamp is perf. 12. Most modern stamps are perforated from 11 to 14, although over the years various stamps have been perforated anywhere from 2 to 18. The most common way for collectors to examine a perforation gauge is with a tool which is also called a perforation gauge.



Collectors line up the stamp against the tool and see which line of perfs their stamp best fits with. If the stamp does not fit perfectly with any particular line, they choose the one which is closest. Once one stamp's perforation is decided, that stamp can be used as a model to compare other stamps to it.

Of course it gets more complicated than that. For one thing, rectangular stamps may be perforated on one side, two sides, three sides or four sides. The perforation gauge used on the top and the bottom may differ from the perforation gauge on the two sides. By convention, a stamp that is perforated 11 by 10½ has 11 perfs per 2 cm on the top and bottom and 10½ perfs per 2 cm on each side. In other words,

collectors state the horizontal perforation gauge first and the vertical perforation gauge second.

Roll with the Punches

Stamps that are only perforated on two sides are most often coil stamps. That is, they are sold in a big coil or spiral, such as a business might use in a stamp dispenser. Also, many stamps perforated on fewer than four sides are from stamp booklets. One more complicated type of perforations is syncopated perforations which is where the pattern of holes is uneven. In some cases there are many holes and then one is skipped on purpose and in some cases most of the holes are small and then periodically there is a larger hole. Both of these syncopated patterns make the stamps more difficult to counterfeit.



One other main type of separation is die cutting, and this is important to collectors because most modern U.S. self-adhesive stamps are die cut. This term indicates that the stamps are completely cut apart from each other and they are only held together on the sheet by the paper behind the stamps. Even though there is no functional reason why die cuts can't just be straight, as mentioned above most die cut sheets are cut in a way that simulates perforations.

Often collectors can distinguish between perforated stamps and die cut stamps because torn perforations leave paper fibers sticking out and die cuts do not. Also note that from 2012

to 2016 the U.S. Postal Service issued some sheets without die cuts. That is, they created imperforate (non-die cut) stamps on purpose to sell to collectors.

Just to muddy the waters, dishonest people sometimes "reperforate" stamps in order to cheat collectors. That is, they make a common stamp look like a more valuable one by punching new holes in the sides. The Philatelic Foundation expertizes stamps and their website contains a whole article about reperforation (see the reference below). The foundation cites four reasons to reperforate a stamp: to get rid of straight edges, to remove faults, to center a stamp and to change its catalogue number. All four of these purposes are commonly meant to deceive collectors.

Line perforations are usually created a series of wheels on a rod which runs across a sheet of stamps. The sheets are perforated in one direction and then the sheets are turned to perforate

them in the other direction. It is actually more complex than this, but you get the general idea. Most U.S. stamps were produced using line perforators.



Comb perforation is done by a single strike of a "head" that looks like a hair comb. This results in stamps which

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2024 U.S. Issue Album Pages Available Now!

The American Philatelic Society 2024 U.S. issue album pages are available to download now — exclusively for APS members! The album contains spaces for the issues of 2024.

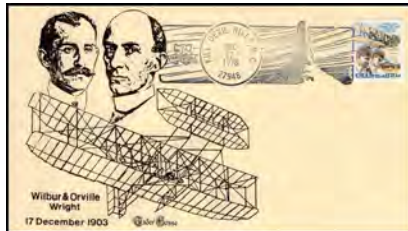
To download, APS members can log into stamps.org, same email address associated with their membership, then visit the **Stamp Albums** page. Click on **United States 2024 Issues**

DAYTON STAMP CLUB

REQUESTS:

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

TUDOR HOUSE Cachets



Philatelic Inquiring Discovery

Here's what I found out about Tudor House:

Tudor House cachets were produced by Harry Hahn (1926-2009) at 376 Marathon Ave Dayton 45406.

The first FDC cancel was for Marianne Moore (Sc # 2449). In 1990, Hahn's entire stock was purchased by Gene Bell of the Bell Stamp Company in Iowa. Both unserviced and serviced FDCs over the 13 year period were sold.

George, Philatelic Investigator, Dayton Stamp Club Member

REQUEST for information!

+

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, I would appreciate hearing from you!

George Hummel
tagguy176@aol.com

Denmark Postal Service to Stop Delivering Letters

The Danish postal service has said it will deliver its last letter at the end of this year, instead focusing on packages to respond to changing forms of communication.

Denmark's letter deliveries began in 1624. Denmark's state-run postal service, PostNord, is to end all letter deliveries at the end of 2025, citing a 90% decline in letter volumes since the start of the century. The decision brings to an end 400 years of the company's letter service. Denmark's 1,500 post boxes will start to disappear from the start of June. Transport Minister Thomas Danieleson sought to reassure Danes, saying letters would still be sent and received as "there is a free market for both letters and parcels."

Postal services across Europe are grappling with the decline in letter volumes. Germany's Deutsche Post said on Thursday it was axing 8,000 jobs, in what it called a "socially responsible manner." Deutsche Post has 187,000 employees and staff representatives said they feared more cuts were to come.

Denmark had a universal postal service for 400 years until the end of 2023, but as digital mail services have taken hold, the use of letters has fallen dramatically. PostNord says it will switch its focus to parcel deliveries and that any postage stamps bought this year or in 2024 can be refunded for a limited period in 2026. Fifteen hundred workers

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Meetings / Activities

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AUGUST

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

MEMPHIS STAMP COLLECTORS SOCIETY

2025 MONTHLY MEETINGS
FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
9	5	5	2	7	4	2	6	3	1	5	3

ST. LUKE'S UMC - 480 S. HIGHLAND - MEMPHIS, TN

MEMPEX 2025
STAMP AND POSTCARD SHOW

DEALERS BUY SELL EXHIBITS

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2025 -- SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2025
10 AM - 5 PM

BARTLETT STATION MUNICIPAL CENTER -- 5868 STAGE ROAD -- BARTLETT, TN 38134

CONTACT US AT WWW.MSCSSTAMPS.ORG

GwinPex 2025 Spring Stamp Show



Location: Mountain Park United Methodist Church Family Life Center located at 1405 Rockbridge Rd. Stone Mountain, Ga. 3008

Times: Show hours Friday May 2nd and Saturday May 3rd, 10 - 5. Dealer set up Friday May 2nd 8-10 and Thursday evening with prior approval.

14 dealers currently signed up, 33 dealer tables, 2 youth tables and 1 Topical table

Home made food items at the concession stand

Free parking and admission

Button Gwinnett Stamp club FaceBook site:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/188058445123799>

For more information, feel free to contact me

Allen Johnson

Button Gwinnett Stamp Show Chairman

Ajr1957@yahoo.com

Colopex 2025
Save the Date!

Columbus Philatelic Club
Stamp Show and Free Fall Exhibition
Come Celebrate our 100th Anniversary!

Please Note Location Change
and we are no longer a WSP Show

Madison County Fairgrounds
205 Elm Street, London, OH 43140

Fri, June 20, 2025 10:00 am to 6:00 pm
Sat, June 21, 2025 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

15 Dealers Always Buying and Selling
Stamps ~ Covers ~ Postcards ~ Documents ~ Supplies

Free Admission & Parking - Registration at the Door

See our Website www.colopex.com for more information
Columbus Philatelic Club, PO Box 20582, Columbus, OH 43220

May Dayton Stamp Club Meetings

May 5 — Program: Rattlesnake Island Post, Jack Matheney, DSC Member Speaker

May 12 — Board Meeting

May 19 — **SILENT AUCTION 7:00-7:20PM**

Club Program: Red, White, & Blue item from your Collection

Member Participation 4-6 minutes

(Continued from page 2)

have a single clear-cut hole at each corner. Many foreign stamps are produced with comb perforators but not many U.S. stamps are. The size of the hole punched in a sheet of stamps depends on the bore of the object doing the piercing and the speed at which the object pokes through the paper. Holes that are punched quickly tend to be sharper and those done slowly are coarser. Why do these facts matter? First, if a stamp has perforations which differ from side to side, they may have been punched by different machines. That is, one side may have been reperforated to trick collectors. In other cases the lines of perforations are not parallel, which is another clue toward reperforation. Third, if a single hole perforator was used on one side the holes are often different distances from each other. Expensive government equipment makes more uniform holes. Note that all these points can be found without using a perforation gauge.

It can help that perforated versions of U.S. stamps are almost always more common than imperforate ones. This means that cheaters have less reason to reperforate U.S. stamps because doing so might make it appear less valuable. As with any production process in the making of stamps, errors can also occur during perforation. A "blind perf" is when a single hole fails to be punched by the machine. If the perforating machine misses a whole row of perforations the result is stamps which have perforations on most sides but then they are imperforately attached to the stamp next to them on the sheet. All these perforation errors are known as misperfs. Generally, printing company employees are supposed to destroy stamps with errors of any kind, but sometimes they don't notice the error and sometimes printing employees sell error

stamps to collectors to make money. If caught they can be fired for doing this.

Perforation gauges are not the only tools available to collectors to measure stamp perforations. Some computer programs can also be employed. A program called Performaster works with scanned stamp images on a black background. The program was developed in Germany by Hermann Bux but an English language version exists. A blog writer called Aar Dee used this program and they were satisfied with the results. Another program is called eperforationGauge (ePerf). Created by Peter Paul Hek, it takes scanned images of stamps and also determines the perforation gauge. Yet a third program is called EzPerf. All these have been on the market for over ten years.

Overall

Why do perforations matter to collectors? When collectors are identifying their items, there are often stamps with the same design which come in multiple perforation types. Moreover, the type of perf and the gauge can determine how scarce a stamp is. That is, for a particular stamp design, perf 12 stamps may be rarer than perf 10 stamps, or coils. Certainly some people collect stamps based only on how much the design appeals to them, but others like to delve into the mechanics of watermarks and perforation types. You get to choose which type of collector you will be. Knowing more about perforation can help you "punch above your weight" philatelically.

References

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Figures

Fig. 1 Perforated U.S. Stamp — Image from the National Postal Museum website, <https://postalmuseum.si.edu/collections/object-spotlight/early-rotary-perforation-machine>.

Fig. 2 Rouletted U.S. Revenue Stamp — Image scanned September 2005 by User:Stan Shebs, Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=331066>.

Fig.3 Rotary Perforating Machine, circa 1861 — Close up of the Postal Museum, showing sets of pins and holes. National Postal Museum website.

Fig. 4 Perforation Gauge

Fig. 5 U.S. Coil Stamps — Image scanned September 2005 by User:Stan Shebs, Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimediaindex.php?curid=324272>.

Fig.6 Line and Comb Perforation examples

MAY New USPS Stamps



Goodnight Moon will be issued May 2 as a full pane of 16 in 8 designs of Forever stamps. *Goodnight Moon* is an American children's book written by Margaret Wise Brown and illustrated by Clement Hurd. First published in 1947, *Goodnight Moon* remains a favorite bedtime story for families everywhere. By celebrating everyday rituals rather than fantasy, this iconic picture book revolutionized children's publishing. In 1945, the idea for *Goodnight Moon* appeared to Margaret Wise Brown in a dream.

Baby Wild Animals will be issued May 23 in 10 designs of Forever stamps in double-sided pane of 20.] Offering whimsical, eye-catching designs for letters and cards, these 10 stamps show baby wild animals from across the United States, with visual elements suggesting the habitat or behavior of each one.



According to the Postal Service, the stamps are being issued in separate panes “featuring the respective symbols of the Army, Navy, and Marine Corps against a white background.”

May 16 will celebrate the 250th anniversaries: of the U.S. Army which predates the establishment of the United States by more than a year and has been called America's first national institution; the U.S. Navy has 330,000 active-duty personnel and more than 56,000 reservists upholding core values of honor, courage, and commitment; and U.S. Marine Corps remaining highly adaptable and ready to serve around the world for more than two centuries.

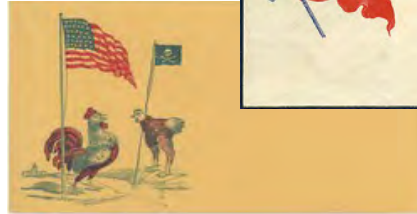
Patriotic Covers — (Red, White & Blue for Special Days!)

The Civil War period was one of high emotion, openly on display on covers known as “patriotic covers.” Citizens expressed their political ideology by using envelopes decorated with flags, portraits, slogans, cartoons, and battle scenes. The custom originated in the North, where these designs were immensely popular.

There are thousands of different Northern patriotic designs, while there are fewer than 200 Confederate designs showing period postal use. The South lacked the North’s industrialized advantages and was short of supplies. Thus, Confederate patriotics are rarer and more valuable.



Flag and cannon used from Goldborough, North Carolina. April 27, 1862--



Dayton Stamp Club Philatelic Quiz



Teams and Fun & Stamp Bucks





Dayton Stamp Club Activities



Dayton Stamp Club

Parameters for Members Selling Items Before Club Meetings

- 1) The person selling items must be a member of Dayton Stamp Club.
- 2) The person must clear the activity with the President or the Board Chairman ahead of time.
(The intent of this rule is to know ahead of time which people will be selling when and to not have the sellers interfere with club activities, for example silent auctions or regular auctions.)
- 3) All selling must take place before the meeting from 6:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m.
- 4) All sales materials must be completely out of the church before 9:00 p.m.

Note: Donations to the club are welcome but dealers do not have to make a donation to the Dayton Stamp Club.

NEW BOOKS

British East Asia Postal Stationery: A Priced Catalog, edited by Wayne Munez and Didier LeGall. 2025, published by the United Postal Stationery Society, Inc. hardcover 8-inch by 11-inch pages with color illustrations, 295 pages

British East Asia Postal Stationery: A Priced Catalog is the first comprehensive priced catalog of postal stationery from South-east Asia since the Higgins and Gage world postal stationery catalogs of the 1960s.

New research and the ability to study scans from postal stationery collections allowed editors Wayne Munez and Didier LeGall to list many new items in this 2025 work published by the United Postal Stationery Society.

Munez and LeGall organized the catalog mostly chronologically and based on geography.

"Some countries simply changed names," the editors explain in the introduction, "and their listings continue from one to the other, such as Burma to Myanmar or Ceylon to Sri Lanka. Others, such as Malaysia,

include new geographic locations that were annexed, such as northern Borneo Island, and their listings start anew."

Burma / Myanmar, Ceylon, Sri Lanka, and the Maldives all have dedicated chapters to start the catalog.

Three chapters cover three distinct periods of Malaya, starting with the British Administration pre-1942, moving to the Japanese Administration and ending with the period after World War II.

This leads to chapters dedicated to Borneo Island, Malaysia and Singapore. The final four chapters deal with British Hong Kong, the British Post Offices in China, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and the British Post Office in Bangkok.

The catalog's introduction includes a list of abbreviations as well as an extensive glossary. The introduction also includes explanations of the listing methodology and pricing.

For pricing, the editors avoided the approach of adjusting previous values to inflation,



but rather found recent prices realized for rare items through auction or private treaty and for inexpensive items through internet sources such as eBay and Delcampe.

If modern pricing information is lacking, the price reflects the editors' best judgment and is given in italics. A star symbol in the pricing column indicates an item may exist, but has not been seen by or reported to the editors.

The editors anticipate a second edition of the catalog and encourage readers to send comments by email to Munez at ups-ed@pacbell.net and LeGall at didier.legall@gmail.com.

Munez is the president of the UPSS and has been editor of its

journal *Postal Stationery* since 2001. He began collecting worldwide postal stationery in 1963 and even spent a summer working for Higgins and Gage in 1971.

LeGall, associate editor of *Postal Stationery*, is the president of the Collectors Club of San Francisco. He has one of the premier postal stationery collections of the Commonwealth of Australia and good collections of most British area countries.

British East Asia Postal Stationery: A Priced Catalog is available from the United Postal Stationery Society website at <https://upss.org/code/publications.php>. The price is \$64 for UPSS members and \$79.95 for nonmembers. Items can be ordered online or by sending payment to UPSS Publications, Box 22314, Newport News, VA 23609.

New books may be sent for consideration of review to Linn's Editor, Box 4129, Sidney, OH 45365. Reviews will be published on a space available basis.



JUST ADDED!!

The Most Pernicious of Album Weeds: Modern Postal Counterfeits

with Wayne Youngblood

Tuesday, May 6, 7:00 p.m. Eastern via Zoom

Join us for a discussion centered on what you need to know about modern postal counterfeits and how to spot them.

Wayne Youngblood writes for and edits many philatelic publications. He was the ATA Distinguished Topical Philatelist in 2020 and the editor of *Topical Time* for many years. In addition to being a dealer, Wayne gives many fun and informative presentations for philatelic groups around the world. You won't want to miss this!

Register for Counterfeits

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face losing their jobs, out of a workforce of 4,600. "It's a super sad day. Not just for our department, but for the 1,500 who face an uncertain future," employee Anders Raun Mikkelsen told Danish broadcaster DR.

Denmark ranks as one of the world's most digitalized countries. There's an app for almost everything: few people use cash, and Danes even carry drivers' licenses and health cards on their smartphones. Bank statements, bills, and correspondence from local authorities are all sent electronically. Public services send communications via a Digital Post app or other platforms. PostNord Denmark says the letter market is no longer profitable. Letter num-

bers have decreased from 1.4 billion in 2000 to 110 million last year.

The decision will affect elderly people most. Although 95% of Danes use the Digital Post service, a reported 271,000 people still rely on physical mail. "There are many who are very dependent on letters being delivered regularly. These include hospital appointments, vaccinations, or decisions regarding home care," Marlene Rishøj Cordes, from Aeldre Sagen (DaneAge) told Denmark's TV2. Exceptions were previously made for populations in remote areas and with vision impairment, but PostNord's statement does not suggest that will be the case again. The statement also does not directly say

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Traveling Exhibit in Philatelic Truck



Stamp-collecting President Franklin Roosevelt ordered the creation of a traveling exhibit in the 1930s to show Americans how

stamps were made. Housed in a "Philatelic Truck," the exhibit crossed the country, stopping at hundreds of places and handing out special souvenir cards. These cards, depicting the White House, were actually printed aboard the truck! As visitors exited the truck, they were given one of these White House cards as a souvenir – hence the name. Own yours in mint condition today.

Philatelic Truck Begins Its Journey

On May 9, 1939, the Philatelic Truck departed the White House on a cross-country journey to introduce thousands of Americans to the exciting world of stamps.

The Philatelic Truck was the brainchild of stamp-collector President Franklin Roosevelt. He ordered the traveling exhibit to show Americans how stamps were made. The first public mention of the truck was in an August 1938 article in *The New York Sun* that stated the truck's purpose was to "stimulate interest in stamp collecting among the youth of the country."

The truck was a custom-made armored vehicle that served as a mobile philatelic museum. It carried specimens of every US stamp issued from the 1847 Franklin and Washington issues to those issued at the time of the tour. The tour officially began on May 9, 1939, with a special ceremony at the White House. After that, Postmaster General James A. Farley performed his final inspection of the truck before it set out on its journey.

Souvenir Cards for Each Visitor

Over the next 28 months, the truck traveled the nation stopping at hundreds of schools, libraries, and other sites. Visitors to the truck got to see dies and plates used to make stamps as well as a set of die proofs. In the center of the truck was a miniature Stickney printing press. The press simulated the printing of souvenir sheets that were slowly rolled out and cut for each visitor to take home. In reality, these sheets had been pre-

printed by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing in large rolls. Over time though, the truck's operators found that the press moved too slowly to efficiently hand out the souvenir sheets to the large crowds, so they began handing out pre-cut cards. Additionally, the cards handed out during the first year were gummed. But soon, people began finding the sheets stuck to windows, cars, and even the truck itself, they began producing the sheets ungummed. The gummed cards are much harder to find today than the ungummed. Young visitors also had the opportunity to purchase a book produced specifically for the tour for 10¢ – *A Description of United States Postage Stamps – Junior Edition*.

Visitors to the truck also had the option to mail out letters right there. If they wanted, they could use special envelopes produced specially for the Philatelic Truck. The truck also made a special stop in 1940, at the 46th Annual Convention of the Society of Philatelic Americans. People who visited the truck at this convention received a scarce variety with an overprint marking the convention.



On an average day, about 800 people would usually get to visit the truck. Reportedly, the largest visitation occurred in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on Labor Day. The truck was parked at the city's fairgrounds and was visited by about 5,000 people.

After more than two years of traveling, the philatelic truck's journey was cut short by the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. The truck was rushed from Yuma, Arizona, to its final stop in San Diego, California, on December 12, 1941. There, the exhibits were removed and sent back to Washington, D.C. The truck itself was reportedly left at the Rincon Annex of the San Francisco Post Office. During its trip, the truck had traveled 20,750 miles, visited 490 towns, and had 483,976 visitors.

How To Attract Young Collectors

Attracting younger collectors to stamp collecting requires creativity and an understanding of what appeals to younger generations. Here are some innovative strategies that could help:

Digital Integration: Develop apps or online platforms where users can collect, trade, and learn about stamps digitally. This could include virtual stamp albums, augmented reality features, or gamified collecting experiences.

Social Media Engagement: Use platforms like Instagram, TikTok, and YouTube to showcase interesting stamps, share stories behind them, and connect with a broader audience. Influencers or popular content creators in the hobby space can help reach younger audiences.

Educational Programs: Partner with schools and educational institutions to incorporate stamp collecting into history, geography, or art curricula. This can include interactive workshops or stamp-based projects.

Thematic Collections: Focus on themes that resonate with younger people, such as pop culture, technology, or environmental issues. Special edition stamps featuring popular movies, music, or social causes can attract interest.

Collaborations with Popular Brands: Collaborate with well-known brands or franchises to create

limited edition stamps that appeal to fans of those brands, similar to how fashion or sneaker brands create exclusive lines.

Interactive Exhibitions: Organize interactive and multimedia stamp exhibitions that incorporate technology, storytelling, and hands-on activities to engage visitors of all ages.

Online Communities and Forums: Create or promote online communities where young collectors can share their collections, participate in challenges, and connect with others who share their interests.

Subscription Boxes: Offer subscription services that deliver curated sets of stamps to subscribers each month, focusing on themes or educational content that appeals to younger collectors.

Contests and Challenges: Host contests or challenges that encourage creativity, such as designing a stamp or creating a story around a collection, with prizes that appeal to younger audiences.

Mentorship Programs: Pair young collectors with experienced mentors who can guide them in the hobby, providing knowledge and fostering a sense of community.

By making stamp collecting more accessible, engaging, and relevant to contemporary interests, the hobby can attract a new generation of enthusiasts.



(Continued from page 9)

whether letters can be sent from other countries to Denmark; however, at this time we can only infer that international letters will not be accepted or distributed.

PostNord has weathered years of financial struggles and last year was running a deficit. Danish MP Pelle Dragsted blamed privatization for the move and complained the move would disadvantage people living in remote areas. The introduction of a new Postal Act in 2024 opened up the letter market to competition from private firms and mail is no longer exempted from VAT, resulting in higher postage costs. "when a letter costs 29 Danish krone (\$4.20) there will be fewer letters," PostNord Denmark's Managing Director, Kim Pedersen told local media. He said Danes had become increasingly digital and the decline in letter

volumes had become so pronounced that it had fallen by as much as 30% in the past year alone.

This statement is a strong data point for those who oppose privatization of the mail in any country; where universal postal service is required by law, it remains as a public service for the public good. When those laws are stripped away, as it is rumored they may be in the U.S., the elderly, people with disabilities, and yes, philatelists, will pay the price.

Source: BBC article Adrienne Murray and Paul Kirby, March 6, 2025. <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/ckg8jllq283om> reprinted from Scandinavian Collectors Club Colorado Chapter 27 Newsletter, April 5, 2025.



Benjamin Franklin and the Hutchinson Affair

In December 1772, Benjamin Franklin was in London for business, serving as an agent of the Massachusetts House of Representatives. While there, he received a parcel

containing letters from an anonymous sender. The letters were intercepted correspondence between Massachusetts Gov. Thomas Hutchinson, Lt. Gov. Andrew Oliver, and authorities in Britain. The letters discussed the revolts happening in the North American colonies and requested reinforcements and permission to impose harsher treatment of the colonists.

Franklin, who stood with the colonists, forwarded these letters to the Massachusetts House of Representatives with explicit instruction to discuss them only in committee and not publish them. Despite his instruction, the letters were leaked and published in the *Boston Gazette* in June 1773. The result was civil unrest and eventually the Boston Tea Party in December 1773.

As suspicion of who had released the letters to the public began to spread, Franklin took action and wrote a letter published in the *London Chronicle* claiming responsibility, in part, for the letters. As a result of these actions, Franklin was removed from his position in 1774.

After Franklin's dismissal, the colonies were put under more scrutiny. The British government authorized its postal workers to open and read correspondence between colonists. With tensions rising to the point of war, the colonists formed their own postal service. William Goddard, a fellow postmaster and printer, established the Constitutional Post. Its mail carriers had to be highly regarded and carried the mail under lock and key, working as guards as well as delivering the mail. By the end of 1775, there were 30 post offices operating as part of the Constitutional Post.

So what did the Second Continental Congress do? It set the stage for change. Shortly after the start of the Revolutionary War, the Second Continental Congress met in Philadelphia in May 1775, and what happened at the Second Continental Congress set the stage for the American postal system of today. The war brought new concerns in terms of correspondence and security, and due to the nature of the highly trusted

postal workers in the continental post services, it was agreed that the Constitutional Post would be converted into the official postal system of the new nation, with Franklin as the postmaster general. To assist with the passing of military information from Congress to the Continental Army, the mail carriers were made exempt from military service.

Following in the footsteps of Franklin, the United States Postal Service continued to innovate after the Revolution to ensure that the mail could be delivered more quickly and efficiently. For instance, postal workers were originally on horseback, traveling along approximately 2,400 miles of road created by the United States government. But as settlement moved westward, the postal system began to use stagecoaches.

In 1813, just six years after the launch of commercial steamboats, Congress permitted contracts with steamboat companies to transport the mail. By 1848, mail was being transported by steamboat to California via the Isthmus of Panama.

After the Civil War, the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad allowed for mail to be sorted and transported across the United States. Train services would handle up to 93% of non-local mail sent in the United States from the 1860s to the 1970s. With the rise of the automotive industry and the movement of the population into cities, the postal service began using automobiles. This also gave carriers the ability to carry packages in addition to letters.

As technology continued to evolve, the postal service began to send mail via planes in 1911. This allowed for mail to be delivered across continents in the shortest period of time. In 1924, the first transcontinental delivery of mail by air took one day, ten hours, and 20 minutes. Today, the same flight only takes six to seven hours.

The modern postal system continues to innovate, using automated sorting services and other types of technology to improve the way mail is delivered. Today, the United States Postal Service is the largest postal system in the world, delivering to more than 165 million addresses across the country and its territories.

By The Wyoming LLC Attorney Team. *Mayflower Minutes West Suburban Stamp Club* April 2025.