



The story goes back to the 1500s in France when the Julian calendar (established by Julius Caesar) was replaced with

the Gregorian calendar (introduced by Pope Gregory XIII and still used in most parts of the world). In the old Julian calendar, the new year began on April 1, but with the new Gregorian calendar, the new year was set to begin on January 1.

News did not always travel fast in those days so not everyone got the word that the start of the New Year changed to January 1. They kept celebrating it on April 1, and they were widely mocked as April Fools.

How did this turn into a day of practical jokes?

The practice of telling April Fools' jokes spread rapidly, and it has continued over the last 500 years or so. These jokes work best on people who have not been paying attention to the calendar. Playing a joke on someone, you want to get to them early in the morning before they realize what day it is.

As the tradition has grown, so have the creativity and scope of the pranks. Some of the most famous and successful pranks in the recent history of April Fool's Day include:

The Swiss Spaghetti Harvest (1957): The BBC aired a segment showcasing Swiss farmers harvesting spaghetti from trees in a picturesque Swiss village. Viewers were astonished to see such an

unusual sight, with many calling in to inquire where they could buy their own spaghetti trees. The hoax was believed by many and remains one of the most iconic pranks in television history.

The Remarkable Color Television Hoax (1962): Before color television arrived in Sweden, viewers of television were tricked into thinking they could upgrade their black-and-white screens with a simple DIY hack. Kjell Stensson, posing as a "technical expert," claimed that stretching a mesh sheet over the screen could manipulate light wavelengths for vibrant color, using nylon stockings. As the only TV network at the time, it had the public's trust, leading thousands to

fall for this clever prank.

The fake Alaskan volcanic eruption (1974): One of the most audacious pranks in history was the fake eruption of Mount Edgecumbe in Alaska, executed by local logger Oliver "Porky" Bickar. He collected 70 tires over the years, waiting for the perfect conditions to pull off his plan.

On April Fool's Day in 1974, Bickar used a helicopter to drop the tires into the volcano's crater, igniting them to create a dramatic plume of smoke. Local residents panicked, believing the dormant volcano was erupting.

While police and fire services were in on the joke, Bickar forgot to inform the Coast Guard, who discovered the scene marked with

(Continued on page 8)

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.

2026

APRIL

Apr 6, **SILENT AUCTION 7:00-7:20pm** Club What was Your Biggest Mistake in Stamp Collecting? Member Participation 4-6 minute.

Apr 13, 7:00 pm Board Meeting

Apr 20, >>Club CASH Auction Preview 7:00-7:25 pm<< Club Meeting & Program—In Person & Zoom US and Worldwide Postal Stationary—Doug Files

MAY

May 4, Club Meeting & Program—In Person & Zoom AUCTION #3 - Club CASH Auction

May 8-9, Ohio Precancel Club (OPC) Spring Gathering, McKinley Fraternal Order of Eagle Aerie 2370, 5024 Monticello Ave. NW, Canton OH, HRS Fri:9am-9am and Sat: 9am-9pm, contact Bill Latchie or Marty Adams—martyprecancel@gmail.com.

May 11, 7:00 pm Board Meeting

May 18, Club Meeting & Program—In Person & Zoom—Pre-1900 US Stamps DSC Member Speaker—Rick Clark

JUNE

Jun 1, AUCTION #4—Regular Member Auction

Jun 8, Board meeting

Jun 15, **SILENT AUCTION 7:00-7:20PM** and Club Meeting & Program—In Person & Zoom—Topical Collecting and Exhibits DSC Member Speaker—Joe Shearer

JULY

JUL 6, Club Meeting & Program—In Person & Zoom, My Other Hobby, Member Participation 4-6 minutes

Jul 13, Board meeting

Jul 11-12, MSDA Indianapolis Stamp Show. Midwest Dealers Association, Lawrence Park District Center, 5301 Franklin Rd., Lawrence IN. website: msdastampshow.com.

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DSC NEWSLETTER

Published by: DAYTON STAMP CLUB, INC., PO Box 1574, Dayton, OH 45401

Club Meetings: Christ United Methodist Church, 3440 Shroyer Rd, Kettering OH ---- 1st & 3rd Mondays, 7:00 PM

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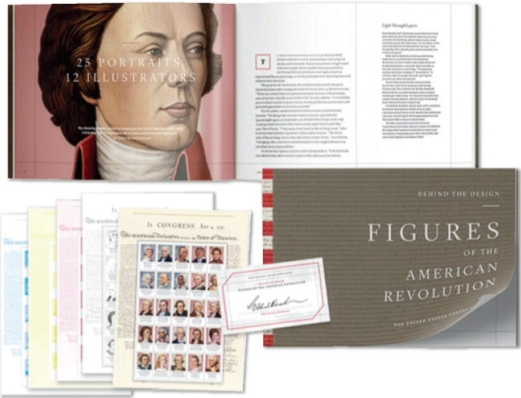
Newsletter email: wesjemail@gmail.com DSC email: daytonstampclub@gmail.com Website: www.daytonstampclub.org

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CLUB OFFICERS 2025-2026



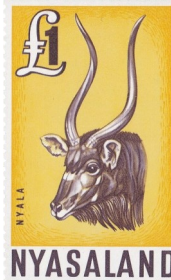
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The U.S. Postal Service plans to sell a collector's set of single-color proofs in association with the release of the Figures of the American Revolution stamps on April 10. The four proofs will be sold with a 68-page book as part of the set.

The United States Postal Service will offer a limited number of proof sets as part of a collector's set for its upcoming Figures of the American Revolution stamps. There is no mention of the quantity produced, and there doesn't appear to be an order limit, according to the online page for the set. The cost for the collector's set including the book and stamp proofs is \$59.95

Last Stamp of Nyasaland 1907-1954



Originally part of the British Central Africa protectorate (1893-1907), Nyasa-land became a protectorate of the British Empire in its own right from 1907 to 1954. The first stamp of Nyasa-land was issued in 1907. From 1907 to 1930, all issues were inscribed "Nyasa-land Protectorate." Beginning with the King George V Jubilee omnibus series issue of 1935, the inscriptions were simplified to "Nyasaland" — though the territory remained a protectorate.

On August 1, 1953, the protectorate ended, and Nyasaland was grouped with Northern and Southern Rhodesia by British efforts, forming the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland.

In spring 1954, Nyasaland released a series of definitive stamps featuring Queen Elizabeth II, but those would be its last solo offerings for a decade. Beginning in summer 1954, stamps of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasa-land were issued and continued to be produced until 1963 (valid until 1964).

On May 9, 1963, the Federation was dissolved with Nyasaland's departure and its return to separate colonial status. In November 1963, a series of 11 Nyasaland revenue stamps featuring Queen Elizabeth II were overprinted "Postage" and went into postal use.

In January 1964, a new set of definitives was issued. This series featured no British monarch's image; it featured local scenes, native peoples, and the area's flora and fauna. The top value of that series was a £1 issue (Scott #134) featuring an image of a Nyala, an antelope native to the area. With that issue, Nyassaland's postal history ended.

Seven months later, on July 6, 1964, Nyasaland gained full independence as the Commonwealth (later Republic) of Malawi. Its first definitive series of stamps was virtually identical to the 1964 Nyasaland series, except that all stamps were inscribed "Malawi".

The Great American Stamp Show 2027



August 19-22nd, 2027

The Albuquerque Convention Center Albuquerque, New Mexico

Stamp Gum

by Doug Files

You might be surprised but there is plenty that stamp collectors can study about the gum on the back of stamps. Knowing about the gum is one key aspect of collecting. You can ignore it if you like, but many collectors are quite interested in the gum on the back of the stamp. Why? Read on...

Gum is of course the substance applied to the back of a postage stamp to make it adhere to a letter. The term gum applies to old-style gums made from animal parts in the 1800s as well as synthetic modern chemicals used to create self-adhesive stamps. Using gum was part of Rowland Hill's initial proposal to the British authorities around 1837, recommending that they use adhesive stamps to indicate prepayment of postage. He called it a "glutinous wash" but stamp gum is what he meant by this term. Over the years many stamps have been issued without gum, but the vast majority have been gummed.

In the 1800s the paper was gummed after the pictures were printed on the front of the stamps but before perforation. This was because the paper had to be damp to accept the printed designs. In the early days gum was applied by hand using a roller. Then in 1880 the De La Rue company invented a printing press that applied gum mechanically. For over a century now most gum has been applied by a machine. The mechanical process spreads the gum more evenly than when the gum used to be rolled onto the sheet.

One major challenge of gumming stamps is that the

stamps tend to curl afterward. Various techniques have been used to prevent curling. For example in 1930s Switzerland stamps, a machine pressed a pattern of small squares into the gum. This was called gum-breaking, and the square pattern is called a grill. Another gum-breaking technique was cutting the gum with knives after it was applied. For some gums, the gum itself solves the stamp coiling problem by cracking when it dries.



Heavy hinge remnant on the back of a postage stamp

Common types of gum include dextrin, gum arabic, glue and polyvinyl alcohol. Dextrin is produced by heating starch. Gum arabic comes from the acacia plant. Glue is made from gelatin. Polyvinyl alcohol is a biodegradable synthetic resin which has been used since the 1960s. Its advantage is that it tends not to curl in hot, humid environments. The gum on early British stamps was a mix of potato starch, wheat starch and acacia gum.

Self-adhesive stamps have become popular in recent years, and the first nation to issue them was Sierra Leone in 1964. The U.S.'s first attempt was on a 1974 Christmas stamp, but there were



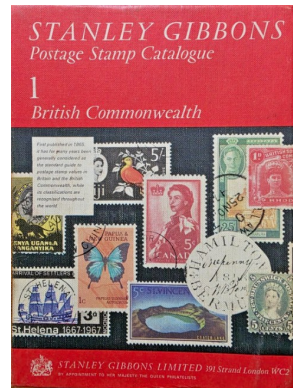
Partial "economy" gum on a 1946 German local stamp

many problems with these self-adhesives. The project was such a failure that many years passed before the U.S. Postal Service issued this type of stamps again. Now that the USPS uses mostly self-adhesive stamps, it calls all former methods "water-activated" gum. If you see that a stamp has water-activated gum it means that it is not self-adhesive. Water must be applied for it to stick to the envelope.

Some stamps have had gum applied in a special pattern

(Continued on page 4)

THE UNFORTUNATE TALE OF STANLEY GIBBONS



Stanley Gibbons is the Queen Mother of all stamp dealers and catalogues — it is the gold standard. It even has a royal warrant (meaning it is the stamp dealer endorsed by King Charles III).

But perhaps that is changing. In the last 20 years, the Stanley Gibbons Company has fallen on hard times. In December 2023, this 167-year-old legendary stamp dealer went into bankruptcy administration. Its debt had grown, accelerated in 2021 by a £6.3 million purchase of the rare British Guiana 1c Magenta stamp.

Then, in 2025, seeking to diversify its lot in life, Gibbons began to sell comic books (DC/Marvel) and even trading cards. Long-time fans of Gibbons likely wept that this classy philatelic powerhouse was reduced to selling crass commercial products. It would be like walking into the Louvre and seeing a print of "Dog Playing Poker" next to a Rembrandt.

Gibbons ultimately allowed itself to be fully merged with Baldwin's — Britain's premier... (I almost can't get the word out)... coin dealer. Now known as Stanley Gibbons Baldwin's (the first time in philatelic history Stanley Gibbons added another company to its name).

According to its website (which is a hot mess during the time of transition), this new combined company sells and deals in "stamps, coins, medals, trading cards, comics, bullion, and militaria."

Hey, I like collectible comics, I even own a bunch from the 1950s and 60s. I like baseball cards — I have a big ol' box of them. But comics are comics, cards are cards, and, most significantly, stamps are stamps. And in my collecting universe, never the twain shall meet. The other collectibles are nice, but philately is the hobby of kings!

But these days, as the Stanley Gibbons situation shows, the hobby of kings may be facing some troubles in its royal family.

April Dayton Stamp Club Meeting

April 6, — ****SILENT AUCTION 7:00-7:20PM****

7:30 pm Club Meeting & Program—In person & Zoom

What was Your Biggest Mistake in Stamp Collecting? Member Participation 4-6 Minutes

April 13 — 7:00 pm Board meeting

Apr 20 — **>>Club CASH Auction PREVIEW 7:00-7:25PM<<**

7:30 pm Club Meeting & Program—In person & Zoom

US and Worldwide Postal Stationary with DSC Member Speaker, Doug Files

(Continued from page 3)

on the back of stamps instead of over the entire surface. For some issues these patterns look like a watermark in the paper. For example, 1921 Germany stamps had the gum applied in wavy lines and Czechoslovakia stamps two years later had gum showing the initials of the nation "CSP". "Economy gum" is when gum is only applied over some parts of the back of the stamp because there is shortage of gum and they have to conserve.

Collectors and gum

For collectors gum rarely helps distinguish between common vs. uncommon versions of stamps. But whether the gum is original or was added later is important. Many philatelists prefer mint stamps to be as pristine as possible, and one aspect of this is for them to have intact, original gum on the back of the stamps. Buyers tend to pay a premium for stamps which have never been hinged on the back. That is, no collector has ever affixed them into an album with a stamp hinge. In the 1800s and early 1900s, stamp hinges were the main way of holding stamps in albums so most classic stamps were hinged on the back.

Expert Peter Robertson wrote an article on how to tell if a stamp has its original gum or if it has been regummed. In this article he calls gum the most valuable part of a stamp, citing examples where the gum alone accounts for most of the value of the stamp. To support this claim he explains that if you have several of the

same stamp but one is cancelled, one is unused but without gum, one is mint hinged and one is mint never hinged, the stamps can vary wildly in price.

Robertson also notes that some collectors who insist on never hinged stamps may not take much time to consider what they are paying extra for. Still, some people have developed a system to partially moisten the back of a mint stamp. Then they remove the hinge while the gum is still liquified. Next they spread the gum to distribute it evenly

with a brush and they let it dry. This

pear nicer (and more expensive). This is called regumming and it is often done to trick collectors into paying more.

Gum problems

If a gum is overly acidic, over time the paper it is on deteriorates. One example of this is the 1935 Ostropa souvenir sheet issued by Germany. Early Austria-Hungary issues were heavily gummed with a mixture containing sulfuric acid which breaks down and makes the paper disintegrate at times. Some of those stamps also curl strongly so for this particular issue it is

recommended that mint copies be collected with the gum removed.

Another insidious process involving gum is tropicalization. This term came about because inexpensive gum on stamps in tropical climates tends to break down in hot, humid conditions.

Health effects of stamp gum

The health effects of stamp gum are really a non-issue but at a few points concerns have arisen. For example on the tv show Seinfeld the character Susan Ross was said to have been poisoned by licking too many envelope flaps.

Worries were raised in the 1990s about whether stamp

gum was unhealthy. In reality a 1965 study in Great Britain found that no pathogenic bacteria or viruses could be found on envelopes. This was true even though the vats of gum at a factory did allow bacteria to multiply. The author researched this issue but uncovered no evidence that stamp gum promotes any type of infection or other



Ostropa sheet with paper breaking down and discolored by acidic stamp gum.

can hide the fact that a hinge was ever present unless an expert is looking carefully. This process is often considered dishonest by collectors because it serves as an attempt to get collectors to pay more than a stamp is worth.

Additionally, some stamps which have had the gum removed have had more gum applied later to make them ap-

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My One-Page Exhibit! Entry Information

The ATA calendar of events will be shifting a bit this upcoming year due to the timing of Boston 2026 World Expo. The My One-Page Exhibit! entries will be accepted **after** the show is held in May. This allows us to focus our resources in preparation for the show. It also gives us the opportunity to share the event with those attending the show and encourage more people to participate. This gives you more time to prepare your exhibits. We look forward to seeing them!

COLLECT: THE STAMP COLLECTING BOARD GAME THAT CAME TO PHILATELY IN THE 1970s

Imagine your stamp-collecting hobby was a board game. Well, you don't have to imagine anymore, as this video tells you all about a 1972 board game from Stanley Gibbons called *Collect*. *Collect* was a stamp-collecting board game created to bring families together to learn about and enjoy philately. To view the video, if you are reading this newsletter electronically or go to the following website address: stampaware.weebly.com/video.html.

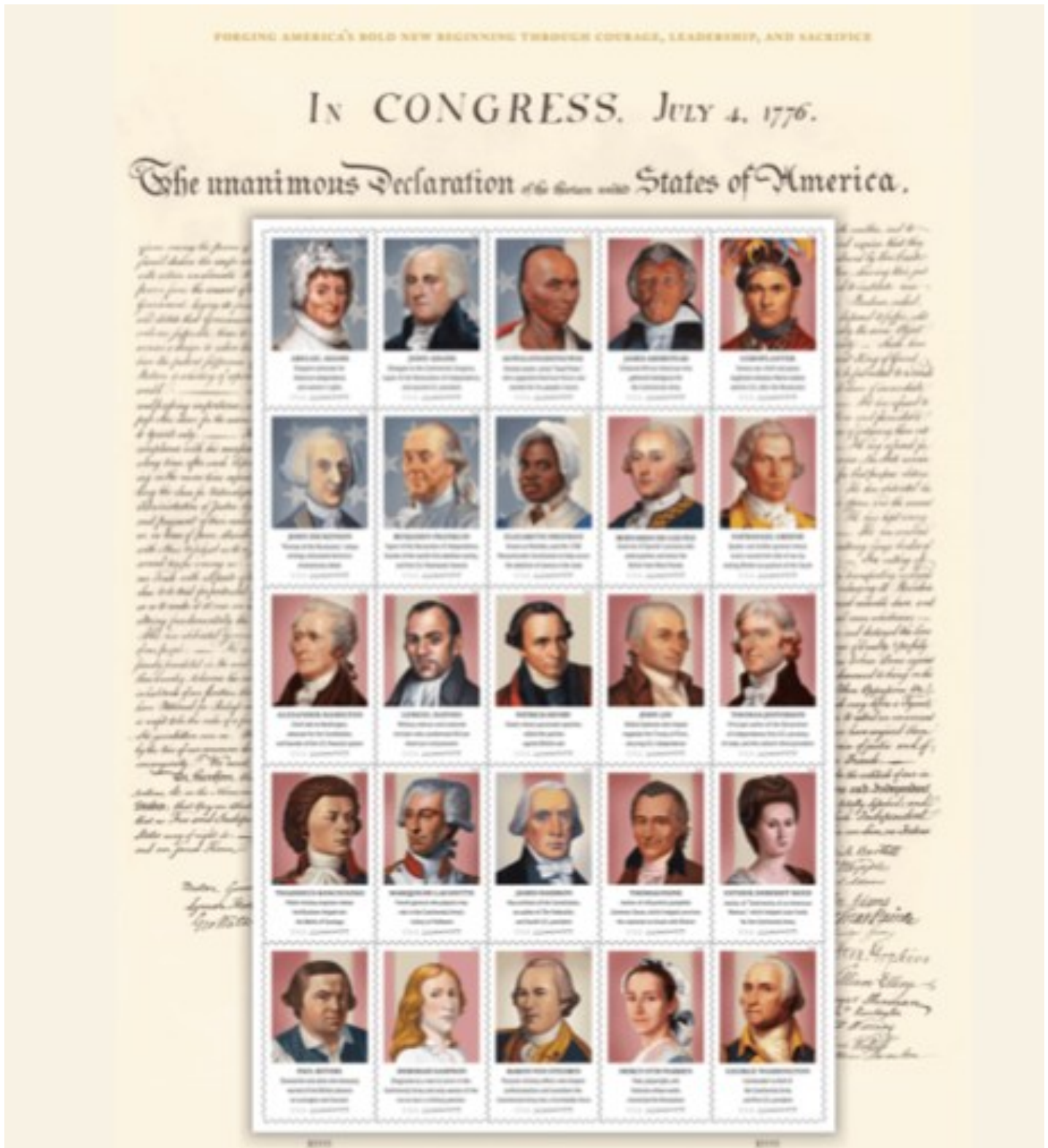


Reprint from *The First State Philatelist* March 2026



USPS New Issue April 2026

Figures of the American Revolution



The stamps will go on sell / be issued in Washington, DC on April 10, 2026
The Figures of the American Revolution commemorative pane of 25 stamps must not be split and the stamps must not be sold individually.



March 13, Lowriders, Five (78c) Forever commemorative stamps, pane of 15.

illness.

Buyer beware

How do you know if a stamp has its original gum or if it has been regummed? It helps to know how stamps were gummed in the 1800s. Gum was applied quickly and in a single motion. The earliest issues have relatively thick gum but some areas missed out on gum. These areas are called “skips” which are usually long thick lines in the direction the gum was applied.

Also, different issues show different types of gum. For example, the 1893 Columbian series usually has horizontally applied gum and thin horizontal skips are common. The Trans-Mississippi series shows thinner, smoother gum and skips are usually vertical. Also, sometimes outlines of perforations can be seen in the later issues. This probably resulted from sheets of stamps being placed upon one another while the gum was still damp. This may indicate the original gum is present.

If gum dries too quickly, it cracks all over. If gum dries too slowly it tends to run into the broken paper fibers around the perforations. This can stain the perforation areas. So pools of excess gum around perforation holes can be a sign of regumming. This process can make perforated stamp edges stiff with gum instead of being “feathered” like they usually are from tearing.

Since it is difficult for someone to reproduce the original conditions which existed for the gumming of a particular issue, if the gum on your stamps does not match most examples of gum from that issue, it may well show regumming or redistribution of the gum to erase signs of hinging. That is, it may not be original gum. It may be worth your while to keep inexpensive copies of stamps with original gum to compare to a new example. Remember though that the gum on the 1-cent stamps of an issue was the same as the gum on the \$5.00 stamps from that same issue. Your comparison copy can thus be an inexpensive one.

One new way gum has been re-applied to stamps is with a spray gun. If a gun has been used, bubbles may appear and the gum may look shinier than original gum. Also in recent years spectroscopy has been used by scientists to evaluate the gum on the back of stamps. Science can thus offer evidence toward whether or not a stamp has been regummed. You wouldn't do this yourself but an expertising service may offer such a service. Generally, regummed stamps are thought to have about the same retail price as stamps with no gum at all so it may be worth your time to check.

Self-adhesive stamps

Starting in the late 1960s some countries began to emit stamps which were self-adhesive. These

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March 14, Sunflowers. Single (78c) Forever stamp, double-sided pane of 20 booklet.

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giant letters reading "APRIL FOOL."

Google's Pigeon Internet (2000): Google has a long-standing tradition of elaborate April Fool's Day pranks, and their 2000 announcement of "Google Pigeon Internet" was no exception. They claimed to be testing a new internet service that utilized carrier pigeons to deliver data. Complete with a detailed explanation



tion and spoof videos, it had many convinced that Google was serious about this bizarre idea.

The "Flying Penguins" (2008): The BBC produced a delightful April Fool's report featuring footage of penguins flying over the Antarctic. The clip showcased the adorable birds soaring

through the air with the help of digital effects.

"The first of April is the day we remember what we are the other 364 days of the year." - Mark Twain

(Continued from page 7)

came on backing paper and Tonga and Sierra Leone were the first to issue them. The gum on the first self-adhesives was insoluble in water so the stamp could not be separated from the envelope it was on. Neither water nor lighter fluid would allow the stamp to be pulled off the paper. The first U.S. self-adhesive stamp was the 10-cent weather vane dove in 1974. The adhesive on these deteriorated over time and most of them have mottled paper today. The U.S. Postal Service considered their program a failure so they did not try again to issue self-adhesive stamps for many more years. By the 1980s several nations produced adhesive that was water soluble, which made collecting used stamps easier. Mint self-adhesive stamps are often collected with their backing paper still attached. Many collectors are unhappy with self-adhesive stamps, although postal customers prefer them, so they don't have to lick stamps.

Summary

Overall there are many different aspects of gum on the back of stamps. Knowing if your stamp has original gum can greatly change its value in the philatelic marketplace. Types of gum have changed over time but for each type people have tried to improve the gum for sale to collectors at higher prices than the stamp might otherwise deserve. Knowing about gum is one aspect of being an informed stamp buyer and a satisfied collector.

Some of the common terms used by collectors to describe gum are listed below;

Mint – unused stamps

Mint never hinged (MNH) – no hinge has ever been used the mount the stamp. Some stamp catalogs use two asterisks (**) for MNH stamps.

Mint hinged (MH) – the stamp has not been used on mail but it was hinged at some point. Some stamp catalogs use one asterisk (*) for mint hinged stamps.

Used – the stamp has been used on mail. It may or may not have been hinged. Many catalogs use a little circle like a degree sign to indicate used.

Heavy hinge Unused – The stamp has not been used on mail. It may or may not have been hinged.

Mint no gum – the stamp has not been cancelled but the gum is gone.

Issued without gum – the stamps were originally issued without gum on the back. Many of the early stamps from the People's Republic of China were

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Jul 20, Club Meeting & Program—In Person & Zoom, Member Bourse & Club Open House—Buy, Sell, Trade

AUGUST

Aug 3, Club Meeting & Program—In Person & Zoom, [AUCTION #5—Regular Member Auction](#)

Aug 7 & 8, CINPEX 2026 hosted by the Greater Cincinnati Philatelic Society will be held on Fri: August 7; noon - 4 PM and on Sat: August 8 from 10 AM -4 PM. Stamp Show is on the ground level of the Monfort Heights Methodist Church, 3682 West Fork Road, Cincinnati, OH 45247. Free admission and parking. Easy access. Good mix of stamp, cover, and postcard dealers.

Aug 10, Board meeting, AIRPEX Review

Aug 17, Club Meeting & Program—In Person & Zoom—Panel Discussion: 19th Century Great Britian DSC Members—Jim Guthrie, Tony Kosarew, Jim Schwerdtfeger

Aug 21-22, AIRPEX 2026 @ Emerge Center (F:12-6pm; Sa:10am-4pm), 2960 W.Enon Rd., Xenia OH 45385

SEPTEMBER

Sep 7, NO MEETING, LABOR DAY HOLIDAY—CHURCH CLOSED

Sep 12, TUSCOPEX 2026, Tuscora Stamp Club, Tuscora Park Pavilion, q61 Tuscora Ave, NW, New Philadelphia email: slwors-ham@frontier.com.

Sep 18-20, INDYPEX 2026. Indiana Stamp Club, Hendricks County Fairgrounds & Exhibition Center, 1900 E. Main St., Danville IN, website: indianastampclu.org.

Sep 21, ****SILENT AUCTION 7:00-7:20PM**** and Club Meeting & Program—In Person & Zoom — TBD

OCTOBER

Oct 5, Club Meeting & Program—In Person & Zoom [AUCTION #6—Regular Member Auction](#)

Oct 12. 7:00 pm Board Meeting

Oct 19, Club Meeting & Program— In Person & Zoom — Member Bourse & Club Open House—[Buy. Sell. Trade](#)

NOVEMBER

Nov 2, **>>Club CASH Auction Preview 7:00-7:25 pm<<** Club Meeting & Program— In Person & Zoom — Santa Claus on Stamps ans Seals, DSC Member—Susan Kolze

(Continued on page 9)

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issued without gum.

Regummed – the gum was missing and someone added new gum

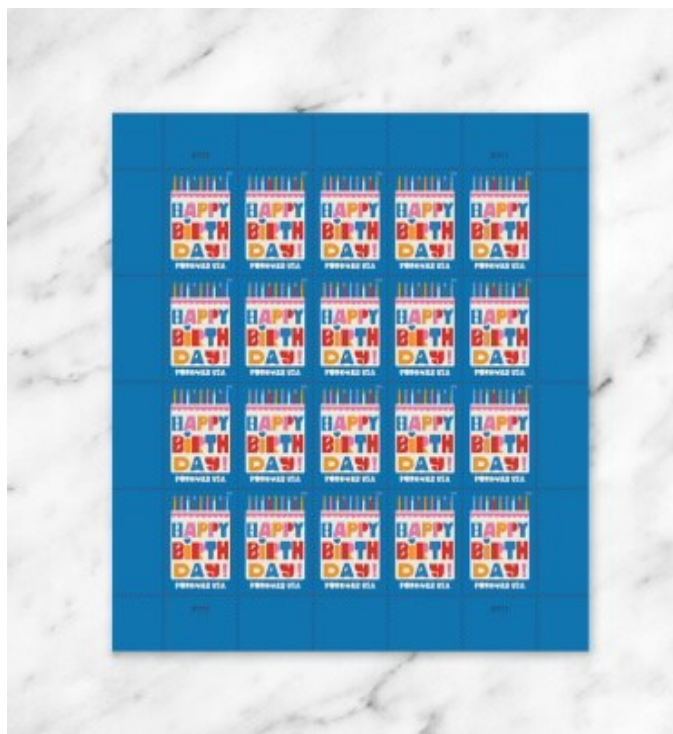
Mounting remnants – there is residue on the back of the stamp of whatever was used to mount the stamp in an album (for example, album paper sticks to the stamp)

Sidebar:

Expertization

One source used to write this article was the Philatelic Foundation's website. This organization expertizes stamps. This means you send in your stamp or other item, and you pay them \$50 to \$100. For very expensive items you may pay a percentage of catalogue value. They send the item around to two or three different experts and then they sometimes perform scientific tests on it with microscopes and spectrometers. The organization issues you a certificate with an opinion as to whether the item is real or fake. The American Philatelic Society offers an expertization service and so does the Philatelic Foundation, among other organizations.

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April 18, Happy Birthday Stamps, sheet of 20, Forever (78c)

(Continued from page 8)

Nov 9, 7:00 pm Board Meeting - Set 2026 Calendar & Budget Review

Nov 16, Club Meeting & Program— In Person & Zoom - Club Election for 2026

DECEMBER

Dec 7, HolidayPEX Party Starts at 6:30pm at Church, Dinner Party at Church

Dec 14, Board Meeting

Dec 21, NO MEETING.

ENJOY THE HOLIDAYS

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Suite 804

New York, NY 10016

philatelicfoundation@verizon.net

Phone: (212) 221-6555

Fax: (212) 221-6208

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USPS 2026 New Issue in April for Summer Fun at the Beach



April 24, A Day at the Beach, booklet of 20, four designs, Forever (78c)

AIRPEX 2026

FRIDAY, AUGUST 21 and SATURDAY, AUGUST 22, 2026

DAYTON STAMP SHOW



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