



## Purchasing stamps

By Doug Files

As with most things the prices of stamps are determined by supply and demand. If a stamp is scarce and in demand by collectors, it will probably carry a higher price. If demand is not high or supply is plentiful, then an item will carry a lower price.

There are many places to buy stamps, and values differ from one venue to another. To start with, many members buy and sell stamps through our club. We hold a couple of bourses (French for “stamp market-places”) each year. Our club also has binders of stamps (mostly world-wide) in our cabinets which you can check out and take home to see if you need the items.

You can also purchase stamps through the mail; many dealers will sell by mail if you have a want list of stamps you are

seeking. Additionally, you can buy stamps at a show, such as our club’s AIRPEX show held every year in late August.

Stamp shows have many advantages for buyers, such as there are many dealers present and you can compare prices. At shows you can also sell or trade doubles to dealers. Many dealers at shows will bargain with you on price if you are buying a significant number of items. Another bonus of shows is that you can observe other people’s collections and learn from how they collect.



Another venue for buying stamps is on-line auctions, such as eBay or HipStamp. If only one bidder is interested in an item, it may sell for an inexpensive price. But if two or three bidders really want an item, they may bid it up to a high level. This may occur, for example, if a collector really desires a particular



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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](mailto: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

### 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

June 19-20, Colopex2026 sponsors: Columbus Philatelic Club and Worthington Stamp Club Stamp Show location Is Madison County Fairgrounds, 205 Elm St.. London. OH. Free admission, plenty of parking, 14 Dealers, Hrs: Sat 10-6 and Sun 10-5. For more information is [www.colopex.com](http://www.colopex.com).

### JULY

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

Jul 13, **Dayton Stamp club 2026 PICNIC**

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

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.

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DSC NEWSLETTER

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**U.S. POSTAGE GOING TO 82¢ IN JULY;  
HOW DOES THAT COMPARE TO OTHER COUNTRIES**

The United States Postal Service has announced a rate increase for First-Class Mail from 78¢ to 82¢, effective July 12, 2026. But, How does the United States postal rate for First-Class domestic mail stack up to other

Nation	Previous rate	Mid-2026 rates
United States	\$0.78	\$0.82
Canada	CA\$1.15 (\$0.84 US)	CA\$1.44 (\$1.05 US)
Great Britain	£1.70 (\$2.31 US)	£1.80 (\$2.44 US)
France	€1.39 (\$1.63 US)	€1.52 (\$1.78 US)
South Africa	R.7.10 (\$0.43 US)	R10.35 (\$0.63 US)
Australia	A\$1.70 (\$1.22 US)	A\$1.85 (\$1.33 US)
New Zealand	NZ\$2.90 (\$1.71 US)	NZ\$3.60 (\$2.12 US)



countries in the world? The chart in this text lists postage rates for other countries — their previous year's rate and their mid-2026 rate. The rates, shown in each country's national currency, are followed by the equivalent value in United States currency (in parentheses) for an apples-to-apples comparison of foreign postal rates with United States Postal Service rates.



Returning to the rate hike, the 82¢ rate takes effect on July 6, 2026. This is the 36th rate increase in one hundred years. In the 21st century, the frequency of rate increases has ballooned. As seen in the chart on the left, from 1926 to 1976 (50 years), postal rates increased seven times. From 1976 to 2026 (50 years), including the July rate increase, rates have increased 29 times.

To put it in a grander perspective, one hundred years ago, in 1926, one could mail 50 letters for a dollar; today, for that same amount, you can mail 1.22 letters. The increase in postage rates for first-class letters from 1926 to 2026 is 4,000%, compared with a general inflation of 1,765% over the same period. This means that postal increases are outpacing inflation at a 2.3-to-1 ratio.

The United States Postal Service has announced a rate increase for First Class Mail from 78c to 82c, effective July 12, 2026. Compared to several of the other countries in the world the cost of mailing a domestic letter in Great Britain will increase by 13c or 5.6% above the previous cost. Mail a letter in the U.S. will increase mailing by 4c or 5%.

At the current time, one country decided to stop domestic mail delivery completely. Domestic daily mail may be offered by a profit services by another company. The chart of mail rates can be seen in the side article.

Much discussion and debate continues about the efficacy of the service at the current level of delivery. The amount of first-class mail has continually decreased over recent years. Technology has challenged the productivity and profitability of every day mail delivery to all the citizens.

Currently, only one country has discontinued daily first class mail to all its country's citizens. Will this trend impact the policies within other countries or will other means of daily delivery take over the service?.

Reprint from Brandywine Valley Stamp Club, May 2026

(Continued from page 1)

item for an exhibit they are creating. Still, the main rule in all these venues is supply and demand.

Among the stamp world another main feature of pricing is "catalogue value". People trying to buy or sell stamps, however find early on that catalogue value is not always equal to retail value. Moreover different catalogues use different pricing schemes. The main American catalogues are published by Brookman, US/BNA and Scott.

Catalogue value may not bear much relation to how much a dealer will pay, as many sellers have found to their disappointment. Various factors determine how much a dealer will pay for an item, such as how many of that stamp they already have in stock and how long it will sit in their inventory before it sells.

Thus catalogue value can offer a rough guide, but it is never more than a rough approximation of an item's actual value in the philatelic marketplace. For example, if a stamp is torn or has another major fault, it will often sell for no more than 10% of its catalogue value. Even stamps in top condition may not sell for full catalogue value. That

being said, collectors may pay more than catalogue value if an item is especially desirable. For example, if a collector knows it will be decades before they see that item again, they may pay a

premium for it. Some other factors that influence how a dealer sets a price on a stamp include the following, which you may not have

considered:

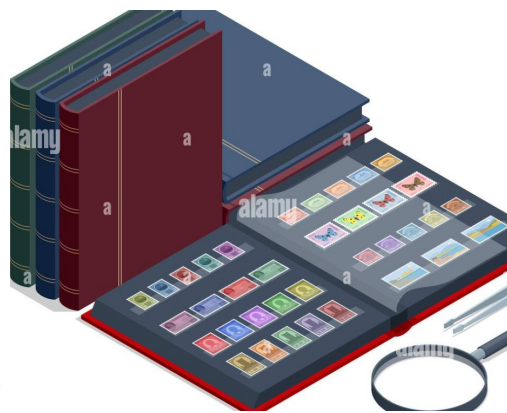
- \* - The dealer's purchase price
- \* - How many copies of that stamp that dealer has in stock
- \* - How long the dealer can afford to have it in their stock before it sells
- \* How much work the dealer is willing to put into making the sale
- \* Does that dealer offer discounts for volume purchases (such as 10% off for purchases more than \$100.00)

An on-line Stamp World article explains a general rule for stamp pricing. 98% of stamps are worth little (less than \$10.00

each). 1% are worth between \$10.00 and \$100.00. And another 1% are worth more than \$100.00. So the vast majority of stamps are worth less than many people expect.

The above information goes for stamps, but it also helps explain prices for covers. Remember a cover is just a used envelope, usually with the stamp still on it. Many covers do not carry a clear catalogue value because they are so unique that no catalogue value can be reliably set. So a dealer just has to consider the prices they have seen for similar items and which features of that cover make it desirable. For instance if a cover bears a valuable stamp and rare postal markings that may make it more attractive to collectors. Thus the pricing of covers is often more subjective than the pricing of stamps.

Overall there are many places to buy stamps such as auctions, dealers, or at a local club meeting. And dozens of factors go into determining what price a dealer places on a particular stamp or cover. These include catalogue value, how quickly the dealer wants to sell the item and how much they paid for it. Still, pricing is always based on sup-



(Continued on page 6)

**JUNE and MAY 2026 USPS NEW ISSUES**



**May 14, Bald Eagle: Hatching to Adult, Forever 78c — 5 designs — pane of 20**



**May 25—American Bison, Forever 78c, pane of 16**



**May 28—North American Soccer;**

**May 5th — Route 66 — Forever 78c — 8 designs, pane of 16**



## MAY Dayton Stamp Club Meeting

June 1 — Auction #4—Regular Member Auction

June 8 — 7:00 pm Board meeting

June 15— 7:00 pm Club Meeting & Program—In person & Zoom

**\*\*Silent Auction 7:00-7:20 pm\*\***

7:30 pm Topical Collecting and Exhibits — DSC Member speaker, Joe Shearer



Collection!

1,000's of stamps mint and used in 12 red boxes

Countries A – Z

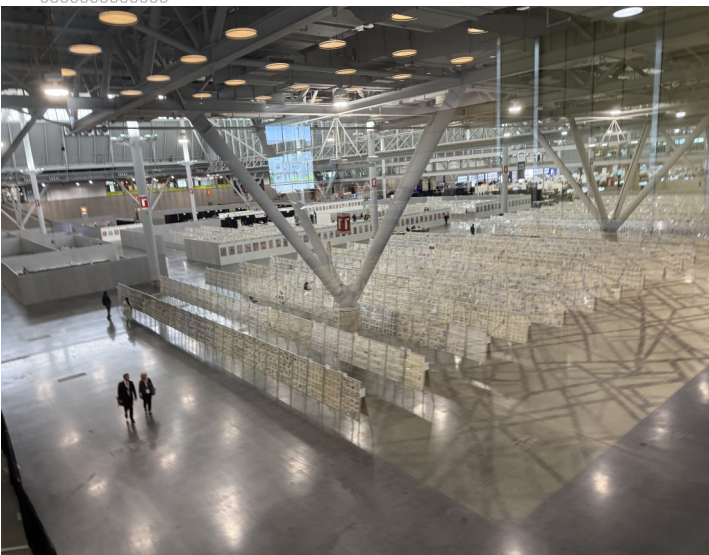
Many better throughout!

\$300

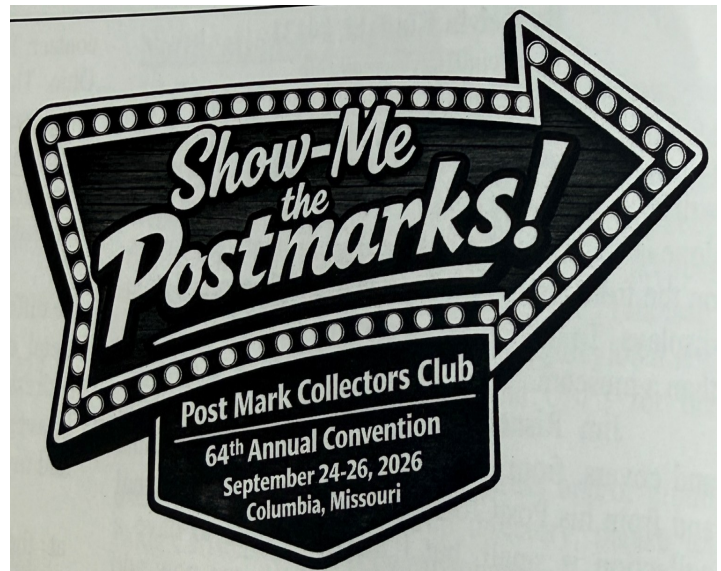
Get in touch with Jim Guthrie



# BOSTON 2026 WORLD EXPO



**Dues Are Due  
For Dayton Stamp Club  
2026—2027**



## JUNE and MAY USPS 2026 New Issues

**May 23**  
**Treasures of the Revolutionary Era, 10 Designs, Forever 78c Booklet, double-sided pane of 20**



### May 27—International Peace



(Continued from page 3)

ply and demand. The pricing of philatelic items can be complex and it sometimes even seems haphazard. Some dealers are open to haggling and offering discounts; others are not. If you consistently look through philatelic material you can develop a sense of what prices dealers and auctions

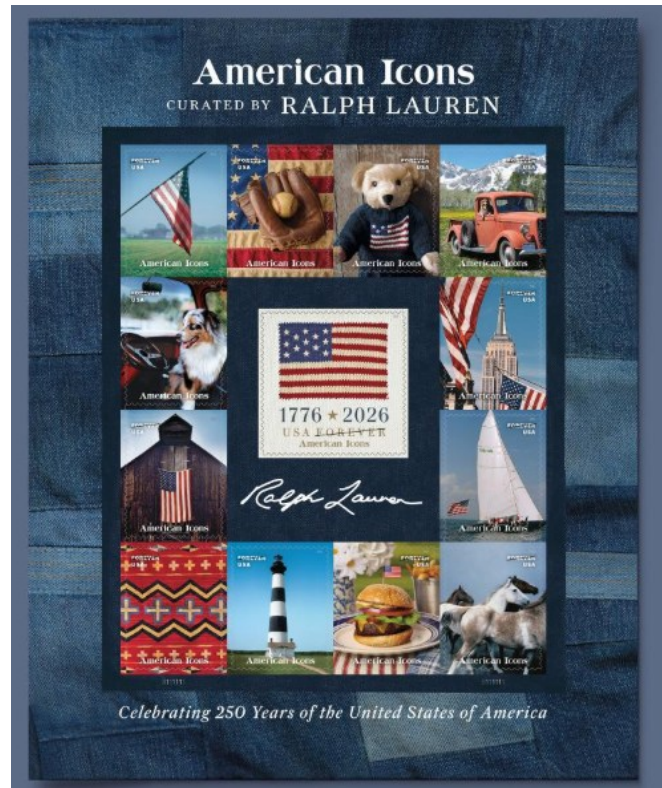


will put on items you collect. Also you will get a sense of which dealers offer bargains and which expect higher prices. As with any collectible, condition of the item has a strong influence on retail prices. Happy hunting!

#### References

Hotchner, John M., Theories of pricing: What Determines the Retail Value of Material for your Collection?, *The American Stamp Collector & Dealer*, March 2026, pp. 38-39

Stamp Values: How much are my stamps worth?, *Stamp World*, <https://www.stampworld.com/en/articles/stamp-values-how-much-are-my-stamps-worth/>, accessed 10 Apr 2026



**June 9, Forever stamps** in pane of 13. The knit flag shown on a separate *U.S. Flag* stamp issuance for 2026. The flag stamp will be issued in panes, booklets, and coils in a smaller, definitive format for widespread mail use and with the years "1776" and "2026" in red and "USA FOREVER" in blue.



**June 25, Summer, Sunset**, a non denominated, nonprofit price stamp [intended for bulk mailings authorized nonprofit organizations].

## American Authors on Stamps

By Doug Files

Cultural achievements are often commemorated on U.S. stamps and literary achievements are one of the common topics celebrated. One of the earliest attempts to honor well-known U.S. citizens – other than statesmen and founders of our nation - was in the Famous Americans series of 1940. Between January 29<sup>th</sup> and February 12<sup>th</sup>, 1940 five authors were honored as part of this series. Authors were one of seven types of cultural stand-outs which were highlighted as “Famous Americans”.

Brightly-colored stamps honored the five American authors chosen for this series: James Fenimore Cooper, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Louisa May Alcott, Washington Irving and Samuel Clemens. At the base of each of their portraits can be found a scroll, an inkwell and book: symbols of the written word. Most of the stamps in this series were issued in the birthplace of the author commemorated, and large numbers of collectors attended the first day ceremonies.

### 1-cent green Washington Irving

The low value of the set shows Washington Irving (1783-1859). The 1-cent stamp was green in line with Universal Postal Union guidelines for postal card rate stamps. Irving was known for his book *A History of New York*, as well as for a biography of his namesake George Washington and his short story about Rip van Winkle. In the Rip van Winkle story a lazy man gets drunk and falls asleep for 20 years. When he wakes up, he is amazed to learn the American Revolution has occurred.

Washington Irving is celebrated as one of the first authors in the U.S. who earned their living by writing. He founded the “Knickerbocker group” of authors in New York City in about 1807. The name derived from Irving’s pen name, Diedrich Knickerbocker, under which his *History of New York* was published at age 26. Membership in the group indicated to people that that person was a serious writer and it also served as a social club which promoted the literary arts.

In 1940 a one-cent stamp covered the cost of

sending a postcard within the United States. This was the primary postal use for the 1-cent Washington Irving issue and examples are readily available.

Another prominent member of the Knickerbocker Club was James Fenimore Cooper (1789-1851) who was honored on the 2-cent Famous American



2-cent James Fenimore Cooper stamp from the 1940 Famous Americans series

cans author stamp. Cooper gained fame for his portrayals of the American frontier, with his novels *The Pioneers*, *The Prairie* and *The Deerslayer*. His most enduring work was *The Last of the Mohicans*, which has been read by countless schoolchildren and made into movies several times. Over his lifetime he published over 30 novels, a history of the U.S. Navy (in which he had served as a young man) and dozens of short stories and articles. His work is known in many other countries besides his native United States and the 2-cent red stamp celebrates his life and his work.

Two cents at the time of the Famous Americans series covered the price for sending a 1st class letter within your same city, if your post office delivered the mail to the recipient’s home. If the recipient had to come to the post office to pick up the letter, the rate was only 1 cent since all the post office had to offer was to place the letter in a p. o. box.

Two cents at the time of the Famous Americans series covered the price for sending a 1st class letter within your same city, if your post office delivered the mail to the recipient’s home. If the recipient had to come to the post office to pick up the letter, the rate was only 1 cent since all the post office had to offer was to place the letter in a p. o. box.

Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882) was chosen for the purple 3-cent Famous American authors stamp. Emerson was a well-known transcendentalist, part of a New England group which combined nature, religion and philosophy to create an optimistic style which was unique to America at that time. Transcendentalist philosophy held that humans are basically good but they are corrupted by society. Thus they should strive to live apart from other people and as close to nature as possible. Emerson is particularly known for his essays “Nature” and “Self-Reliance” which reinforce these ideas. In 1940 three cents covered the normal cost of



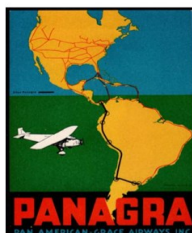
3-cent Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882) from Famous Americans series.

(Continued on page 9)

**EPHEMERA ANYONE?**

Ephemera refers to collectible, transient paper originally meant to be discarded after short-term use. Some stamp collectors like to enhance their collections by adding related ephemera. An airmail collector, especially a col-

lector of mail carried on Pan Am flights in 1930s and 1940s, might add baggage labels from the era like those shown below. If anyone would like these, send me a note (newsletter@gpsc.org.) They are the free-for-the-taking. - Michael Wilson



—reprint from The Philly Philatelist May 2026, Vol.14, No. 5



**The Great American Stamp Show 2027**



August 19-22nd, 2027

**The Albuquerque Convention Center  
Albuquerque, New Mexico**

**2026 PSS ANNUAL CONVENTION  
REGISTRATION FORM**

Jim Hirstein, PSS 200-4662



August 3 – 8, 2026  
Madison Marriott West



PRECANCEL STAMP SOCIETY  
105th Annual Convention

THE PERFINS CLUB  
83rd Annual Convention

**August 3-8, 2026: PSS 105th Convention  
Madison Wisconsin**

1313 John Q Hammons Drive  
Middleton, Wisconsin 53562

(Continued from page 1)

Aug 3-8; PSS 105th Convention; Madison Marriott West, 1313 John Q Hammons Dr., Middleton, WI, info: 888-745-2032.

Aug 10, Board meeting, AIRPEX Review  
Aug 17, Club Meeting & Program—In Person & Zoom—Panel Discussion: 19th Century Great Britain DSC Members—Jim Guthrie, Tony Kosarew, Jim Schwerdtfeger

**Aug 21-22, Dayton Stamp Club — 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

Sept 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: indianastampclub.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 and Seals, DSC Member—Susan Kolze

Nov 7, Dutch Study Group in The Netherlands, for more info contact Mike Molle (mickeymolle@hotmail.com)

Nov 6-7, AAPEX 2026 Stamp Show, Ann Arbor Stamp Club sponsors over 20 dealers from 10 states selling US and Worldwide Stamps, Covers, Postal History and Supplies. Washtenaw Community College, Morris Lawrence Building, 4800 E. Hutton River Dr., Ann Arbor, MI. Hrs: Fri 10-5 and Sat-10-4. Free admission and parking.

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

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

(Continued from page 7)

sending a first class letter within the United States, or to Canada or Mexico. Thus many 3-cent purple stamps were used in the early 1940s.

The 5-cent value celebrated the work of Louisa May Alcott (1832-1888). Alcott was raised in New England by



5-cent Louisa May Alcott stamp from the 1940 Famous Americans series.

Transcendentalist parents, and she was tutored as a young woman by Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry Da-

vid Thoreau. Her best-known novels were *Little Women* and *Little Men*, but she also published an account of her work as a nurse in the Civil War. Alcott also gained renown for her work promoting women's rights.

Five cents in 1940 covered the cost of sending a first-class letter overseas by surface mail. At that time airmail within the U.S. cost 6 cents so a five-cent stamp could also be used with a one-cent stamp for domestic airmail.

The 10-cent brown high-denomination stamp in the Famous Americans authors series showed Samuel Clemens, who was better known by his pseudonym Mark Twain. Twain published some

of the most popular American novels of the 1800s including *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* and *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*.

In the early 1940s 10 cents cov-

ered the postal rate for sending a double weight letter overseas, or it could be used with a 5-cent stamp to make up the 15-cent rate for domestic registered mail.

In 1948 a follow-up stamp was issued in the same design as the Famous Americans series to celebrate the 100 th anniversary of Joel Chandler Harris' birth. This three-cent purple stamp looked very similar to the earlier 3-cent Ralph Waldo Emerson one, but it bears a portrait of author Joel Chandler Harris (1848-1908). According to a recent article in the American Topical Association's (ATA's) magazine, when his work came out in the 1880s and 1890s Harris was celebrated for his portrayals of the African-American stories and dialects, but decades later people criticized his works as showing an overly prototypical view of the character Uncle Remus. Readers can decide for themselves whether or not 19th century authors should be held to the standards of later eras, and whether or not to collect this 1948 stamp.

For more information contact the ATA's subgroup called Journalists, Authors and Poets on Stamps.

[www.authorsonstamps.org](http://www.authorsonstamps.org). Dues are \$10.00 a year.

*Images from:* the National Postal Museum, <https://postalmuseum.si.edu/exhibition/about-us-stamps-modern-period-1940-present-commemorative-issues-1940-1949-1940-1941-0>



10-cent Samuel Clemens (1835-1910) from the Famous American series.

## References

Delvaux, Clete, Joel Chandler Harris and his Uncle Remus Stories, Topical Time, Journal of the American Topical Association, Jan-Feb 2025, pp. 31-35

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Rod, Steven J., American Authors, National Postal Museum website, <https://postalmuseum.si.edu/exhibition/about-us-stamps-modern-period-1940-present-commemorative-issues-1940-1949-1940-1941-0>, accessed 31 Dec 2024

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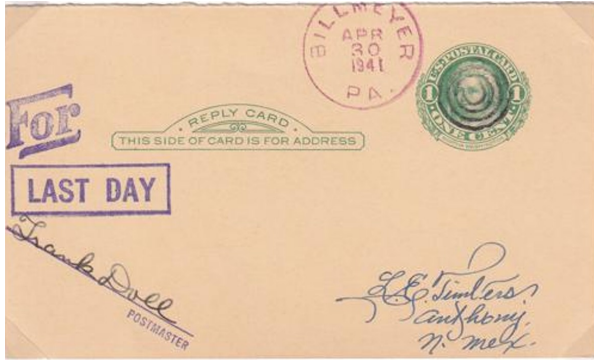
Wawrukiewicz, Tony and Beecher, Henry, U.S. International Postal Rates, 1872-96., p. 358

## Famous American 1940 series Scott Cat. 859-93



# Billmeyer, Pennsylvania: A Lancaster County ghost town

By Scott Ney



A century ago, Billmeyer was home to more than 700 workers and their families.

By the time the United States was involved in the Second World War, the steel industry's demand for Dolomite as an input in production

limestone extracting operations. Both the White Cliffs of Conoy and the former site of Billmeyer are accessible via the Northwest Lancaster County River Trail. A portion of Billmeyer's main street now serves as part of that trail.

For those interested in learning more about the history of Billmeyer, or seeing what it's like today without visiting it, a YouTube search of "Billmeyer Pennsylvania" will turn up several videos which may help to satisfy your curiosity.

What was once a town on the Susquehanna River, along the old Pennsylvania Railroad line that hugged its banks, Billmeyer is no more. Uncharted Lancaster, a website, describes it as a "once thriving company village and now a ghost of Lancaster's industrial past."

The town of Billmeyer's existence is attributed to the need for high quality limestone to feed the needs of the early steel industry. Somewhat later, the Dolomite mined there helped satisfy the ever-increasing demand for steel as the country became involved in the First World War.

declined, to the point that only 40 men worked there in the mid-1950s. Mining operations at Billmeyer ceased in 1957. The post office that operated in the village was established in 1902 and closed in 1941.

According to Uncharted Lancaster, the few remaining buildings of the once thriving village of Billmeyer were demolished in 2007. Just north of the former site of Billmeyer is a landmark known as the White Cliffs of Conoy; created by many years of quarry waste dumped over the river's bank, it serves as an enduring reminder of Billmeyer's



The Abandoned Ghost Town of Billmeyer—What Remains. (Lancaster, PA)  
The Wandering Woodsman  
Facebook: The Wandering Woodsman Patreon.  
Www.patreon.com/The Wandering Woodsman  
— reprint; Philatelic Society of Lancaster County Vol.89, Number 5

## Caution

### New Scam Targeting APS members

Last night at around 7:30 PM Eastern, many people associated with APS received a text claiming to be from me, and suggesting I needed their help to do something special for the APS staff. This message was not from me, and if you received such a message, do not reply. If you already replied, do not reply again. Please know that neither the APS nor my phone has been hacked or otherwise compromised. The texts did not originate from my phone, or an APS phone. This is a relatively new kind of scam called "smishing" (SMS phishing). Scammers pose as organizational leaders, initiate what appears to be a reasonable conversation to build trust, and ultimately request money, account access, or other urgent "favors."

The scam uses AI tools to scour the internet to identify people associated with an organization and identify their phone number. They then send a mass SMS (text message) to those people, pretending to be the leader of that organization.

**Once again, APS has not been hacked, and your personal data remains safe and secure.** If you received such a text that appears to be from me last night, or if you receive one in the future, please simply ignore it. We will report the smishing attempt to the appropriate authorities,

Sincerely,  
Kirk Gillis  
Executive Director  
American Philatelic Society



**American Philatelic Society**  
100 Match Factory Place, Bellefonte, PA 16823  
(814) 933-3803  
Monday - Friday, 8:30 am - 5:00 pm EST



# Chicken Little Has Nothing on Hobby Naysayers

By Wayne Youngblood

The incessant drumbeat of those who feel the hobby is dead or dying gets old.....

I see it everywhere — including in the pages of some of our own hobby journals:

“Stamp Collecting is dying,” “Nobody collects stamps anymore,” “We are among the last collectors” and, one of my favorites, “The final dying embers of our hobby will flicker out with the last of the Baby Boomers.”

We live in a modern world of fear mongering, both for fun and profit (the more clicks you receive, the more \$\$\$). Our little microcosm, unfortunately, isn't much different. Some of this naysaying is calculated and cynical; some is simply an ignorance of the hobby's history and a misreading of current signs. Either way, it's not helpful.

In the original version of *Chicken Little* (not the jazzed-up and completely altered 2005 Disney version), Chicken Little was an alarmist, drawing broad (and dire) conclusions about the state of the world based on a tiny sampling (an acorn bopping him on the head). This story represents a cautionary tale about not believing everything you hear (or just because “everyone is saying it”), stay-



“No. Just. No.” philatelic Chicken Little... with AI apologies to Walt Disney Studios

ing calm and rational and not being driven by fear. Amen.

I'm a lifelong collector, having been an active participant for about 60 years and a philatelic professional for nearly 40 of those. I've actively studied the history of the hobby from its begin-

ning and feel I have both a broad and deep perspective, and I can state — with a fair amount of certainty — that no, the hobby is most definitely not dying, but that doesn't mean there aren't valid concerns or challenges to face.



First, let's gain a bit of perspective.

Before wading into the morass of philatelic history and how we got to where we are now, even a casual examination of philatelic gatherings — of any time period — reveals the organized part of the hobby has almost always been

populated primarily by aging white men. The median age may have slipped a bit further north in recent years, but the hobby drivers have always been those with disposable time — and income. This is not something that usually happens with children or young families, as evidenced by the 1904 photo of some of the philatelic glitterati of 1904, shown below, from the Internationale Postwertzeichen-Ausstellung (International Philatelic Exhibition), which was held in Berlin that year.



Although there may have been earlier claims that stamp collecting was dying, in 1893 (133 years ago, if you don't want to do the math), the 16-stamp set of commemorative stamps honoring the Columbian Exposition was released. That set, with a face value of \$16.34 (equivalent to about \$600 in 2026 dollars), had collectors up in arms. There were widespread cries that the U.S. Post Office Department was “killing the hobby,” and that its demise was right around the corner as a result of this apparent cash grab. As a side note, completing the Columbians was a financial impossibility for most collec-

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## Dayton Stamp Club Summer Picnic

Monday, July 13 th , 6:30pm

### Where:

Our picnic will be held in the covered pavilion behind the church.

### What we're eating:

The club will be providing brats, hot dogs, hamburgers, buns, water, soft drinks and condiments.

### What to bring:

Bring yourself/family/friends and a side to share (chips, casseroles, salads, dessert)

Please bring serving utensils.

### Needed:

Volunteer grilling chefs

Coolers (bring to July 6th stamp club meeting)

### RSVP:

Let Rick Clark know by Friday, July 10th, who's coming and what you're bringing.

Phone: 937-581-1320

Email: rdc2112@outlook.com

### Restrooms:

The church building will be open with access to restrooms.

## LET'S STAMP ON OVER TO THE 18th CENTURY AND SEE WHAT THE EARLY POST OFFICE WAS LIKE



How were letters sent, received, and paid for in the 18th century? What was the role of the postmaster in colonial towns? How did the post office help connect people across the growing 13 colonies? This video has answers to all these questions, and more. So, let's step back in time to the 1700s and discover what life was like inside one of the

earliest U.S. post offices. From handwritten letters sealed with wax to horse-drawn mail carriers braving rough dirt roads, the postal service was the lifeline of communication in colonial America. To read this newsletter electronically, click the image below website address: [stampaware.weebly.com/video.html](http://stampaware.weebly.com/video.html).

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tors at that time.

In fact, The Society for the Suppression of Speculative Stamps was formed in 1895 to specifically protest the Columbian issue and a spate of worldwide issues that followed it. That short-lived group (1895-97) believed the government (ours and others) was exploiting the hobby for profit rather than serving the needs of collectors. This is likely true, but it failed to convince

the hobby to boycott speculative is-



ssues (much like its 20th-century successor, the infamous spectacularly failed “Black Blot” program of the American Philatelic Society).

The Columbians were followed up five years later with the release of the 1898 Trans-



Mississippi set (with a face value of \$3.50, about \$140 in 2026 dollars), which was met

with similar claims.

After the impossible growth bubble of the Depression era, Captain Tim and a stamp-collecting president (Franklin Delano Roosevelt), some hobby numbers began to de-

cline in the 1940s. The mid-to-late 1930s can kind of be considered the “glory years” of our hobby. During the 1940s and ’50s, *The American Philatelist* and other publications began to publish serious features worrying about “the future of our hobby,” despite the fact there were thriving stamp stores in many major cities



and in department stores, as well as successful shows and mail-order dealers.

By the 1970s and early 1980s, stamp stores began to disappear due to high overhead. Widespread advertising of approvals and other entry-level stamp services began to decline, once again prompting speculation about the potential “death” of the hobby.

By the early 2000s, stamp stores were almost a thing of the past, philatelic organizations and subscribers to publications began to diminish and the cries once again went out that our hobby was dying. Keep in mind this latest round began a quarter of a century ago.

What also happened about that time? The widespread use of the internet. This needs to be examined specifically, based on the “evidence” presented by those predicting the “death of the hobby.” Let’s take a look at some of these claims, as well as realistic reasons for these conditions.

● **Aging Demographic and Lack of New Collectors.** The

claim is that the core base of philatelists is getting older, with few younger enthusiasts joining, threatening the long-term sustainability of the market. *Again, this claim ignores two primary factors. While the average age of collectors has slipped a bit higher, the age demographics aren’t that much different than they have been historically. This is fact. We also have more women and minority collectors than our hobby has ever seen. As far as fewer newer collectors joining,” the only evidence I’ve seen for this claim is anecdotal, based on assumption and excluding collectors who interact with the hobby mostly online.*

● **Decline of Physical Mail.**

As email and electronic communication replace letters, the claim goes, stamps are less frequently seen or used, reducing the natural entry point for new collectors. *It is true that young people (and even their parents) do not have regular and normal access to stamped mail. This is a challenge, but I’ve seen evidence of younger people finding” stamps and enjoying their “retro” nature.*

● **Market Overproduction.**

Postal authorities, particularly in the 20th century, flooded the market with commemorative stamps, reducing the rarity and value of many items. *No, not exactly. Many worldwide postal authorities have overproduced or have released material specifically to “appeal” to collectors. Howev-*

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er, historically this has been a self-correcting problem. They will (and have) ceased pro-



ducing so-called “garbage” issues when sales decline to a point it no longer

makes financial sense to produce them. Collectors have tolerance — to a point — and most modern collectors are no longer slaves to the album and collect what they wish.

- **Digital Distractions:** Instant gratification from video games and the internet makes a quiet, detailed hobby like philately less appealing to younger generations. This is true to a point but — again — those who truly make the philatelic market are those with disposable time and income. There is evidence to suggest those in their 30s and 40s are beginning to wean themselves from electronics as they enter a period in their lives with a bit more time and income.

- **Transition to Self-Adhesive Stamps:** Modern stamps are harder to soak off envelopes, which makes them harder to preserve and less popular for traditional collecting methods. There’s really very little truth to this claim, as there are many different ways to collect these. And, again, there are also many collectors who simply collect to a point in time, ignoring later “inconvenient”

issues.

- **Storage and Preservation Requirements:** Stamps require specific, controlled environments (proper humidity, temperature, and protection from light) to prevent damage, which can be difficult to manage. Simply not true. We have access to more, better and cheaper ways to safely store stamps than ever before.

- **Declining number of philatelic organizations, stamp clubs and publications.** While these numbers are — inarguably — declining, they are not a harbinger of our hobby’s impending death. I am aware of (and acquainted with) large numbers of serious collectors who interface with our hobby almost entirely online, including social media, online auctions and even traditional dealers and auction firms with a solid online presence. Even the reading habits of these individuals have changed; most feel no need for conventional publications and journals.

- **Declining number of dealers.** Define “dealer.” As I’ve often stated, with the advent of the internet and its broad use, everyone has become a “dealer.” Collectors are no longer dependent upon traditional professional dealers for all their buying and selling needs. Anyone with a few stamps, some philatelic knowledge and a strong internet connection can buy and sell stamps with ease. This has made the work of traditional dealers much harder and less profitable, so few-

er new professional dealers are entering the field as older dealers bow out. Indeed, there are quite a few dealers who have claimed that the Boston 2026 international show is their swan song, and they may or may not follow through. But it is true that most traditional stamp shows and bourses regularly have a shortage of traditional dealers. This is a challenge, to be sure.

- **Low Resale Value.** A high volume of common stamps means most typical collections have very little financial worth, leading to frustration when sellers expect



high returns. As I frequently tell those who

bring collections to me to evaluate, stamps that were common more than 100 years ago are still common. Because of our “everyone’s a dealer” philatelic economy, the true market value of much material is now very visible. There were always too many Huguenot-Walloon and Lexington-Concord sets (to name a couple), as well as common commemoratives for the market to absorb. Dealers no longer control the retail price; it is truly a supply and demand market, with the supply of many stamps being much larger than the demand. This isn’t evidence of a shrinking market as much as it is much broader competition between

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dealers and collectors.

- Related to **Low Resale Value**” is so-called “discount postage.” When I was a child, carefully saving my lawnmowing money to go to the post office and purchase plate blocks, the local dentist was right behind me, buying full pads of stamps to “send his kids to college. Because early sheets (most of which had been broken up) had become a great investment, many



folks thought if they just put away thousands of dollars in mint sheets, they’d automatically appreciate in value (a similar story exists for first-day covers). As that generation began to pass, huge quantities of this material came onto the market — more than it could possibly absorb. Thus, the prices of mint sheets and plate blocks (as well as FDCs) plummeted. There’s no point in paying face value — or

even close to it — if you can’t sell the stamps. Until this excess of material dries up, expect buy prices to be in the 25%-35% of face, and selling at 50%-60% on average.

Again, this has nothing to do with the “death of the hobby” or a diminished number of collectors. Even the dollar-value Columbians were discount postage until about 1920!

So now you’ve seen some of the various “evidence” the hobby is dying, as well as a more objective explanation of why this simply isn’t so.

And let’s be clear: Kids were never the “salvation” of our hobby. They can be enthusiastic, but they are neither a blip on the financial radar screen, nor do many of them continue to collect beyond adolescence (I’m one of the rare exceptions).

#### My crystal ball

While I maintain there’s still a healthy and vibrant market for stamps, there’s no question there are fewer collectors now than there were 50 years ago. Exactly how many or by what percentage is debatable.

The biggest challenge I see is for us “traditional” philatelists to embrace and find ways to

include our mostly online counterparts. We’ll never fully convert them to the “way things always were,” but I’ve found they do love stamp shows when I can convince them to attend one.

Without our efforts to do this, I can see the traditional aspects of our hobby (publications, organizations and shows) continue to dimin-



ish and, on a more important level, the knowledge base decrease as our generation passes. Many of those online collectors I know are spending a great deal of money on stamps, but without much of an education.

I can envision a hobby largely without shows, organizations or publications, or one with a more focused approach to each. It’s our choice.

Either way, things are never going back to “the way it’s always been,” but that’s a far cry from a dying hobby.

### 2026-7 Dayton Stamp Club DUES are DUE — July

Dues remain for another year, \$15.00 for another year (July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027)

Please submit your dues at your earliest convenience.

You may submit your dues in person to Treasurer: Jim Schwerdtfeger OR

By MAIL to: Dayton Stamp Club, PO Box 1574, Dayton, OH 45401

Thank you for your quick response.

If you have any questions, please contact Club President or other Board Members

# USPS proposes letter and postcard increase for July 2026



In an April 9 press release, the United States Postal Service announced that it filed notice with the Postal Regulatory Commission for price changes to its mail-

ing services that are to take effect July 12, 2026.

The proposed changes have been approved by the Postal Service's board of governors.

"In the midst of the severe financial crisis facing the Postal Service and continued rising operational costs, the Postal Service is using all available tools, including available regulatory pric-

ing authority, to ensure we can continue to fulfill our universal service obligation and serve the American public," the USPS said. "Notwithstanding the adjustment, the Postal Service's mailing prices remain among the most affordable in the world."

The Postal Regulatory Commission will review the proposed changes before they go into effect.

"The proposed adjustments, approved by the governors of the Postal Service, would raise mailing services product prices approximately 4.8 percent," the USPS said.

**Under the proposed changes, a first-class letter weighing less than or equal to 1 ounce would rise from 78¢ to 82¢; a metered letter (up to and equaling 1 ounce) from 74¢ to 78¢; domestic postcards from 61¢ to 65¢; international postcards from \$1.70 to \$1.75; and an international letter (up to and equaling 1 ounce) from \$1.70 to \$1.75.**

Price tables are available on the Postal Service's Postal Explorer website at [about.usps.com/newsroom/national-releases/2026/0409-usps-recommends-new-prices-for-july.htm](http://about.usps.com/newsroom/national-releases/2026/0409-usps-recommends-new-prices-for-july.htm)

—reprint from *Linn's Stamp News* May 4, 2026

## AIRPEX 2026

FRIDAY, AUGUST 21 and SATURDAY, AUGUST 22, 2026  
**DAYTON STAMP SHOW**



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