DAYTON STAMP CLUB NEWSLETTER

Vol. 55 No. 11 November 2026

An Introduction to Postmarks

By Doug Files

In stamp collecting the term *postmark* is used to refer to a marking which shows when and where a mailed item was processed by the post office. By contrast the term *cancel* is used to mean a marking which defaces a postage stamp to prevent it from being used again. In many cases postmarks and cancels are applied by the same device, but not always. Thus the term postmark has sometimes been used to refer to both the postmark and the cancel even though technically there is a distinction. Postmarks were used more than a century before postage stamps, since post offices applied date markings on envelopes well before stamps were developed.

Pen cancel on an 1851 U.S. stamp.Image by R. A. Nonenmacher - Scanned by me, Public Domain, https://commons. wikimedia.org/w/ idex.php?curid=1014329

The first postmarks were just dates and post office names that a postal clerk had written on the envelope with a pen. The amount of money paid was often also noted. Handwritten notations are called *manuscript* postmarks and they were made on covers. Envelopes are called *covers* in the philatelic world because originally letter writers just placed another sheet of paper around their letter and that "covered" the letter. Manuscript postmarks were used for decades in small, rural post offices where so little mail was sent that it was not worth buying a hand cancel device.

Image by Tallanent at en.wikipedia; description page is/was here., Public Domain, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=2698384

Bishop mark

Hand cancels made with a device were applied in Great Britain beginning in 1661. Because these were introduced under Postmaster General Henry Bishop they are called Bishop marks when seen on covers. These early markings showed the month and the day but not the year the item was cancelled. The original intent was to prevent delivery delays by mail carriers since customers and mail clerks could see which day the item had passed through which post office.

In the United States early postmarks often showed the name of the town and the state in a circle around the date, so these are called *circular date stamps*. If the marking has two circles it is called a double circle date stamp. Eventually cancels were added to the postmarking devices - in order to deface stamps - and the most common example in the United States was the *four-bar cancel*.

Christmas 1932 postmark from the ship U.S.S. Texas. Image by US Post Office / photo - US Post Office / Gwillhickers photo image, detail obtained from hires scan of US Naval cover in personal collection., Public Domain, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=10531304

Around the year 1900 the post office added numerals amid the bars and the numerals indicated the size of the post office. More specifically, they showed a code for how much revenue that post office had taken in the 01 prior year. Because the first phi-

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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.

2026

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. Huton 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 & Auction #7—Club CASH Auction

DECEMBER

Dec. 4-5, London MSDA Columbus Show. Madison County Fairgrounds, 205 Elm St, London, OH 43140. Show Hours FRI 10am-5pm; SAT 10am-3pm.

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

Enjoy Collecting Stamps

USPS Exciting Holiday New Issues for Season

Sep. 12, U.S. Coasty Guard Academy. Single (82c) forever commemorative stamp; pane of 20.

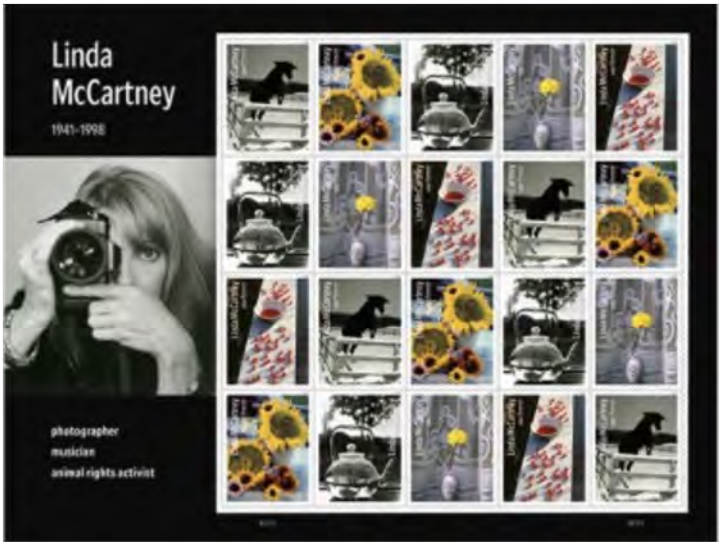
Sep. 18, Winter Wreath. Single ($1.75) global forever stamp; pane of 10.

Sep. 25. Squirrels & Chipmunks in Winter. Four (82c) forever stamps; double-sided pane of 20.

Sep. 19. Christmas Cookies. Four (82c) special forever stamps; double-sided pane of 20.

Sep. 23, Kwanzaa. Single (8 (82c) forever stamp; pane of 20.

Sep. 29 Hanukkah. Single (82c) forever stamp; pane of 20.



Sep 25; Linda McCartney, forever (82c) commemorative stamps, pane of 20

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Sanitary Fairs

By Jeff Lough, Member of Wishita Stamp Club

During the Civil War era the Federal Government had a semi-official "Sanitary Commission" to support sick and wounded of their army. It raised what would be over $400,000,000 in today's currency to support its efforts. In addition to setting up and staffing hospitals it operated 30 soldiers' homes and rest houses for traveling and disabled Union soldiers.

Louisa May Alcott was a nurse for one hospital and later Kansan Mary Ann Bickerdyke helped establish 300 field hospitals during the war. Many local groups sponsored fund-raising events to benefit the Commission. There were sometimes large and elaborate "Fairs" and other events.

Fundraising efforts included the issuance of special charity stamps and cacheted envelopes. The stamps have been referenced as a source of inspiration for the issuance of the many types of worldwide and American charity stamps, including Christmas seals. They served as "carrier stamps" and were available for paying for carrier fees to or from the post office within the city of the event, and the fee covered only this service. They are not considered "local" stamps because they were associated with a Federal government agency even though they were purely private in nature.

The stamp above was produced by the Butler and Carpenter printing firm of Philadelphia. It measures 24 x 31 mm and was printed on thin wove paper.

These were the only Sanitation Fair stamps that were perforated. The cover was possibly issued to support the Great Central Fair of Philadelphia. This stamp was also used by Sanitary Fairs in New Jersey and New York.

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latelist to categorize these turn-of-the-century postmarks was Edith Doane they are called Doane cancels

2021 Antarctica postmark. Image By Ncysea - Own work, Public Domain, https://commons. wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=114707014

Other 20th century innovations in postmarks were steel duplex cancels and mechanical rollers which printed wavy lines on parcels. Large U.S. cities began to field mechanical cancelling machines in the late 1800s and this practice continued well into the 1900s. Early machine cancels in the United States usually had a circular part that showed the place and date and a cancelling part which was called the *killer*. The killer had wavy lines in many instances and sometimes it formed a U.S. flag. By the 1920s and 1930s the killer sometimes formed a rectangle with a slogan inside.

In the current centure nearly all U.S. postmarks are made with jet sprayers, and they are applied at regional processing centers rather than at local post offices. Place names and dates are usually printed in a straight line instead of in a circle. Hand cancels still exist at local post offices and many of these are purchased from private companies instead of from the U.S. Postal Service. Commonly they are applied in red ink to make double circle postmarks. Because the handstamps are made by private companies they tend to vary more in design than hand cancels did in the past. Very few cancelling machines exist at local U.S. post offices anymore; all incoming mail is sent a regional center for processing.

Pony express postmark. Image by Pony Express: Richard Frajola, Public Domain, https://commons. wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid =10551897

Decades ago it seemed like nearly all postmarks would be common forever. Back then most mail was cancelled locally and a lot of mail was sent. But now the use of local postmarks has dwindled to a trickle and the amount of regular mail sent is much diminished in the digital age.

Postmark collecting in the United States

More than 30,000 postal facilities are currently functioning within the United States. Many other post offices have closed. Over the 250-year history of our nation more than 200,000 local U.S. post offices have existed at one time or another. Postal history (cover) collectors call post offices which have closed *dead post offices*. Postmark collectors who collect local post offices sometimes try to get one of each postmark of a particular town, or they might collect one from each city in their state. They might also choose a certain time period of cancels to collect. The study of postmarks is called marcophily and the people who collect them are called marcophilatelists. (Amaze your friends at cocktail parties),

Precancel on a Presidential series stamp from 1938. Scan by Stan Shebs, Public Domain, https://comons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=266110

In addition to local town postmarks there exist slogans, event cancels, precancels, railway post offices (RPOs), Doane cancels, military cancels and first day postmarks. All of these areas interest collectors. Special cancels are applied on board ships and this practice has led to maritime aficionados to collect these. Topical collecting of postmarks is also popular with some philatelists. They might focus on towns named for U.S. presidents or cities with unusual names, for instance. Some collectors might be drawn to the purple American machine cancels of the early 1980s. So there are many diverse sub-areas of cancels to delve into.

Methods of saving postmarks have varied over time. Postmark collectors in the 1800s and early 1900s cut out just the postmark from their mail, cutting closely around the postmark. The next stage for many collectors was to save the entire postmarked corner of the envelope. Now the preferred way to save postmarks is to save the entire envelope, or cover. Of course you can do as you like with your own collection.

Not all postmarks appear over top of the stamp. Some are applied to other parts of the envelope. In the 1800s and early 1900s it was common for each post office an item passed through to handstamp it with a date and place name. Since many of these were placed on the back of the envelope they are termed backstamps.

Another type of postmark which some philatelists are unfamiliar with are privately applied postmarks. For example, the U.S. Postal Service authorizes certain people to use their own mailer's postmark. Cancelling stamps on your own is only legal if the postal service has issued the individual a Mailer's Postmark Permit.

Ideal features for postmarks vary by the goals of the individual philatelist. Collectors looking for attractive stamps may prefer light cancels to heavy ones. But collectors who save postmarks for their own sake may prefer heavy cancellations where the date and place name are clearly visible. Some collectors prefer cancels that appear neat, for example if they were applied carefully for a collector. But postal history collectors may prefer items that traveled through the mail normally, such as commercial cover sent by one business to another. Again, it depends on what that collector is trying to accomplish or what appeals to them.

1929 Commemorative air mail cancel. Scanned September 2005 by User:Stan Shebs, Public Domain, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=331037

Interestingly there exist forged postmarks just like there are forged stamps. The main purposes of forging cancels are 1) to date a cover to a particular time period or 2) to show a use of a stamp which was not often used. There is not much reason to forge postmarks to fool postal services. Rather, forged cancels are done to defraud collectors and urge them to pay more than an item is really worth. There have also been instances where a real but obsolete postmarking device comes into the possession of a collector or dealer who then applies a cancel after the fact to stamps to increase their value. This represents a type of forgery which can be difficult to detect since the cancel is made with the original device. If you suspect that a post-

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mark is forged you can submit the item to an expertizing service and get the opinions of experts.

Post Mark Collector's Club (PMCC)

Several groups cater to postmark collectors and the largest is the Post Mark Collector's Club (PMCC), begun in 1946 by Charles Strobel. It publishes a Bulletin eleven times a year and it began to hold annual meetings in Columbiana, Ohio in 1962. Currently the PMCC boasts about 400 members and membership costs around $20.00 a year. In the late 1950s the British Postmark Society was started in the United Kingdom and it is also still active. This group focuses on 20th and 21st century postmarks of the British Isles.

Handstamp cancel devices. Image by Almanaque Lusofonista - Own work, CC BY 3.0 br, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=45087078

The PMCC is affiliated with a postmark museum near Bellevue, Ohio which opened in 2003. The museum is named in honor of Margie Pfund – its first curator. It is sometimes also called the National Postmark Museum or the PMCC Museum. The museum operates in the Historic Lyme Village at 5001 State Route 4, Bellevue, Ohio 44811, if readers are interested in seeing it.

The museum is open for tours the first and third Wednesday afternoons of each month and it boasts 1,400 books for researchers. The museum holds over 2 million philatelic items, especially examples of U.S. postmarks. One featured exhibit is the Willett-Thompson Collection which consists of 400 albums of postmarks. The museum also contains a database of 55,000 photographs of U.S. post offices and Depression-era Works Progress Administration murals.

Types of cancels

Recall that a cancel is a postal marking which defaces a postage stamp to show that it should not be used again. From the collector's standpoint there exist many types of cancels, all of which are potentially collectible if that kindles the collector's interest.

- Bullseye cancels are ones that are centered on the stamp, often in a neat circle. Many collectors like that the stamp shows the date of cancellation in an attractive way. Bullseye cancels are also called socked-on-the-nose cancels.
- Cancelled-to-order stamps have been cancelled by a postal authority for sale to collectors, and they cannot be used on mail. That is, they represent mostly profit for the postal authority.
- Deferential cancels are those which avoid cancelling the face of a head of state whose portrait is on a stamp. In some countries cancelling the face of the sovereign has been discouraged or forbidden.
- Duplex cancels are when the postmark and the cancel are applied together.
- Fancy cancels are simply ones which form a picture of something. However, the term is most often used for American cancels of the late 1800s where postmasters commissioned people to cut designs in cork for use in hand-cancelling stamps. Some of the designs were flags or chickens.
- Favor cancels are applied in a post office for collectors. A philatelist hands an item to a clerk, and they cancel it and hand it back over the counter. A favor item never actually travels through the mail.

Yosemite National Park Postmark

Additional Postmarks

◊ First day of issue cancels include those words and the date represents the day the stamp is first issued.

◊ Flag cancels make an American flag with the stripes serving as the killer over the stamp.

◊ Highway post office (HPO) cancels are applied in a truck or van, usually during transport.

◊ Machine cancels are applied by machines to mail in a rapid, efficient manner.

◊ Mute cancels contain no text and thus they "do not speak".

◊ Numeral cancels are ones where a number indicates the place of cancellation.

◊ Precancels are on stamps which were issued with the cancel already on them. Usually precancels are issued to mass mailers and are not available to individual customers.

◊ Philatelic cancels are done to create a nice looking item for a collector. A favor cancel is one type of philatelic cancel but covers which travel through the mail can also be called philatelic if a collector created it for the purpose of saving the item.

◊ Railway post office (RPO) cancels are applied in a train, usually during transport.

◊ Ship cancels are applied onboard a ship, especially a steamer. In French the analogous term is "Paquebot" and this word may be seen on mail.

◊ Slogan cancels contain a motto, for advertising or for commemorating an event.

Current USPS postmarking practices

During the mid 2020s the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) made changes to mail delivery to decrease costs. At the time it was paying out significantly more than it was taking in in postal fees. The methods of postmarking items were not much changed but the emphasis of how the postmarking on items would be done was altered.

In late 2025 the USPS emphasized to its customers that postmarking would be done as it always had. Two of the primary times customers care about getting an accurate postmark are when they are mailing in tax documents to the Internal Revenue Service and when they are mailing in ballots for elections. In both cases governmental organizations state use postmark dates on items to confirm that the documents were submitted before a particular deadline.

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HOLES IN STAMPS THAT ARE A-OK

By Michael L. Wilson, reprinted from The Philly Philatelist Newsletter

Stamp collectors usually avoid stamps with holes— but perfins are an exception.

A perfin is a stamp deliberately punched with initials, numbers, or a design identifying the company or organization that owned it. The word is a contraction of "perforated initials" or perforated insignia."

Perfins originated in Great Britain in the 1860s as a way to discourage employees from stealing company postage. Because unused British stamps could be redeemed for cash, punching a company's initials into them made theft and resale more difficult. Their use later spread to the United States, where they were especially common from about 1908 through the 1950s.

Hundreds of American businesses used perfins, creating a remarkable variety of patterns. Railroads, banks, insurance companies, manufacturers, and other large organizations all adopted them. Some designs consisted simply of initials, while others incorporated numbers, geometric shapes, or symbols.

Identifying a perfin can be part of the fun. A high resolution scan of a stamp, especially from the back, can make the punched pattern much easier to see. Rotating the image, increasing contrast, or changing the color can also help reveal the letters or symbols. Once the pattern is clear, it can be matched against published perfin catalogs.

The Western Pacific Railroad cover shown here is a good example. The 3-cent Mt. Rainier stamp bears the railroad's "WP" perfin, which is easier to see in the enlarged inset.

The growth of postage meters and permit mail after World War II gradually made perfins unnecessary, but today their many patterns and commercial connections have created a specialized collecting field of their own.

For collectors interested in identifying examples, The Perfins Club maintains an extensive catalog and reference collection at https://perfins.org .

Western Pacific ("WP") Railroad perfin, pattern W154, on U.S. Scott 742, the 3-cent Mt. Rainier issue—an especially appropriate design for a Western railroad. The cover was postmarked December 19, 1934, in Seattle, Washington, and sent to John Henry Coupin (1891–1973), General Agent, Freight Department, Western Pacific Railroad, in Oakland. Coupin retired in 1956 after 46 years of service and was profiled in the June 1956 issue of the company's employee magazine, Mileposts.

Faroe Island Stamps Missing!

George Hummel is missing an album page of Faroe Island stamps. It was missing from the DSC meeting on September 21, 2026. If you find it, please return to George. tagguy176@aol.com

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In January 2026 the USPS clarified that postmarks can still be used for these purposes. However, the main reason for postmarking items, they stated, is for internal post office business, not for customer verification of mailing dates. Thus sometimes mail arrives at a post office one day and it is postmarked two or three days later when it is processed at a regional center. Also, some mail is transmitted through the system without a postmark and the USPS emphasizes that it does not guarantee to customers that a postmark will be applied to every item of mail. Hand cancels bearing a date are still possible without extra charge if customers bring their item to a post office retail counter.

Overall, postmarks and cancels are an engaging area for collectors to delve into. An impressive collection can be built without the expenditure of a lot of money. Of course, if you want to expand your collection, there exist rare cancels which a dealer will be happy to sell you for a price. Hundreds of postmark areas are ripe for collecting and you can organize your items however you like. Postmark collecting is key to postal history collecting but cover collectors usually consider more than just the postmark alone.

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USPS Operation Santa begins 114th year

BY LINN'S STAFF

In a Sept. 14 press release, the United States Postal Service announced the start of its Operation Santa program for the 2026 holiday mailing season.

According to the USPS, Operation Santa "has given kind-hearted people the opportunity to make dreams come true for thousands of children and their families through simple acts of kindness."

"The holidays are a time to celebrate the joy of the season," said Sheila Holman, USPS vice president of marketing. "But for some, the simple act of exchanging even small gifts is out of reach."

During Operation Santa, children and families write letters to Santa Claus to express their holiday desires. The letters are sent to Santa's official address, according to the USPS.

The letters are then opened and reviewed. Personal information is redacted before the letters are made available for adoption on the Operation Santa website. Letters must include the writer's first and last names and a complete return address. The return address should contain a street address, apartment number (if applicable), city, state and ZIP code.

The letter must carry appropriate first-class postage and should be addressed to Santa Claus, 123 Elf Road, North Pole, 88888. Letters to Santa must be postmarked by Dec. 5.

Registration opens for letter adopters on Nov. 2, and the adoption period begins Nov. 16.

Dec. 12 is the last day to adopt a letter and the recommended date to ship gifts for expected delivery before Dec. 25. The USPS recommends mailing packages containing gifts from the wish lists by that date.

November Dayton Stamp Club Meeting

November 2 — >>Club CASH Auction PREVIEW 7:00-7:25PM<<

Club Meeting & Program—In Person & Zoom

Sants Claus on Stamps and Seals;DSC Member Speaker—Susan Kolze

November 9 — 7:00 pm — Board Meeting

Set 2027 Calendar & Budget Review

November 16 — Club Meeting & Program—In Person & Zoom

Club Election for 2027 and Auction #7—Club CASH Auction

Don't Go "Scotch" with Tape!

by Terry Hursh

Every collector has a story about the moment they learned what not to do. Mine came early. I was seven or eight when I first fell in love with stamps. Family friends passed along envelopes and stamps of older material—some of it, I later realized, was actually quite decent. I was thrilled. I was also out of hinges.

Enter my well-intentioned mother, who offered what she thought was a perfectly sensible solution: "Just use a little Scotch tape. Fold it over. It'll hold."

And hold it did—right up until the day I discovered what every collector eventually learns: cellophane tape is the mortal enemy of philately.

We've all seen the casualties. The translucent brown stains. The warped paper. The brittle, crackled adhesive that seems to fuse itself into the very soul of the stamp. Tape causes permanent, irreversible damage because its adhesive migrates into the paper fibers. It stains, it seeps, it darkens and it cannot be washed out. Even soaking for days won't lift it. Solvents that might dissolve the adhesive will happily dissolve the ink as well. It's a lose-lose proposition.

The plastic film itself isn't innocent either. Over time it shrinks, pulling the stamp into wrinkles or curls. And once that familiar "tape shadow" appears, even a once-valuable stamp becomes a lesson rather than a collectible. No amount of rarity can rescue a taped item. Tape is not archival, not reversible, and not acceptable for mounting, repairing, reinforcing or— frankly—coming anywhere near a stamp. Ever.

Which brings me to the real reason for writing this. Lately I've been buying a number of covers for a couple of exhibits I'm assembling. The material has been good, the sellers generally reliable—but I'm astonished at how many still use cellophane tape inside the packaging. Not on the outside, where it belongs and where it does no harm. I'm talking about tape used to seal the inner sleeve, the flimsy plastic wrapper, the protective envelope that actually touches the cover.

You know the drill: you open the outer mailer, slide out the inner sleeve, and suddenly you're wrestling with a strip of tape that wants nothing more than to grab the nearest perforation. It's a small miracle every time a cover escapes unscathed.

To be clear, reputable dealers rarely do this. They know better. The occasional online seller—the ones who ship a cover as if it were a grocery receipt—are the culprits.

So, if you sell covers, here's a plea from someone who buys them: Don't take the "convenient" route. Don't use cellophane tape inside the package.

If you want to secure the contents, use something benign— like the sticky edge of a yellow Post-it note. It holds just fine, peels away cleanly, and won't leave your buyer muttering unprintable things while trying to rescue their purchase.

Collectors spend good money on these pieces of postal history. The least we can do is make sure they arrive without a fresh battle scar.

Tape belongs on cardboard boxes, not on covers. Let's keep it that way

About the Author

Terry N. Hursh is an avid collector, exhibitor and contributor to several philatelic journals and publications. His interests include Mexico's early airmail covers, Art Deco designs on stamps and covers and general postal history. He is a member of the ATA, AAPE, APS and the Royal Philatelic Society of London, as well as several other specialty associations. A retired attorney and clergyman, he lives in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Separate Scott Postcard Series launches with Charter Set

BY LINN'S STAFF

Scott Stamp LLC is launching a new numbered postcard program, the Scott Postcard Series.

The series is a separate project from the *Scott Posted* magazine and from the artist-created postcards that will accompany subscriptions to the new quarterly publication.

Each design in the Scott Postcard Series receives a permanent four-digit number beginning with No. 0001. The growing series will feature a broad range of subjects, including landmarks, wildlife, postal subjects, travel, Americana, transportation, flowers and scenes associated with postal and collector events.

Scott Postcard Series No. 0023 features a glowing jack-o'-lantern, one of the seasonal subjects included in the growing numbered postcard series.

New designs will be introduced over time rather than released all at once. Individual cards will be offered for $1 each, while selected groups of cards also will be offered as sets and special collections.

The first special offering is the Scott Postcard Series Charter Set of 10, created to mark the launch of the new series.

The Charter Set contains No. 0001, Troy, Ohio Courthouse Building; No. 0003, National Postal Museum; No. 0008, Golden Gate Bridge with Sailboat; No. 0015, Sunlit Stars and Stripes; No. 0017, Sunflower; No. 0026, Rails Through Laramie; No. 0036, Rainbow Over Hawaii; No. 0037, Point Judith Lighthouse; No. 0039, Behind the Brass Doors; and No. 0043, Old Faithful Geyser.

Only 150 complete Charter Sets will be produced. The 10-card set is priced at $9.99. Selected designs from the set also will be available individually for $1 each.

Other special collections will be offered alongside the numbered series. Cards may therefore be purchased as individual numbered postcards or, when available, as part of themed and event-related sets.

Additional numbered designs will be introduced on an ongoing basis as the Scott Postcard Series grows.

The Scott Postcard Series and available sets can be viewed and ordered at scottstamp.com/store?c=postcards.

Reprint from Linn's Stamp News

THE PRECANCELED BATTLESHIP REPORT

"Pond's Extract Co."
New York, NY and London, UK
Submitted by
Stanley E. Jones and Mary Katherine Klose
Brandywine Valley Stamp Club

In 1846, Theron T. Pond invented a healing remedy extracted from Witch Hazel that could strengthen skin below the surface. This product was originally marketed as Pond's "Golden Treasure." A short time later, the name was changed and the product became known as Pond's Extract. It was a very popular product that continues to be marketed today.

Pond's Extract was successfully marketed during the Civil War. However, we can find no reference to Pond's extract in the *Boston Revenue Book*. So, we can assume that they did not employ a private die or a printed cancel on Civil War Revenue Stamps. When the Spanish-American War Tax arrived in 1898, they precanceled Battleship revenues (Figure 1). According to Chappell and Joyce, Pond's distinct precancel may be found on a wide range of denominations of proprietary Battleships. We are fortunate to have found it on only three of the denominations.

Figure 1. Precancels used by Pond's Extract on Battleship Proprietary Revenues, RB24, RB25, and RB30. All of these stamps appear to be rouletted 5 ½. All of them have faults. However, the cancel still makes them very collectible.

AND NOW FOR A LITTLE HUMOR...

Stamp collectors never lose their cool—they just keep everything hinged together.

I told my wife stamp collecting was a cheap hobby; then I discovered auctions.

Stamp collectors are great at relationships—they know when to stick with something.

CELEBRATE THE APS 140TH ANNIVERSARY AND SAVE ON MEMBERSHIP!

Join the American Philatelic Society (APS) today and unlock access to exclusive member benefits, trusted expert resources, educational opportunities, and a community of fellow collectors who share your passion for philately.

As part of the APS 140th Anniversary Membership Drive, Greater Philadelphia Stamp & Collectors Club **members can receive 25% off their first year of a new APS membership** by following these simple steps:

1. **Visit** info.stamps.org/aps140 to learn more about the benefits of APS membership and click **"Join Today".**

2. **Complete** the online membership application. **Be sure to enter our club's APS Chapter Number,** 80083 as your referral source near the bottom of the Basic Info portion of the online application.

3. **Select** your membership type:

   - **Membership**: $45/year (**$33.75 after discount**)
   - **Digital Membership**: $35/year (**$26.25 after discount**)

AMERICAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Postal Inspection Service promotes new counterfeit postage reporting tool

The United States Postal Inspection Service is encouraging consumers to report sellers of counterfeit stamps and shipping labels through a new online reporting system aimed at combating postage fraud.

The Counterfeit Postage Reporting System allows individuals to report suspected counterfeit postage sales, the intentional use of counterfeit stamps and labels, and other schemes that defraud the U. S. Postal Service of postage revenue.

Consumers can access the reporting system at www.uspis.gov/report by selecting the Counterfeit Postage option and providing details about suspected fraudulent activity.

The Postal Inspection Service outlined the reporting system in a recent news release and promoted it in an Oct. 1 Facebook post featuring an illustration of a machine producing counterfeit stamps.

"There's a new, easier way to report counterfeit postage sellers," the agency said in the Facebook post.

The Postal Inspection Service said information submitted through the system will support investigations into the production, distribution and use of counterfeit postage.

The Postal Inspection Service cautions consumers against purchasing deeply discounted stamps or shipping labels online, warning that such offers are likely to involve counterfeit postage.

The agency also advises consumers to report sellers when packages they ordered are not delivered because counterfeit postage was used.

Additional information about the reporting system is available at www.uspis.gov/report.

The U.S. Postal Inspection Service shared this illustration in an Oct. 1 Facebook post promoting its new online system for reporting suspected counterfeit postage sellers and fraudulent postage use. *Illustration courtesy of the U.S. Postal Service.*

Reprint from Linn's Stamp News

Investing in the next generation of stamp collectors

SCHOLARSHIP EXPANSION OFFERS NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENT COLLECTORS

Trisha Forbes, a 2025 recipient of the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library's Special Delivery of Dreams Scholarship, is a health technology student at Arapahoe Community College in Colorado. A topical collector of Christmas and John F. Kennedy stamps, she also sends Christmas packages to underprivileged children.

One of the challenges facing organized philately is finding ways to encourage younger collectors to become involved in the hobby. We talk frequently about attracting new collectors, but just as important is supporting those who have already discovered the enjoyment of stamp collecting.

That's why I was particularly pleased to hear about the latest developments with the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library's Special Delivery of Dreams Scholarship program.

The Denver-based library has announced that it will award six scholarships of $2,500 each in 2027, an increase from the four scholarships offered previously. The expansion was made possible through financial support from the Denver Stamp Club and Cherrelyn Stamp Club, both affiliated with the library.

Even more noteworthy is a change in eligibility. For the first time, the scholarships will be available exclusively to stamp collectors.

I think that's a wonderful development.

The program began in 2022 with two scholarships for students pursuing trade school certificates or two-year degrees. It subsequently expanded to include bachelor's degree students and, more recently, those pursuing graduate degrees.

Since its establishment, the program has attracted more than 1,500 applicants and awarded $30,000 in educational assistance.

The 2025 scholarship recipients marked another milestone: For the first time in the program's history, all four recipients were stamp collectors.

The Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library's Special Delivery of Dreams Scholarship program will award six $2,500 scholarships in 2027, with eligibility now limited exclusively to stamp collectors. Applications are due March 8, 2027.

One of those recipients, Trisha Forbes, is a single mother attending Arapahoe Community College in Colorado, where she is studying health technology. She's also a topical stamp collector with interests in Christmas and John F. Kennedy stamps and follows the online Christmas Philatelic Club. Beyond her collecting interests, Forbes gives back to her community by sending Christmas packages to underprivileged children.

I particularly like that example because it illustrates what this scholarship program is all about. Here's someone pursuing her education, enjoying stamp collecting and finding ways to make a difference in the lives of others.

Now, with the eligibility requirements focused entirely on philatelists, the program offers an opportunity to make a meaningful difference in the lives of young people who share our enthusiasm for stamps and postal history.

The scholarships are not limited to students studying philately, of course. They can help a stamp collector pursue a career in engineering, education, business, medicine or any number of other fields. What matters is that these individuals have found a connection to our hobby, and the philatelic community is helping them achieve their educational goals.

I would encourage every stamp club, society and collector reading this to think about the young collectors they know. Perhaps there's a student who attends your local stamp show, participates in a youth collecting program or has been quietly building a collection for years.

Make sure they know about this opportunity.

Applications for the 2027 scholarships are open now, with a deadline of March 8, 2027. Students can apply through bold.org by searching for the Special Delivery of Dreams Scholarship.

I also hope the library's example inspires other philatelic organizations to consider what they might do to support the next generation. Not every organization can fund a scholarship, but mentoring a young collector, providing materials for a school program or simply making a newcomer feel welcome can have a lasting impact.

The future of stamp collecting depends on the people who will carry the hobby forward. It's encouraging to see organizations such as the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library investing directly in those individuals.

And if you know a student stamp collector, please pass this opportunity along. It could make a real difference in that collector's future.

Reprint from Linn's Stamp News

2026 holiday season mailing dates announced by USPS

BY LINN'S STAFF

In a Sept. 22 press release, the United States Postal Service announced its recommended mailing dates for the 2026 holiday season.

The mailing dates are recommended for expected delivery before Dec. 25, according to the USPS.

For items mailed to addresses in the contiguous United States, the following dates apply: Dec. 17 for USPS Ground Advantage and first-class mail, Dec. 18 for Priority Mail and Dec. 19 for Priority Mail Express.

For items sent to addresses in Alaska and Hawaii Puerto Rico and U.S. territories, the following dates apply: Dec. 16 for USPS Ground Advantage, Dec. 17 for first-class mail, Dec. 18 for Priority Mail and Dec. 19 for Priority Mail Express.

Customers sending packages to international or military addresses should check the complete list of recommended 2026 holiday mailing dates on the USPS website at www.usps.com/holiday/holiday-shipping-dates.htm.

"During the holiday season," the Postal Service said, "customers should always plan to mail and ship packages early to ensure arrival by Dec. 25."

According to the Postal Service during the 2024 holiday season, the USPS handled more than 350 million mail-pieces per operating day.