This Day in History... May 1, 1901

Pan-American Exposition & Stamps

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The 1901 Pan-American Exposition is remembered in the history books for many reasons. First, it was a salute to the steamer City of Alpena engineering achievements that had taken place in America and the New World. It was the dawn of a new century, the beginning of an industrial age, and people were dazzled and excited about all the wonderful inventions that were coming into their lives.



 2ϕ stamp pictures the Empire State Express.



It's estimated only about 150 of these inverts exist

Running from May 1 through November 2, the exposition spanned 342 acres. One of

the exposition's major features was its use It's estimated only about of electric lighting, created by hydroelectric

power from nearby Niagara Falls. Additionally, many companies offered "working exhibits" that not only informed visitors, but also helped the exposition to function. Some of the new inventions on display included the electrograph, telautograph, voting machine, mutoscopes, a mechanical mowing machine, a typesetting machine and an envelope-making machine.

The Exposition was also an effort to promote better relations between North and South America. America's 25th President. William McKinley, gave one of the most important speeches of his Presidency when he announced a change

in his high-tariff isolationist trade policies.

"...by sensible trade relations which will not interrupt our home production, we shall extend the outlets of our increasing surplus... The period of exclusiveness is past."

Unfortunately, the events of the Pan-American Exposition took a sad turn on September 6, 1901. The day after giving his speech, President McKinley held a public reception at the Exposition's Temple of Music. As the President shook hands with members of a large crowd that had gathered to meet him, Leon F. Czogosz extended his arm to the President and fired two shots from a pistol concealed under a handkerchief. Although one of the bullets only grazed McKinley, the second hit him squarely in the abdomen. Despite signs of recovery, President McKinley About 200 inverted 4¢ stamps passed away on September 14, 1901. Vice President Theodore



1¢ stamp pictures the lake



700 of these inverts exist.



4¢ stamp pictures an electric automobile.



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Mystic Stamp Company • Camden, NY 13316

This Day in History... May 1, 1901 continued

Roosevelt took the oath of office and became President. Czogosz was later executed for his crime.



8¢ stamp pictures the canal locks at Sault Ste. Marie.



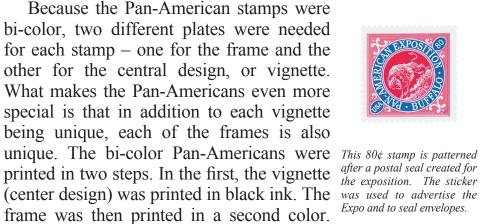




Set of three 2001 Pan-

Pan-American Stamps and Inverts

Knowing the Pan-American Exposition event would be like no other ever seen, the promoters of the Exposition requested a series 5¢ of commemorative stamps appropriate for such an event. And although the original inscription for the stamps, "Pan-American Series of 1901," was changed to "Commemorative Series of 1901" (the Assistant Attorney General thought the original inscription served as an advertisement), a series of six stamps was issued with bi-color designs. They were to be the first bi-color stamps Paul passenger ship. issued since the famous 1869 Pictorials produced by the American Bank Note Company.





stamp picturing Honeymoon Bridge at Niagara Falls.



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after a postal seal created for the exposition. The sticker Expo and to seal envelopes.

American Inverts This process made it very difficult for the printer to align the frame evenly. As a result, several stamps feature frames that aren't aligned properly, and inverts were created when the sheet was mistakenly fed into the press backwards.

Shortly after the series was issued, inverts were found among the 1¢ and 2¢ denominations. Reports of the discovery of 4¢ inverts reached postal officials, who reacted by deliberately creating two sheets of 200 inverted stamps each. Collectors were outraged by the intentional manipulation of the stamp market, prompting the government to abandon its plan to create 5ϕ , 8ϕ , and 10ϕ inverts as well.

The Pan-American commemoratives were issued on May 1, 1901, the first day of the Expo, and sold until the last day on October 31, 1901, when the remaining stamps were destroyed. So each of these historic stamps remained on sale for just six months. Because no sales records were kept, no one knows for sure how many of these stamps went unsold.

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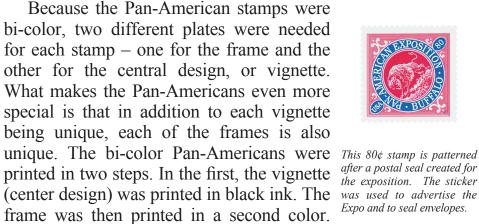




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