

Dear Fellow Stamp Collector,

Welcome to the fun and relaxing world of stamp collecting. Although Mystic's business is selling stamps, First Day Covers, and supplies, all of us really enjoy helping you with your collection! I feel like I've made a new friend now that you've joined our Mystic family.

Maybe that's because I come from a family of stamp collectors myself – and I learned at a very young age all the fun and rewards stamps have to offer. As I got older, I realized the part relaxation played in collecting...

it was soothing to spend time unwinding over my collection. And stamp collecting is a real "armchair" hobby – especially with a full-service company like Mystic. There are no hassles, because you never have to leave the comfort of your home. Our huge inventory is just an order away, and you get delivery right to your door.

This booklet gives you valuable basic information every stamp collector should have. It will give you some good ideas for building your own collection. Relax, have fun and enjoy yourself. You're in good company. Contact Mystic for all your collecting needs – we're waiting to serve you!

Sincerely,



Donald Sundman



Don Sundman
President
Mystic Stamp Company

P.S. If you see terms you don't understand, check the Philatelic Glossary on pages 24-27. And, for your convenience, we invite you to visit our website at MysticStamp.com for even more fun information about stamp collecting.

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Stamp Collecting Thoughts From Don Sundman

When the world's first adhesive postage stamp was issued in Great Britain on May 1, 1840, it quickly became a collector's item and the hobby of stamp collecting was born. The "Penny Black" showed a beautifully engraved portrait of Queen Victoria at 15. It was the only portrait of her used on British postage stamps during her reign of almost 64 years.



*World's First
Postage Stamp –
The Penny Black*

Over 180 years ago the Penny Black ushered in the modern postal system. Nobody knew then what effect stamps would have on the millions of lucky people around the world who would share the hobby of stamp collecting. But we know now that the first postage stamp did so much more than make efficient, inexpensive postal service available to the average citizen. It was the launching of the stimulating and challenging pastime that has come to be known as the "world's greatest hobby." It's little wonder that the romance between the Penny Black and stamp collectors continues today – or that every collector dreams of adding the world's first postage stamp to their collection!

Stamps, like tiny mirrors, reflect what we as Americans feel is important. The people, places, and events that have shaped us and our society, as well as those of the world beyond our borders, are highlighted on postage stamps. Stamps represent our American heritage and our history, as well as our introduction to the cultures and languages of countries and people around the globe.

Perhaps best of all, in collecting stamps we're privileged to have a peaceful place to visit when the stresses of the world weigh us down. We get lost in our stamps and have complete control of this little corner of our world. We feel the fun and excitement, the thrill of the chase, and the discovery of so much knowledge. President Franklin D. Roosevelt said, "I owe my life to my hobbies, especially stamp collecting."

Over the years, Mystic has received wonderful letters from collectors who let us know how much stamp collecting has helped them deal with stressful situations. I'll never forget this note from Bob of Arvada, California, who told us: "I'm a recovering cancer patient and one method of healing therapy for me was to start stamp collecting...it has been very helpful to me."

President Roosevelt believed strongly that "Stamp collecting dispels boredom, enlarges our vision, broadens our knowledge, makes us better citizens and in innumerable ways, enriches our lives." As a lifelong collector, I couldn't agree with him more.

The Seven Best Reasons to Collect Stamps

Stamps Are Fun...



By more than 3 to 1, the public chose this portrait to immortalize the legendary Elvis Presley. 1,128,923 votes were cast!

One of the very best reasons to collect stamps is for the pure fun of it. Stamp collecting is fun because it's personal – you collect the kinds of stamps you want, the way you want to collect them, whenever and wherever you want to. There's no right way or wrong way. (Mystic is here to help you and this little book will give you some ideas.)

When you collect stamps, you're in complete control. It's one corner of the world where whatever you say goes. Your stamp time is your own, a time to relax, escape the everyday routine, and expand your horizons. And stamp collecting always has something fun to offer... sorting, arranging and mounting your stamps, acquiring new ones, finding out the intriguing stories behind them, exploring the

fascinating world of watermarks, errors, perforations, and so much more.

Collecting stamps is challenging and personally satisfying. You'll experience the thrill of the chase as you finally acquire that special stamp you've been looking for and then another and another... Whatever your interest, stamps provide you with an oasis of pleasure in an often hectic world.

Stamps Are Affordable...

It's amazing... imagine owning a genuine US postage stamp that's over 150 years old for as little as \$2.00. Like the one illustrated here. The price of a stamp depends on how many were issued so long ago, how many have been snapped up into permanent collections and how many actually survive today. That means even very old stamps can be very affordable, especially in postally used condition.

Used stamps have a real history and romance all their own. Who knows where they've been and what news of momentous events of the day they've carried? They could even have been used by a president, prominent scientist, or beloved entertainer – the possibilities are endless. And you can afford all this history!



This stamp was issued in 1870, over 150 years ago. Yet it sells for just \$2.00 in used condition.

Stamps Are History...

Every time you open your album, stamps take you wherever you want to go in our nation's past... the plains of the Old West, the Space Race, the White House, the American Revolution, the battlefields of the Civil War, and so many other places and events. Stamps chronicle 19th-, 20th-, and now 21st-century America like nothing else.

Stamps reflect our historical heritage and our heroes, as well as our culture and our achievements. Our accomplishments, hopes and dreams... conquering space, discovering medical cures, preserving our environment, making the world a more peaceful place. US stamps are a tribute to all this and more. Stamps are souvenirs of our past – truly history you hold in your hands.



A historical snapshot – the Landing of Columbus – is captured forever on this 1893 stamp from America's (some say the world's) oldest commemorative series.

Stamps Are Travel...

Stamps show us traveling the globe as well as taking our first tentative steps into outer space... exploring the frigid ice fields of Antarctica and the eerily beautiful landscapes of the Moon. Celebrating the diversity of America from exotic Hawaii north to Alaska, with the variety of 48 great states in between. Discovering the Pacific Ocean and blasting off aboard the Space Shuttle. Flying across the Atlantic to Paris with Charles Lindbergh and floating above the clouds in the lighter-than-air ship *Graf Zeppelin*. You can satisfy your wanderlust just by sitting in your favorite chair, opening your album and browsing among your stamps.



*The ultimate journey –
“That’s one small step for a man, one
giant leap for Mankind.”*
– Neil Armstrong upon his descent to
the surface of the Moon, July 20, 1969.



*Frederic Remington made
the Old West his specialty,
painting and sculpting Native
Americans, cowboys, soldiers,
and horses. Shown above is
The Smoke Signal.*

Stamps Are Art...

Having a stamp collection is like having a miniature art gallery right in your own home. Many older US stamps are masterpieces of the engraver’s art, while modern stamps use innovative, computer-generated images and holograms to get their message across. US stamps exhibit the work of artists like Norman Rockwell, Georgia O’Keeffe, Peter Max, Winslow Homer, and Frederic Remington, to name just a few. The portrait of every late US president is found on at least one US stamp. So if you love art, you’ll love stamp collecting. And remember, you’ll be preserving these tiny works of art for future generations.

Stamps Are Valuable...

Some stamps are tremendously valuable. A stamp may be worth thousands of dollars because it has a printing error, or because only a few examples survive. These stamps are fun to look at and dream about, and who knows, maybe to own them one day. And since there’s a little bit of a dreamer in every one of us stamp collectors, we all fantasize about owning a great stamp rarity or finding a stamp error hiding out in our own collection. But even if you never discover an error, you can own hundreds, or even thousands, of beautiful and important stamps.



*In 2007, an Inverted
Jenny Error stamp sold
for over \$900,000! This
one survived the London
Blitz of World War II.*

Stamps Are Important...

The issue of the world’s first adhesive postage stamp in England revolutionized the way mail was sent. After May 6, 1840, the cost of sending a letter was paid by the sender instead of collected from the recipient. The price was just one British penny per ounce, rather than being based on distance. This change enabled the everyday citizen to communicate much more affordably. Mail volume more than doubled in the year following the Penny Black’s issue!



*The world’s
first postage
stamp,
the Penny
Black, was
instantly
popular with
collectors.*

*The same
portrait of Queen Victoria, based
on a sketch of her at 15, was
used on British stamps until her
death in 1901.*

Stamps are important not only because they enable us to communicate through letters; stamps are a statement about who we are as Americans. They are symbols of our struggles and our strengths – of victory in war, progress in peace, and faith in the future.

Best of all, stamps give the gift of a fun, happy and healthy hobby to us and millions of other Americans.

Read about some of the world's famous postage stamps...

The British Guiana 1¢ Magenta

In 1873, a Scottish schoolboy discovered an unusual stamp while sorting through his uncle's letters. Although he was a budding collector, 12-year-old Vernon Vaughn was unaware that he was holding the world's rarest stamp.

It isn't surprising that Vernon didn't recognize the stamp. The British Guiana 1¢ Magenta wasn't listed in 19th-century stamp catalogs. In addition, its corners had been cut off to form an octagon and the stamp was in generally poor condition. Vernon soaked the stamp off its envelope and placed it in his stamp album.



*World's Rarest Postage Stamp –
British Guiana 1¢ Magenta*

A short time later, Vernon sold his stamp to a local dealer in order to raise money to buy more foreign stamps for his collection. Also unaware of its rarity, the dealer paid just six shillings for the unusual stamp. Years went by and the stamp dealer sold his entire collection to Wylie Hill of Glasgow, Scotland. While studying Hill's collection, London stamp dealer Edward Pemberton realized the magenta stamp was a one-of-a-kind rarity.

During its colonial era, the country of British Guiana (present-day Guyana) received its postage stamps from England. In 1856, supplies ran out before a fresh shipment of stamps arrived. The postmaster of British Guiana authorized an emergency issue with 1¢ and 4¢ denominations. The printer reproduced the basic design elements of the current stamps and added the image of a ship. To guard against clever forgeries, the postmaster ordered postal clerks to hand cancel each stamp with their signature. The British Guiana 1¢ Magenta paid the newspaper rate in effect in 1856 and bears the initials "E.D.W."

The British Guiana 1¢ Magenta has been sought by some of the world's most famous stamp collectors. Count Philippe la Renotière von Ferrary paid a sum equal to \$85,000 for the rarity in the 1880s and bequeathed it to a Berlin museum. Ferrary's collection was seized and auctioned to repay war debts following World War I. Bidding against three kings, including King George V of England, Arthur Hind purchased the 1¢ Magenta for the equivalent of \$1.5 million in 1922. At the time, it was a record sale price for a postage stamp.

John E. DuPont, heir to a vast fortune, purchased the 1¢ Magenta for \$935,000 in 1980. DuPont died in 2010 while serving a prison sentence. In 2014 the British Guiana was sold at auction to American shoe designer Stuart Weitzman for over \$9,480,000.

24¢ Jenny Invert

Familiar with the potential for errors associated with bi-color printing, collector William Robey was stunned at his good fortune when a postal clerk sold him a sheet of 100 inverted 24¢ airmail stamps. The date was May 14, 1918, and one of the most colorful stories in philately was about to unfold.

World War I was raging when Postmaster General Burleson suddenly announced that airmail service would begin on May 15, 1918, between New York City, Philadelphia, and Washington, DC. Already understaffed and overworked producing war bonds and revenue stamps, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing rushed to print the first US airmail stamps.



24¢ Jenny Invert – America's and The World's Most Famous Error Stamp

A patriotic design featuring the Curtiss JN-4 airplane in red, white, and blue was chosen to lift war-weary spirits. Printing the stamp in two colors required workers to pass the stamp sheet through the printing press twice. Nine sheets were fed through the press backwards. A single error sheet made its way to a Washington, DC, post office. Robey purchased the sheet for \$24.00, more than \$1,169 in today's wages.

Word of Robey's good luck spread rapidly. Employees immediately located and destroyed eight remaining error sheets in the Bureau of Engraving and Printing's inventory. Many collectors assumed incorrectly that the stamps had been printed in traditional sheets of 400. That scenario left three panes of 100 unaccounted for, and both collectors and government officials went on a fruitless scavenger hunt in search of the missing inverted stamps.

Robey sold his sheet of inverted stamps to Eugene Klein for \$15,000, a 62,400% profit. Klein re-sold the sheet to eccentric multi-millionaire Colonel Edward H.R. Green for \$20,000, a figure equal to almost \$975,000 today. Acting on Green's behalf, Klein numbered each stamp in pencil, broke the sheet up and sold several single stamps. Colonel Green kept the unique Jenny Invert Plate Block for his personal stamp collection until his death in 1936.

The Jenny Invert Plate Block circulated among philately's elite for decades. Several record sale prices, culminating with a \$2.97-million sale in 2005, reflect its status as the world's greatest stamp rarity.

The Jenny Invert Plate Block made headlines again in 2005. Don Sundman, president of Mystic Stamp Company, traded his rare 1868 1¢ Z Grill stamp for the one-of-a-kind Jenny Invert Plate Block. With a combined value of \$6 million, the trade is a landmark in philatelic history and another intriguing chapter in the fabulous story of the 24¢ inverted airmail stamps.

In 2014, Don Sundman sold the Jenny Invert Plate Block for over \$4.8 million to Stuart Weitzman.

CIA Candleholder Invert

In 1985, news of a newly discovered US invert stamp rocked the philatelic world. It was the first major inverted stamp in 66 years and said to be rarer than the coveted Jenny inverts. But the details were cloaked in secrecy, hidden in a maze of deception that took two years to unravel.

The story began when an auctioneer specializing in US error stamps announced the discovery of 85 inverted 1979 \$1 Rush Lamp stamps. The stamps had been discovered by a “business in northern Virginia” and the finder wished to remain anonymous. The Bureau of Engraving and Printing launched an internal investigation and found that there were no indications of impropriety by its employees.

A few months later, Mystic Stamp Company joined with two partners and purchased 50 of the inverts. Curious about their origin, Mystic President Don Sundman filed a Freedom of Information Act request with the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. Months passed. When the report finally arrived, it was accompanied by a cover letter – from the Central Intelligence Agency! Names were blocked out in the 35-page report, but Sundman was able to gather enough information to trace the stamps back to the CIA.

Sundman discovered that an on-duty CIA employee had purchased the partial sheet of 95 inverted stamps at a small post office near McLean, Virginia. When he and his co-workers realized what they had, they pooled their money and substituted non-error \$1 Rush Lamp stamps for the inverts. Each of the nine co-workers kept a stamp. The remaining 86 stamps, including one that was damaged, were quietly sold to the auctioneer.

The story made headlines across the nation and was featured on every major television network. The CIA launched an ethics investigation and demanded that the co-workers surrender their inverts or face 10 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine for conversion of government property for personal gain. Five employees returned their stamps, one claimed his had been lost, and three people resigned. The CIA donated the recovered inverts to the National Postal Museum, where they joined a copy donated earlier by Mystic.

Investigations conducted by the Bureau of Printing and Engraving and Justice Department cleared the co-workers of any wrongdoing. Twenty years later, the employee who purchased the sheet and later claimed to have lost his copy, offered to sell the stamp to Mystic. As of this writing, these neat error stamps, bearing the words “America’s Light Fueled By Truth and Reason,” are valued at \$17,850 each.



*The CIA Invert
rocked the halls of
CIA Headquarters.*

Eleven Major Categories of U.S. Stamps

Definitive

The stamp known as the “workhorse” of the postal system is the definitive, or regular-issue stamp. Paying postage on everyday mail, it’s issued in a wide variety of denominations. A single issue is used for long periods of time. Definitives are interesting to collect. Since their extended use means they are reprinted from time to time, there can be many differences among the stamps, which at first glance appear the same. You may find differences in design due to variations in printing plates, printing methods, color, margin dates, watermarks (on older US stamps), perforations, and type of gum (self-adhesive or water-activated).



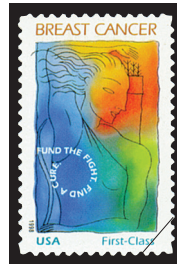
Commemorative

In 1893, a new type of stamp was introduced. The commemorative is a stamp issued to honor an important person, event, or anniversary. It’s printed in smaller quantities than definitives, and is sold for a limited time, usually a few months. Unsold stamps are generally destroyed. The first US commemorative stamps were issued to commemorate the 1893 World’s Columbian Exposition. The 16-stamp series depicted the various stages of Columbus’s voyages to the New World. Today these stamps are highly valued by collectors. Commemoratives make America’s history come alive.



Semipostals

Semipostals are postage stamps with an additional charge (called a surcharge) intended to raise money for a specific cause. In 1997, the Postal Service issued the first US semipostal stamp. It paid the 32¢ postage rate and an extra 8¢ from its sale went to help fund breast cancer search. In 2002 the Heroes of 9/11 semipostal raised funds for the families of emergency personnel killed or disabled in the September 11, 2001, attacks on America.



Scott numbers for semipostals begin with a “B”.

Airmail

In 1918, Airmail Service was started in the US and there was a need for special stamps to pre-pay Airmail postal rates. The first Airmail stamp was the 24¢ Curtiss Jenny. US mail is routinely carried by air now. Because of that, the US Postal Service has stopped issuing Airmail stamps. Airmail stamps are listed with Scott numbers beginning with “C”.



From 1934-36, the Post Office Department issued **Airmail Special Delivery** stamps. These were to provide air postage and a fee for special delivery. There were only two such stamps issued: Scott numbers CE1 & CE2.

Postage Due

The first postage due stamp was issued in 1879. Its use indicated an amount due to the post office when not enough postage was put on a piece of mail. Postage due stamps have large numerals indicating the amount of postage owed. Use of postage due stamps was discontinued in 1986. Postage due stamps have Scott numbers beginning with “J”.



Special Delivery

In 1885, a new postal service was begun – special delivery. The special delivery stamp indicated that an extra fee had been charged for immediate delivery to a person’s address once the mail was delivered to the nearest post office. Special delivery stamps are designated by Scott numbers beginning with “E”.



Parcel Post

In 1912, stamps were introduced to pay postage on parcels. There were twelve parcel post stamps issued, all with different denominations and designs, but with the same format and color. Postal workers had trouble telling the difference between the 1¢ and \$1 stamps. By 1913, parcel post charges could be paid for with any stamp, and parcel post stamps became obsolete. Scott numbers for parcel post stamps begin with “Q”.



Also issued in 1912 were the **Parcel Post Postage Due** stamps. They are Scott number “JQ” and show that there is an amount to be collected from the addressee.



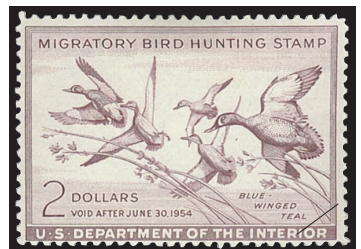
Official

The term “official” refers to a stamp used only by a department of the government. In 1873, the US issued official stamps for the Executive Branch and the departments of Agriculture, Interior, Justice, Navy, Post Office, Treasury, and War. These official stamps were in use for seven years. Now there is just one type of official stamp which is used by all branches of government. Scott numbers for officials begin with “O”.



Revenue

The final major type of US stamp is the revenue stamp. These stamps show the collection of tax or payment of a fee. The most popular of these revenues are probably the migratory bird hunting stamps, or “duck stamps,” as they are commonly called. They are issued annually. Revenue stamps are given Scott numbers beginning with an “R”.



How to start your stamp collection

You can start your collection right at your own mailbox! Just save all envelopes with stamps on them, and follow our easy directions on how to safely remove the stamps from the paper. (See page 17 for directions.) Ask your family and friends to save their stamps for you, too.

As your collection expands, you'll want new ways of acquiring stamps. All kinds of stamps can be purchased easily through the mail and on the Internet. Always buy stamps from a reputable company (like Mystic) that guarantees your satisfaction. Mystic offers catalogs and price lists as well as "stamps on approval" that let you receive stamp selections at home before you pay even one penny. Keep only the stamps you want and return the others with your payment! See page 21 to learn more about Mystic's Approval Service.

Wondering what to collect?

It's up to you! There's no right or wrong way to collect stamps, so you're free to choose what pleases you. You can collect all US stamps or just modern US commemoratives. Your collection may be organized by stamp type such as definitive, airmail, or revenue (see pages 9-10 for more information). You could devote your collection to a single topic that interests you, such as cats, sports, space or paintings. Foreign stamps offer a window into other cultures, are a great way to enjoy geography, and offer "armchair travel." Other neat possibilities include First Day Covers (see page 12), exotic postmarks, and stamps issued during a specific era like the Civil War. These are just a few ideas.

Your fellow stamp collectors are eager to share their hobby, so consider joining a local stamp club for information and inspiration! The Internet can help you too.

Scott Catalogue Numbers

Scott Publishing Company developed the first complete identification system for stamps. Scott doesn't offer stamps for sale, but lists estimated values for each one and assigns each a "Scott number" in its annual catalogs.

Most stamp dealers, collectors, and even the US Postal Service use Scott numbers to identify US stamps. Mystic's catalogs, circulars, and now our American Heirloom Albums identify US stamps by Scott number.

Scott's yearly catalogs also identify most foreign stamps. Some countries have their own catalogs, listing stamps that Scott doesn't.

Why some stamps are so valuable (and others aren't!)

The value of a particular stamp is based mainly on the law of "supply and demand" – and condition. If demand is high and supply is low, the price for an issue will usually increase. If the supply is low but demand is also low, the price will stay the same or decline. Older stamps of higher quality – never hinged, or with premium centering – usually sell for more than those in good general condition. Rare error stamps such as the famous "Jenny Invert" are very valuable because few exist.

For many collectors, the real value of a stamp has little to do with money. It's the sense of pride that comes from watching our collections grow, the fun of discovering our American and world heritage, and the privilege of owning important pieces of history, and preserving them for future generations.

About Foreign Stamps...

Collecting Brings Geography and History to Life

Collecting foreign stamps offers you a great way to learn about our world – effortlessly and from the comfort of your easy chair. Foreign stamps provide an insider’s view of each nation’s history, culture, people, and events.

Foreign stamps may be purchased individually, in packets, or in year sets. Prices vary, but many desirable stamps are also very affordable.

A number of nations issue stamps featuring pop culture, celebrities, and other topics that are fun to collect. Beginning in 2011, the US Postal Service changed its rules forbidding the honoring of a living person on our postage stamps.

Collections devoted to countries that no longer exist are popular. Or you may choose to focus on a specific region, era, or almost any topic that interests you.



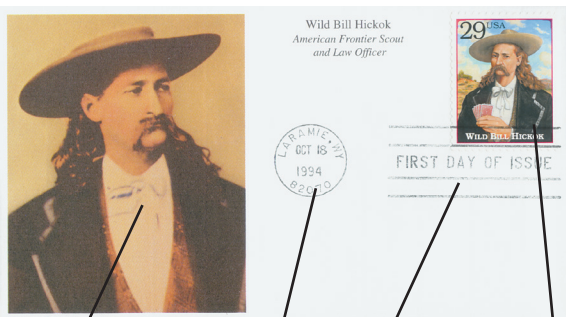
Learn Why You Should Collect First Day Covers...

A First Day Cover is a very special collectible, created when a postage stamp is first issued.

First, a newly issued stamp is affixed to an envelope or “cover.” This envelope often features a special design, or “cachet,” related to the topic of the stamp. Older First Day Covers often have no cachet.

Now here’s the key part: the cover must receive an Official First Day of Issue Cancellation and Postmark from a specially designated post office. (Sometimes several post offices share this honor.) So each First Day Cover features a design, stamp, and date that can never be duplicated in the same way.

Professionally designed First Day Covers can be purchased from stamp dealers. Some collectors design their own. Mystic produces First Day Covers printed on the reverse side with the stamp’s history. Cover collecting is another great way to enjoy stamp collecting.



Cachet designed exclusively for each different First Day Cover

Official postmark of the post office designated to issue the stamp first

Official “First Day of Issue” Cancellation Mark

US Postage Stamp

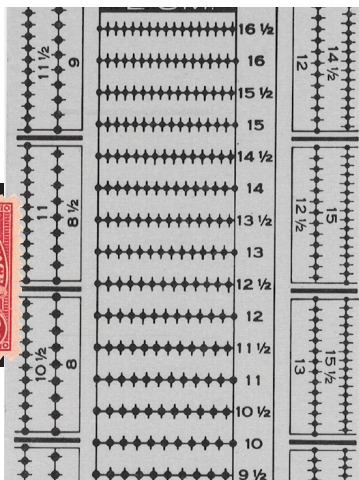
How to Identify Your U.S. Stamps

The chief reward of collecting stamps is discovering the fun, relaxation, and thrill of acquiring the stamps you love best! Knowing the basics of identifying your stamps will add to your enjoyment. Two stamps can look the same, and yet are different issues with different Scott numbers and greatly differing values.

Measuring Perforations

You may find you have some older US stamps that look exactly alike. Measuring perforations can help you identify your stamps. A perforation gauge (shown here) measures the number of perforations in the space of 2 centimeters.

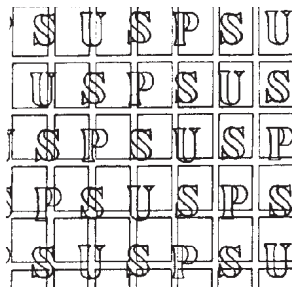
Always measure the horizontal (top or bottom) perforations of your stamps first, then the vertical (opposite sides). Make sure the circles on your perforation gauge fit perfectly into your stamp's perforations. If two "look-alike" stamps have the same design, color, and perforation measurement, you may also need to check for a watermark.



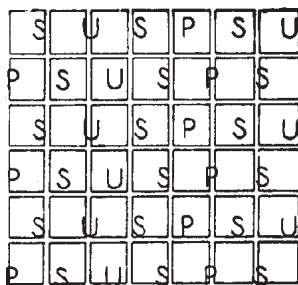
Watermarks

Sometimes the only difference between stamps that look alike is their watermark. Watermarks are letters or patterns impressed into the paper used to produce certain stamps. Modern US stamps don't have watermarks, but many older ones do, in the shape of a single line or double line U, S, or P. See illustrations below.

Watermarks were introduced as a way to deter counterfeiting. To see if your stamp has a watermark, place it face down in a watermark tray, and pour enough watermark fluid over it to cover completely. (Never use water.) The watermark should be visible; how well it shows varies with the stamp. You may not see a whole letter or design, but only part of one. Let your stamp dry completely before removing it from the tray. US watermarks are always letters like those shown. (Many foreign stamps have watermarks in the shape of a crown or other symbol alone or in addition to letters.) See page 16 for information on watermarking tools.



Double Line Watermark



Single Line Watermark



Actual Size
Double Line
Watermark

Both watermarks are spread over the entire sheet of stamps.

Used and Mint Stamps

A used stamp has a cancellation. Usually the gum is missing and the stamp has been through the mail. Used as well as mint stamps can be in great condition.

Mint stamps haven't been used for postage so have no cancellation. They are gummed, except very old mint US stamps and those issued without gum. They may have a hinge mark if the stamp was mounted in a stamp album. (Hinges are one way to attach stamps.)

Sheets, Coils, and Booklet Stamps (Water activated or "lick and stick")

Some modern stamp designs look the same, but have been issued for different purposes. The only difference when you look at them may be the number of sides with perforations.

Sheet stamps have perforations on all four sides.

Coil stamps are issued in long strips for use in vending machines. They have straight edges on opposite sides and perforations on the other two sides.

Booklet stamps come from a small pane or block of stamps – part of a booklet sold at post offices or in vending machines. These stamps can have straight edges on one, two, or three sides.



2881
sheet



2889
coil



2883
booklet stamps



2884

Self-Adhesive Stamps

Self-adhesive stamps are issued on a special backing paper. Once peeled off the backing, the adhesive allows the stamps to be affixed without being moistened. If you want to put mint self-adhesive stamps in your album, **don't remove the backing paper!**

Most US stamps issued today are self-adhesive. They have wavy, "serpentine" perforations or no perforations at all. In fact, self-adhesive stamps don't always "follow the rules" of water-activated stamps. For example, a self-adhesive booklet stamp may have perforations on all sides or no perforations at all!



2886
*self-adhesive
booklet stamp*

For more information on stamp identification, visit our website at MysticStamp.com

Organize Your Stamps and Choose an Album

Most stamp collectors not only accumulate stamps, but also enjoy arranging them in an attractive, organized way for easy viewing. By doing this, you'll have a collection to be proud of and protect your stamps from damage.

You can organize your stamps any way you want. Many collectors organize by country (US, Spain), region (Europe, Asia), or topic (animals, space).

A frequently asked collecting question is, "How do I choose a stamp album?" To help you make this important decision we've put together the chart below. Most collectors of US stamps use an illustrated album. It makes collecting easier. If you collect worldwide stamps, you might want to use an unillustrated album as there are no worldwide albums illustrating all stamps issued.

U.S. STAMP ALBUMS	Stay-flat Binder	Scott Numbers Listed	Historical Information	Mount Stamps One Side Only	All Stamps Illustrated	# Spaces for Stamps	High-Quality Paper	Album Order Number
Mystic Heirloom (3-Volume Set)	Yes	Yes	Extensive	Yes	Yes	Over 5,000	Yes	DS112
Mystic Heirloom (6-Volume Set)	Yes	Yes	Extensive	Yes	Yes	Over 6,000	Yes	HLM000
Mystic Heirloom Hingeless Album Vol I (1847-1934)	Yes	Yes	Extensive	Yes	Yes	Over 700	Extra Heavy	DS137
Mystic Heirloom Hingeless Album Vol II (1935-1966)	Yes	Yes	Extensive	Yes	Yes	Over 600	Extra Heavy	DS138
Mystic Heirloom Hingeless Album Vol III (1967-1984)	Yes	Yes	Extensive	Yes	Yes	Over 800	Extra Heavy	DS139
Mystic Heirloom Hingeless Album Vol IV (1985-1994)	Yes	Yes	Extensive	Yes	Yes	Over 900	Extra Heavy	DS141
Mystic Heirloom Hingeless Album Vol V (1995-1999)	Yes	Yes	Extensive	Yes	Yes	Over 1,000	Extra Heavy	DS142
Mystic Heirloom Hingeless Album Vol VI (2000-2004)	Yes	Yes	Extensive	Yes	Yes	Over 600	Extra Heavy	DS143
Mystic Heirloom Hingeless Album Vol VII (2005-2010)	Yes	Yes	Extensive	Yes	Yes	Over 800	Extra Heavy	DS144
Mystic Heirloom Hingeless Album Vol VIII (2011-2014)	Yes	Yes	Extensive	Yes	Yes	Over 500	Extra Heavy	DS153
Mystic Heirloom Hingeless Album Vol IX (2015-2020)	Yes	Yes	Extensive	Yes	Yes	Over 800	Extra Heavy	DS165
Harris Liberty**	-	-	Brief	Yes	Yes	2,900	-	-
WORLDWIDE								
Mystic Voyager* (2-Volume Set)	Yes	-	-	-	-	25,000	-	DS380
Harris Worldwide**	-	-	Brief	-	-	Over 32,000	-	-
CWS Phoenix**	Yes	-	-	-	-	Over 12,000	-	DS940

*Because this album is not illustrated, we suggest using Quick-Mount Pages printed on two sides when you need to expand your album. (Order #GS530)

** This is not a Mystic-made album. Manufacturer's albums are more expensive.

Basic Tools of the Stamp Collector

Handling stamps with your fingers is risky business. Each time you hold a stamp between your fingers you're subjecting it to oils and dirt, plus the possibility of accidental folding or creasing. For that reason, you should invest in a good pair of **tongs**. There are many types to choose from, but generally beginners are better off with a short, rounded-tip model. It's important to know that regular tweezers should not be used, as the sharp, angled tips could damage your stamps. **(Order #LS150 – 4½" Round-Tip Tongs)**
(Order #LS155 – Gold-Plated 6" Professional Tongs – Pointed)

Hinges are a popular way to hold stamps in place on album pages. Pre-folded stamp hinges are easy to use, inexpensive, and suitable for many postally used stamps. For mint and more expensive stamps, collectors often prefer stamp **mounts**. (See pages 18-19 for more information on stamp hinges and mounts.)
(Order #LS120 – 1,000 Pre-folded Hinges or #LS121 – 5,000 Pre-folded Hinges)

A really inexpensive but important tool is the **perforation gauge**. This measures the number of "perfs" per two centimeters on any stamp. With some look-alike stamps, this is the only way to tell them apart. For more information on perforations, see page 13. **(Order #LS130 – Perforation Gauge)**

It doesn't take long to realize that a tiny variation in design can mean the difference between a common stamp and a rare one. For this reason, you'll want to own a **magnifying glass**. To use a hand-held glass, hold it between your thumb and forefinger, resting two fingers on a hard surface. This lets you freely move the glass, but keeps it steady at the proper level for looking at the stamp. Keep the glass at an even height so it's in focus, and look through the glass with both eyes. Do not squint or close one eye.
(Order #LS161 – 2½" 3X Power Magnifier)

If you collect older issues, you may want to check for watermarks on your stamps. You'll need a small **watermark tray** and a bottle of **watermark fluid**. Place your stamp face down in the tray, and pour just enough fluid over it to cover. The watermark then shows up as a dark design on the stamp back. Never use water on a gummed stamp to detect a watermark as that will remove its gum! See page 13 for more information on watermarks.
(Order #LS100 – Watermark Tray and #LS115 – Clarity Watermark fluid, 3.4 oz.)

This is just a partial listing of supplies that are available to help you enjoy collecting and get more out of your hobby. You can find all of them listed in *Mystic's U.S. Stamp Catalog*, along with other helpful items. It's easy to order your stamp collecting supplies by mail, phone, or online at MysticStamp.com. See page 20.

Page 22 of this guide tells you how to get *Mystic's U.S. Stamp Catalog*. Virtually all US postage stamps are illustrated in full color so you'll know what they look like – even the rare ones. You'll also find behind-the-scenes stamp stories as well as all kinds of helpful stamp information. And it's absolutely **FREE** to you as a member of the Mystic family!

How To Soak Your Stamps

1. For water-activated stamps, place 3-4 inches of cold water in a sink or other container. Do not use hot or warm water – some ink or envelope colors will run in warmer water.
- 1a. **Self-adhesive stamps do not soak easily or with good results. Mystic recommends simply trimming the envelope or backing paper very carefully around the stamp.**
2. Be sure to separate any stamps with heavy black or red cancellations along with those attached to bright or dark-colored paper. Because the inks and dyes may bleed, these stamps must be soaked individually and removed from the water promptly.
3. Place the stamps face down in the water. It's possible to put as many as 50 stamps in the water at once. If you're soaking sheets you can soak 20-25 at once, but place them in the water one at a time, making sure each one becomes thoroughly wet before adding the next one.
4. Spread the stamps out and gently press them into the water so that it will soak through the paper. Leave them to soak for at least 10 to 15 minutes – time will vary due to the differences in stamp gum.*
5. After 10 minutes or so, check the stamps. The gum should have loosened and the stamps started to float off. Some stamps will sink and some will float. It is very important to remove the stamps promptly after they have come off the paper. If left in the water for a prolonged period of time the stamp paper may begin to weaken.
6. Gently remove the paper and look at both sides to make sure no stamps are stuck to it.
7. After you have removed all the paper from the water, most of the stamps will be at the bottom of the sink or container. Discard the blank scraps of paper.
8. Gently run your fingers along the bottom and come up under the stamps, catching them in a net fashion. Place these stamps in rows, face down, on blotters (waxed paper, white construction paper, paper towels or any other white, unprinted paper surface) being careful not to overlap them. (Overlapping stamps could cause them to permanently stick to each other, thus destroying them.)
9. Placing a heavy object like a book on top of the stacked layers of paper and stamps will help keep your stamps from curling. It will take a lot longer for the stamps to dry.
10. When this batch of stamps is done, start over with a fresh container of water.



Example of a water-activated stamp "on paper" that needs to be soaked.

Note: To remove paper from a sheet or strip of stamps, the entire item must be soaked. If the stamps have water-activated gum they will remain attached to one another after soaking. If they have self-adhesive gum they cannot be soaked if you want to keep the sheet or strip intact. Soaking a self-adhesive sheet or attached strip will result in single stamps.

***Again, we recommend not soaking self-adhesive stamps.** You will be much happier with the results if you carefully trim the envelope or backing paper around the stamps. We speak from experience.

***Even on an envelope, self-adhesive stamps** can be distinguished by examining the perforations. Self-adhesive perforations are generally smooth and "wavy" and do not appear to have been torn apart.

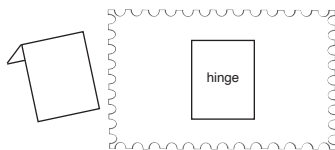
***A self-adhesive stamp** which has not been canceled (used) should not be removed from its backing paper.

See page 14 for more information on self-adhesive stamps.

How to Use Hinges and Mounts

Once you've chosen an album, you'll need either hinges or mounts to hold your stamps in place. Pre-folded stamp hinges are transparent, gummed pieces of paper. The small side of the hinge is attached to the stamp and the larger side to the album page. Hinges are fine for used stamps. If you collect mint stamps, you may want to use mounts. Mounts provide a black or clear background and a clear face to show off your collection to its best advantage. They protect your stamps without damaging the gum. Illustrations below show how to use hinges and mounts.

Hinging Your Stamps



1. Lightly moisten lower half of short flap. (Do not moisten near fold.)
2. Press hinge onto back of stamp near the top.
3. Now, moisten half of long flap. (Do not moisten near fold.)
4. Attach a used stamp to page by pressing stamp at hinge. Attach a mint stamp by pressing the hinge to the page. This way, any excess moisture will not damage your mint stamp.

Hinges allow front and back viewing of a stamp with minimum damage to its original adhesive. If you want to remove a hinge, wait until it is thoroughly dry – at least 4 hours. Otherwise you may damage the stamp and/or album page.

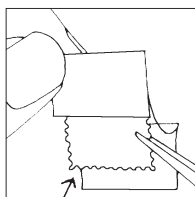
Drop-End Mounts



1. Locate mount's dull side.
2. Insert stamp into mount to make sure it's the proper size, with stamp's back facing the dull side. Seam of mount should be at the bottom.
3. Remove stamp.
4. Lightly moisten entire dull side of mount.
5. Place in proper position on page.
6. Re-insert stamp.

Note: Consider "dry" mounting your stamps first so you're sure to have a good fit and placement. Do this before lightly moistening mount and placing in album.

Split Back Mounts



1. Turn stamp over to back side.
2. Gently place stamp into one half of the mount as far as it will easily go.
3. Allow mount to flap back into place over the stamp.
4. Repeat steps 2 and 3 with other half of mount. (The stamp is now securely centered and can be removed without damage to stamp or mount.)
5. Moisten top half lightly, staying away from opening, and place in album.

How to Choose Mounts

Mounts are sold according to size in millimeters. The first number is the horizontal measurement, or width, across the mount. The second number is the vertical measurement, or height, of the mount. Example: A 45 x 30 mount measures 45 mm wide by 30 mm high. See page 19.

How to Remove Selvage from Your Stamps

with selvage →



without selvage



Selvage is a paper border around the outside of a sheet or pane of stamps. It can result in a narrow strip on a single stamp as shown above, or a large, illustrated margin on a sheetlet. You may want to remove a small piece so a stamp will be easier to hinge or fit into a mount. However, if you have a sheetlet with illustrated selvage, you may choose to leave it attached. Selvage can add to the beauty and meaning of your stamps.

1. Work at a table, not in your lap.
2. Fold the selvage toward the printed side of stamp, then back toward the gummed side, then back and forth several times until the paper becomes weak. The amount of folding necessary varies. After 1960, stamp

- paper is stronger than that of older stamps and requires more folding (for self-adhesives, fold to back only).
3. Hold stamp firmly against table gum-side down and carefully pull on selvage to separate the two pieces. Follow the same steps for stamps you need to separate.



Horizontal Commemoratives
MM501



Vertical Commemoratives
MM502



Vertical Definitives
MM503



Horizontal Definitives
MM504



Horizontal Semi Jumbo – MM505



Vertical Semi Jumbo
MM506



Horizontal Jumbo – MM508



Famous Americans
MM507

The Most Common Mount Sizes

The most commonly sized US stamps are pictured on this page along with their mounts. To find the mount size you need, place your water-activated stamp over the illustration that fits exactly.

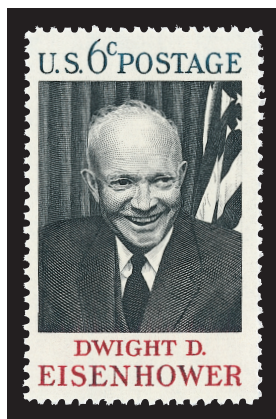
For stamp sizes different from those shown (including self-adhesives) find what you need on our website: MysticStamp.com/mountfinder/. Enter the Scott number and you'll see the correct mount size.

If you don't know the Scott number, you may enter the measurement of your stamp in millimeters – width first, then height. If your stamp falls between two sizes, select the larger mount. Sizes for water-activated stamps are generally 5 mm larger than the stamp in both directions. See how to measure your stamps at MysticStamp.com/mountguide/.

Please Note: The mount size for self-adhesive stamps is generally 6-7mm larger in each direction because their backing makes them thicker.

If your stamp needs a size that doesn't fit the guidelines, our online mount finder will give you the size most closely matching your stamp. This happens when the stamp measurement has been rounded up for a more generous fit.

Still need help choosing mounts? Call Mystic and tell a friendly Customer Service representative who will gladly help you.



Vertical Jumbo
MM509

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Located in Camden, New York, Mystic Stamp Company has been serving stamp collectors across America since 1923! President Donald Sundman and 150 dedicated stamp colleagues offer you many ways to enjoy your hobby.

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Mystic Stamp Company

9700 Mill Street, Camden, NY 13316

E-mail: info@MysticStamp.com

To order toll-free call: 1 (800) 433-7811

Weekdays, 8:00 AM - 6:00 PM Eastern Time

Toll-free fax (anytime): 1 (800) 385-4919

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Mystic’s U.S. Stamp Catalog: Mystic produces a 164-page full-color catalog of United States postage stamps each year. Over 5,500 stamps are illustrated, many enlarged to show detail so you’ll know exactly what you’re ordering. It’s a great way to see rare stamps you may never have seen before. Our big catalog is filled with all kinds of fascinating behind-the-scenes stamp stories and helpful collecting tips.



Mystic’s U.S. Stamp Catalog is widely considered America’s best. Noted stamp expert Janet Klug* says:

“It is... fun... peppered with stories, trivia, fascinating facts, and loads of colored pictures of mouth-watering stamps.”

Every stamp sold in *Mystic’s U.S. Stamp Catalog* is free of flaws according to Mystic’s strict grading standards. Stamps issued before 1941 will have good or better centering for the issue and most will be hinged. After 1941, stamps will have fine or better centering for the issue and won’t be hinged.

Mystic’s Stamp Showcase: Our Showcase is the perfect tool for helping you build your dream collection. It’s full of quality US stamps, worldwide stamp offers, mint sets, and even stamps with small imperfections offered at big discounts. You’ll find just the right stamps for your collection in *Mystic’s Stamp Showcase*. (And it’s so much fun to read!) Issued every other month.



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Get these collection-building publications by contacting our Customer Service Department at the address or phone number on page 20.

* Janet Klug is a past president of the American Philatelic Society (APS) and a contributor to *Linn’s Stamp News*. Established in 1886, the APS is the world’s largest non-profit society for stamp collectors. The APS offers a wide range of resources to assist stamp collectors. If you’d like to become a member of the APS, Mystic will be glad to sponsor you. Just let us know!

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The Help & Learn section is packed with information about collecting, fun stamp stories and frequently asked questions about stamps and Mystic. We're improving it all the time, so enjoy this neat benefit – go to: Info.MysticStamp.com

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GLOSSARY OF STAMP COLLECTING TERMS

Throughout this guide, you'll find many of the following terms. Knowing about them will be helpful as you begin your stamp-collecting adventure.

Adhesive: A gummed postage stamp intended for affixing on letters and other mail.

Airmails: Stamps issued specifically for use on airmail letters. Catalog Designation: C. *See page 9.*

American Bank Note Co.: Company printing US stamps from 1879 until 1894, as well as the 1940s Overrun Countries series and others.

Approvals: Stamps sent to collectors by dealers for purchase or return after examination. (Mystic's free at-home service is one of the easiest, most convenient ways to build a great collection. And you get to pick and choose before you buy!)

Booklet: Pane of stamps attached to a card cover which is bound together by stitching, staples, or glue.



Booklet Pane: Small stamp sheets printed, cut, and sold in booklet form.

Block: Usually four stamps attached in a block and referred to as a "block of four."

Bureau of Engraving & Printing (BEP): Printer of nearly every US stamp issued from 1894 until 2005. The BEP no longer prints postage stamps.



Cancellation: Mark on stamp to show it has been postally used.



Centering: The way the design on a stamp is positioned in relation to its margins.

Cinderella: A stamp-like label not valid for postage. Christmas Seals and some revenue and old local post stamps are Cinderellas.



Coil: Stamps issued in rolls, rather than sheets. Coil stamps have straight edges on two opposite sides.

Commemorative: Stamps honoring persons, events, or themes. Sold for a limited time only. *See page 9.*

Compound Perforations: More than one gauge of perforation on the same stamp, such as 11 x 10. *See page 13 for info on perforations.*

Condition: Quality of a stamp regarding its centering, color, gum, and if used or mint.

Continental Bank Note Co.: Company which held the contract for printing US postage stamps from 1873 to 1879.

Controlled Mail: System where mail is sent bearing specific stamps, with the intention of the canceled stamps being returned to sender.

Convertible Booklet: A small pane of self-adhesive stamps manufactured so it can be folded into a booklet.

C.T.O.: Canceled to Order stamps have been cancelled, but have not been through the mail.

Definitive: Regular-issue stamps produced for several years. Usually smaller than commemoratives and they may be re-issued.

Die: A small flat piece of soft steel used in the printing of a stamp. The stamp design is engraved on the die, which in turn prints it on the stamp.

Die Cut: Cut by a metal device to produce perforation-like wavy lines for separating stamps. Self-adhesive stamps are die-cut.



Error: Stamp with a mistake in color, perforations, or design. This is Scott #1204.

Essay: Preliminary stamp design that is either not used, or is used with changes.

Europa: Stamps issued by a group of European nations with a common design theme.



Face Value: Monetary value of a stamp, determined by postal authorities; it's printed denomination. Modern "Forever" stamps have no denomination indicated and are good whatever the postal rate is.

Farley's Follies: In the 1930s, Postmaster General James Farley created a scandal by giving imperforate, un gummed versions of new stamps to his friends and family.

First Day Cover: Envelope bearing stamp canceled on the first day of issue. Most covers from 1935 on have a "cachet." The cachet is a design on the cover which relates to the topic of the stamp being issued. *See page 12.*

Flatbed Press: A printing press which uses a flat rather than a curved plate and is usually fed one sheet at a time.

Frank: To show that postage has been prepaid, as with a stamp.

Freak: A stamp showing a production flaw which is not consistent – includes ink smudges and off-center perforations.



Grill: Rows of pyramid-shaped embossing, impressed into the back of certain stamps. Grills broke stamp fibers, letting cancellation ink sink in, making re-use of stamp impossible.



Gum: The adhesive used on stamps.

Gum Breaker: Colorless ridges across the adhesive on the backs of stamps. "Breaks" the adhesive so stamps won't curl.



Gum Skip: A portion of a stamp, usually near the edge of a pane where the gum has not been applied during production.



Gutter Pair: Pair of stamps with wide gutter between. The gutter also separates stamp sheets into panes. Vertical gutter means gutter (not stamp) is vertical.



Hinge: Small gummed paper strip for mounting a stamp in an album. *See page 18.*

Hunting Permit Stamp: Issued yearly by the US government since 1934, these duck hunting permits also help finance the federal waterfowl program. Catalog Designation: RW. *See page 10.*

Imperforate Stamp: A stamp having no perforations. Individual stamps must be cut from the sheet.



Invert: Stamp with a portion of the design printed upside down. *See pages 7-8.*

Line Pair: Attached pair of stamps with a printed guideline running between.



Horizontal line pair

Linerless Coil: Self-adhesive coil stamp issued without backing paper.

Microprinting: Tiny print added to a stamp design as a security measure.

Miniature Sheet: Sheet of 25 stamps or less, not issued for a specific commemorative purpose.

Mint: In unused, original condition.

Mint Sheet: Sheet of stamps in uncanceled condition.

Missionaries: The first four stamps of the Hawaiian Islands. Extremely scarce.

Mount: Clear sleeve which allows a stamp to be placed in an album without using a hinge. *See pages 18 and 19.*



Hawaiian Missionary Stamp

National Bank Note Co.: Company which held the contract for printing US stamps from 1870 to 1873.

Official Stamp: Stamp used by various departments of the government. Catalog Designation: O. *See page 10.*

Omnibus Issue: Stamps issued by several different countries commemorating the same event and often having similar designs.

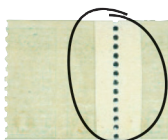
Overprint: Stamp to which printing is added on top of the original design.



Pane: Stamps come off the press in large sheets known as press sheets. These are cut into smaller sheets called panes, before being sent to post offices for sale to the public.

Parcel Post Stamp: Special stamps issued for use only on parcels weighing more than 16 ounces. Catalog Designation: Q. *See page 10.*

Paste-up Pair: A pair of coil stamps which shows the place where two sheets of stamps were pasted together.



Perfin: Stamp perforated by private firms, through the design portion, with initials.



Perforations: Small rows of “teeth” and the holes punched between them to make separating stamps easier.



Perforation Number:

The number of perforations found in a space of 2 centimeters.

Philately: The collection and study of stamps, covers, and related postal material.

Pictorial Issue: 1869 series; first bi-color US stamps and first to honor something other than a president/statesman. Forerunner of US commemoratives. Generally, “pictorial” refers to any stamp with a scenic view.



Plate: Metal base used for printing stamps.



Plate Block: Block of 4 or more stamps with the printing plate number in the margin.

Plate Number Strip:

A strip of three or five coil stamps with the middle stamp bearing a plate number.



Postage Due Stamps: Placed on mail to indicate not enough postage has been paid, these stamps show how much is owed to the Post Office. Catalog Designation: J. *See page 10.*

Postal Stationary: Envelopes, postal cards, and aerogrammes with stamps printed or embossed on them.

Postmark: Cancellation mark on mail showing date and place of mailing.

Precancel: Stamp with the postmark applied before mailing of the article it pre-pays. Precancels applied by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing are called “bureau precancels”.

Prestige Booklet: A stamp booklet with informative text, issued for a specific commemorative purpose.

Prexies: Popular term for the 1938 Presidential Series, US #803-34, #839-51.



#830

Proof: Preliminary printing of a stamp to test color, design etc. Unlike an essay, proof designs are used on the finished stamps.

Regular Issue: Also known as a definitive, this stamp is issued over a long period of time and in various denominations. Regular issues are usually small in size. *See page 9.*

Revenue Stamps: Used to show that taxes were paid on certain items like playing cards, liquor, or newspapers. Catalog Designation: R or R plus another letter. *See page 10.*

Rotary Press: A printing press that uses curved printing plates and a continuous roll of paper, called a web.

Selvage: The border of paper around a sheet or pane of stamps. *See page 18.*

Semipostal: Stamp with an additional charge (surcharge) to raise money for charity. Catalog Designation: B. *See page 9.*



Transportation Series

Series: Stamps with a common theme which may be released and added to over a number of years.

Serpentine: Wavy line impressed into the paper between stamps in place of perforations, allowing for separation. Used on self-adhesive stamps.



Set: Complete series issued at one time which includes all the values in the set.

Se-Tenant: Two or more stamps with different designs or values printed together on the same sheet.

Sheet: Arrangement in which stamps come off a printing press; commemorative stamps are usually printed in sheets of 200.

Self-Adhesive: Stamp issued on a special backing paper which, once peeled off, can be affixed without being moistened. See page 14 for more information.

Souvenir Sheet:

A small sheet of stamps issued for a specific commemorative purpose, with inscription or artwork in its border. Usually issued in conjunction with a stamp show.

Special Delivery: Stamp which charges an extra fee for immediate delivery. Catalog Designation: E. See page 10.

Specimen: Stamp which is overprinted with the word "specimen" to prevent stamp's use as postage. Specimens are used for reference.

Stock Book: A book whose pages have a number of glassine strips forming pockets into



which stamps can be inserted for storage.

Strip: Three or more attached stamps in a horizontal or vertical row.

Tagging: A chemical substance applied to a stamp which activates automatic cancellation machines.

Thin: An area where a layer of a stamp's paper has been removed, usually on the back.

Tongs: Metal implement used to handle stamps. They are not tweezers.

Topicals: Stamps which have a common theme, such as animals, flowers, space, etc.

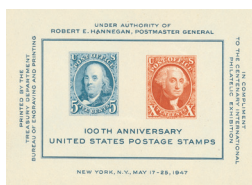
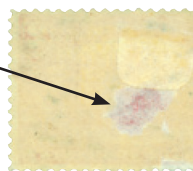
Unused Stamp: Stamp which has never been used for postage, but may have one or two small imperfections. Mystic sells stamps with small flaws at a significant discount.

Used Stamp: Stamp which has been canceled or used for postage on a letter or package.

Vignette: The central portion of a stamp design.

Water-Activated: Stamp gum that needs moistening in order to adhere to a surface.

Watermark: A pattern that is impressed into paper during manufacture which helps discourage counterfeiting of stamps. See page 13.



Foreign Stamp Identifier

Pick out a symbol or word on the stamp you want to identify. Find it in the index and learn where your stamp is from. If you don't find the first word try different ones until you find a word that is listed. Identifying stamps is like a puzzle. It's challenging and a lot of fun.

A _____
AB OΠO TA: Russia
A. C. C. P.: Azerbaijan
ACORES: Azores
A. E. F. (overprint): French Equatorial Africa
AEΠTA: Epirus
AFGHAN, AFGHANES: Afghanistan
AFRICA CORREIOS: Portuguese Africa
AFRICA OCCIDENTAL
ESPANOLA: Spanish West Africa
AFRICA ORIENTALE ITALIANA: Italian East Africa
AFRIQUE EQUATORIALE
FRANÇAISE: Middle Congo

AFRIQUE EQUATORIALE
FRANÇAISE: (with bars) French Equatorial Africa
AFRIQUE EQUATORIALE
GABON: Gabon
AFRIQUE OCCIDENTALE
FRANÇAISE: French West Africa
A.M.G.F.T.T. (overprint): Trieste
A.M.G.V.G. (overprint): Italy, Allied occupation of Venezia Giulia
A M POST: Germany, areas under Allied military government
ANTIOQUIA: Colombia – Antioquia
A PAYER TE BETALEN: Belgium
ARCHIPEL DES COMORES: Comoro Islands

A RECEBER: Portugal and Portuguese Colonies
ARMY OFFICIAL: Great Britain or Sudan
ASSISTENCIA D. L. no. 72 (overprint): Timor
ATT, ATTS: Siam
AUNUS (overprint): Russia, under Finnish occupation
AUR: Iceland
AUSTRALIAN ANTARCTIC TERRITORY: Australia – Australian Antarctic Territory
AVISPORTO: Denmark
B _____
B, in an oval (no country name): 27

Belgium, parcel post stamps
BADEN: Germany
BAGHDAD (overprint): Mesopotamia
BAHAWALPUR: Pakistan – Bahawalpur
BAHT: Siam
BAJAR PORTO: Indonesia
BANI: Romania
BARANYA (overprint): Hungary
BARCELONA: Spain
BARWANI: India – Barwani
БАТЧМСКАЯ ПОЧТА: Batum
BAYERN, BAYR: Bavaria
B.C.O.F.: Japan
B. DPTO ZELAYA: Nicaragua
BELGIAN EAST AFRICA: Ruanda – Urundi
BELGIE: Belgium
BELGIEN (overprint): Belgium
BELGIQUE: Belgium
BELGISCH CONGO: Congo
BELIZE: British Honduras
BENADIR: Somalia
BENIN: Dahomey
BERLIN (overprint): Germany
BEYROUTH (overprint): Russia
BHOPAL: India – Bhopal
BIJAWAR: India – Bijawar
B.I.O.T. (overprint): British Indian Ocean Territory
ВОСТЧНА КОРРЕСПОНДЕНЦИЯ: Russia
BOFTGEBIET (overprint): Lithuania
BOHEM UND MAHREN: Czechoslovakia – Bohemia and Moravia
BOLIVAR: Colombia – Bolivar
BOSHUTHATSWANA: South Africa
BOSNIEN-HERZEGOVINA: Bosnia and Herzegovina
BOYACA: Columbia – Boyaca
BRIEFPOST: Germany
BRITISH NEW GUINEA: Papua and New Guinea
BRITISH OCCUPATION (overprint): Batum
BRITISH SO. AFRICA COMPANY: Rhodesia
BRUXELLES or **BRUSSEL:** Belgium
BUITEN BEZIT (overprint): Dutch Indies
BUNDI: India – Bundi
BURKINA FASO: Upper Volta
BURUNDI: Ruanda-Urundi

C
CABO: Nicaragua
CABO JUBI, CABO JUBY: Cape Juby
САНАТОРНИМ: Bulgaria
CAMBODGE: Cambodia
CAMBODIA: Kampuchea
CAVALLE: France
С С С Р: Russia
CECY A MORAVA: Czechoslovakia – Bohemia and Moravia
CENTENAIRE ALGERIE: France
CENTENAIRE DU GABON: French Equatorial Africa

CESKO-SLOVENSKO: Czechoslovakia
C F A (overprint): Reunion
C.G.H.S.: Upper Silesia
CH (followed by oriental characters): Korea
CHAMBA: India – Chamba
CHARKHARI: India – Charkhari
CHEMINS DE FER
SPORWEGEN: Belgium
CHIFFRE TAX (no country name) on perforated stamps: France
CHINE: France – Offices in China
CIHS (handstamped): Upper Silesia
CISKEI: South Africa
CN: Korea
COCHIN, COCHIN ANCHAL: India
COLIS POSTAL or **POSTAUX** (no country name): Belgium
COLONIA ERITREA: Eritrea
COLONIES POSTES: French Colonies
COMITE FRANÇAIS DE LA LIBERATION NATIONAL: French Colonies, general issue
COMMISSION DE GOUVERNEMENT HAUTE
SILESIE: Upper Silesia
COMORES: Comoro Islands
COMPANHIA DE MOÇAMBIQUE: Mozambique Company
COMPANHIA DO NYASSA: Nyssa
COMUNICAÇÕES: Spain
CONFEDERATIO HELVETICA: Switzerland
CONGO, with Portuguese inscriptions: Portuguese Congo; with **BELGE:** Belgian Congo, now Congo; with **FRANÇAIS:** French Congo; with **FRANÇAIS GABON:** Gabon; with **REPUBLIQUE DU:** Congo or Middle Congo
COOK ISLANDS – NIUE: Niue
COREE, COREAN: Korea
CORREIO: Portugal
CORREO AERO (no country name): Spain
CORREO ESPAÑOL TANGER: Spanish Morocco – Tangier
CORREOS DE COLOMBIA: Colombia
CORREOS NACIONALES: Colombia
CORREOS OAXACA: Mexico – Oaxaca
CORREOS Y TELEGS: Spain
CORREO URBANO DE BOGOTA: Colombia – Bogota
CÔTE DE SOMALIS or **CÔTE FRANÇAIS DES SOMALIS:** Somali Coast
CÔTE D'IVOIRE: Ivory Coast
СРБСКА: Serbia
СРБИЈА: Serbia
CRUZ ROJA HONDURENA: Honduras
СТ, СТОТ, СТОТИНКИ: Bulgaria
CURAÇAO: Netherlands Antilles
C.X.C.: Jugoslavia

D
d: (pence), / (shilling or £ (pound)

preceded by a numeral, on stamp with king or queen's head but no country name: Great Britain
D: (dinar) on stamp with Arabic writing: Persia
DDR: German Democratic Republic
DEFICIT: Peru
DELEGACOES: Portugal
DEL GOLFO DE GUINEA: Spanish Guinea
DEUTSCHES REICH: Germany
DEUTSCHOFTERREICH: Austria
DEUTSCHE BUNDESPOST: Germany
DEUTSCHE DEMOKRATISCHE REPUBLIK: German Democratic Republic (East Germany)
DEUTSCHE FELDPPOST: Germany
DEUTSCH-NEU-GUINEA: New Britain
DEUTSCHE POFT OR POST: Germany
DEUTSCHE REICHS-POST: Germany
DEUTSCHES REICH: Germany
DHAR: India – Dhar
DINAR or **DINARS:** Persia (Iran)
DINERO: Peru
DIOS, PATRIA, REY: Spain
DJIBOUTI: Afars & Issas
DJ OR DJIBOUTI: Somali Coast
DOPLATIT or **DOPLATNE** (no country name): Czechoslovakia
DRZAVA, DRZAVNA: Jugoslavia
DUITSCH OOST AFRIKA
BELGISCHE BEZETTING: (overprint): German East Africa
DUTTIA: India – Duttia

E
EA (overprint): Algeria
E. E. F.: Palestine
EESTI: Estonia
EINZUZIEHEN: Danzig
EIRE: Ireland
EJERCITO RENOVADOR: Mexico
ΕΛΛΑΣ, ΕΛΛΑΣΣ: Greece
ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ: Greece
EMPIRE FRANÇ: France
EMPIRE FRANÇ or FRANÇAISE: France or French Colonies
EMP. OTTOMAN: Turkey or Eastern Rumelia
EQUATEUR: Ecuador
E.R. (with Queen Elizabeth's head): Great Britain
ESCUELAS: Venezuela
ESPAÑA, ESPAÑOLA: Spain
ESPAÑA SAHARA: Spanish Sahara
ESTADO DA INDIA: Portuguese India
ESTADO ESPAÑA: Spain
ÉTABLISSEMENTS DANS L'INDE (or **DE L'INDE**): French India
ÉTABLISSEMENTS DE L'OCEANIE: French Polynesia
ÉTAT DU CAMEROUN: Cameroun
ÉTAT FRANÇAIS: France
ÉTAT IND. DU CONGO: Congo
ÉTHIOPIE, ETHIOPIENNES: Ethiopia (formerly Abyssinia).

ÉTS. FRANCS. DE L'OCEANIE:

French Polynesia
 ΕΑΛΑC, ΕΑΛΑC: Greece
 ΕΑΛΗΝΙΚΗ: Greece

F

FACTAJ (overprint): Romania
FARIDKOT: India – Faridkot
FDO. POO: Fernando Po
FEDERATED MALAY STATES:
 Malaya
FEDERATION DU MALI: Mali
FEDERATION OF MALAYA: Malaya
FELDPPOST (overprint): Germany
FIERA DI TRIESTE (overprint):
 Trieste
FILIPAS, FILIPINAS: Philippines
FILLER: Hungary
FIL (no country name): Iraq or Jordan
FN or **FEN:** Manchukuo
FRANCO: Philippines or Spain
FRANCOBOLO DI STATO: Italy
FRANK: Albania
FRANQUICIA: Spain
FREIE STADT DAANZIG: Danzig
FREISTAAT BAYERN (overprint):
 Bavaria
FRIMARKE: Denmark, Norway or
 Sweden
FÜRSTENTUM or FVERSTENTUM
LIECHTENSTEIN: Liechtenstein

G

GARCH: Saudi Arabia
GARZON: Colombia – Tolima
GENERAL GOUVERNEMENT:
 Poland
GEORGIE, GEORGIANNE: Georgia
GHADAMES: Libya, under French
 occupation
GIORNALI STAMPE: Sardinia
GOLFE DE BENIN: Benin
GOYA: Spain
GRAND COMORE: Grand Comoro
GRAND LIBAN: Lebanon
GRØNLAND: Greenland
GROSSDEUTSCHES REICH:
 Germany
GROSSDEUTSCHES REICH
GENERAL GOVERNMENT: Poland
GROUCH: Turkey
GUANACASTE: Costa Rica
GUERCHE: Ethiopia or Saudi Arabia
GUINE or GUINE PORTUGUESA:
 Portuguese Guinea
GUINEA followed by
CONTINENTAL, CORREOS or
ESPAÑOLA: Spanish Guinea
GUINEA ECUATORIAL: Equatorial
 Guinea
GUINÉE or GUINÉE FRANÇAISE:
 French Guinea
GUYANA: British Guiana
GUYANE FRANÇAISE: French
 Guiana
GUY. FRANÇ. (overprint): French
 Guiana
GWALIOR: India – Gwalior

H

HAUTE SILESIE: Upper Silesia
HAUTE VOLTA: Upper Volta

HAUT-SENEGAL-NIGER: Upper
 Senegal & Niger
HEJAZ & NEJD, HEDJAZ &
NEDJDE: Saudi Arabia
HELVETIA: Switzerland
HOΒ/ΗΟΒΥΤ: Montenegro
HOLKAR STATE: India – Indore
HRVATSKA: Jugoslavia or Croatia
HT.: Upper Senegal & Niger
HYDERABAD: India – Hyderabad
ΗΠΕΙΡΟΣ: Epirus

I

IDAR: India – Idar
I.E.F.: (overprint): India
I. E. F. 'D' (overprint): Mesopotamia
ILES WALLIS ET FUTUNA: Wallis &
 Futuna Islands
IMPERIAL BRITISH EAST AFRICA
COMPANY: British East Africa
INDE, INDIE: French India
INDIA with inscriptions in
 Portuguese or words **REIS, REAL,**
TANGAS or **RUPIA:** Portuguese
 India
INDIA PORT. or PORTUGUSA:
 Portuguese India
INDO CHINE: Indo-China
INDONESIA not preceded by
 "REPUBLIK": Dutch Indies
INDORE: India – Indore
INLAND: Liberia
INSTRUCAO (overprint): Timor
INSTRUCCION: Venezuela
IRAN: Persia
IRANIENNES: Persia
IRAQ (overprint): Mesopotamia
IRIAN BARAT: West New Guinea
ISLAND: Iceland
ISLAS GALAPAGOS: Ecuador –
 Galapagos Islands
ITALIA, ITALIANE: Italy
ITALIAN SOMALILAND: Somalia

J

JAFFA (overprint): Russia
JAIPUR: India – Jaipur
JAMHURI ZANZIBAR TANZANIA:
 Zanzibar
JAVA (overprint): Dutch Indies
JEEND STATE: India – Jhind
JIND, JHIND: India – Jhind
JOHOR JOHORE: Malaya – Johore
JYTOCAABJJA: Jugoslavia

K

K (with no country name): Bosnia
 and Herzegovina
KAMERUN: Cameroun
KAMPUCHEA: Cambodia
KAP: Latvia
KARLFONDS: Austria or Bosnia
KARNTEN ABSTIMMUNG
 (overprint): Austria
KAROLINEN: Caroline Islands
KEDAH: Malaya – Kedah
KELANTAN: Malaya – Kelantan
KEMAHKOTAAN or
KETAHKOTAAN: (overprint):
 Malaya – Johore
KENYA & UGANDA: Kenya,
 Uganda & Tanzania

KENYA UGANDA TANGANYIKA:

Kenya, Uganda & Tanzania
K.G.C.A. (overprint): Jugoslavia
K.G.L. or KONGELIGT: Danish
 West Indies or Denmark
KIBRIS CUMHURİYETİ: Cyprus
KIRIBATI: Gilbert Islands
KISHANGARH: India – Kishengarh
K.K. or KAISERLICHE
KONIGLICHE ÖSTERREICHISCHE
POST: Austria
KLAIPEDA: Memel
KOH, KOI, KOI: Russia, South
 Russia, Far Eastern Republic,
 Finland, Latvia or Batum
KOP: Finland
KORCA or KORÇE: Albania
KORONA: Hungary
KPALAEBCTBO C.X.C.: Jugoslavia
KPALJEVSTVO (or KRALJEVINA)
SRBA, HRVATA I SLOVENACA:
 Jugoslavia
KPHTH: Crete
KRAIB. UPHATOPA: Montenegro
KRONE, KRONEN: Austria
K. U. K.: Austria, Bosnia and
 Herzegovina
K-U-K-MILITARPOST: Bosnia and
 Herzegovina
KURUS: Turkey
K. WURTT: Wurttemberg

L

LA GEORGIE: Georgia
LANDSTORMEN: Sweden
LATTAQUIE (overprint): Latakia
LATVIJA, LATWIJA: Latvia
LEI on Austrian stamps: Romania
LESOTHO: Basutoland
LEVA: Bulgaria
LEVANT: France – Offices in Turkey;
 (overprint) on stamps of Great
 Britain: Great Britain – Offices in
 Turkey; on stamps of Poland: Poland
 – Offices in Turkey
LIBAN, LIBANAISE: Lebanon
LIBIA, LIBYE: Libya
LIETUVA, LIETVOS: Lithuania
LIRE (overprint): Italy, under
 Austrian occupation
LISBOA: Portugal
L.L.L.R.: Georgia
LÖSEN: Sweden
L.P. (overprint): Latvia
LUFTFELDPPOST: Germany

M

MACAU or MACAV: Macao
MADRID: Spain
MAGYAR: Hungary
MAGYARORSZAG: Hungary
MALACCA: Malaya – Malacca
MALAGASY: Madagascar
MALAYA with no further
 inscriptions, over portrait of Sultan:
 Malaya – Kelantan, Negri Sembilan,
 Pahang, Perak, Perlis, Selangor or
 Trengganu; over picture of mosque:
 Selangor; over picture of State

Arms: Negri Sembilan

MALAYAN POSTAL UNION: Malaya

MALAYA PERLIS: Malaya – Perlis

MALAYA SINGAPORE: Singapore

MALGACHE: Madagascar

MAPKA: Russia, Finland or Serbia

MARK, MARKKAA: Finland

MAROC: French Morocco or

Morocco

MAROCO or MAROKKO

(overprint): Germany – Offices in

Morocco

MARRUECOS: Spanish Morocco or

Morocco – Northern Zone

M.B.D. (overprint): India – Nandgaon

MBRETNJA SHQIPTARE: Albania

MEJICO: Mexico

MEMELGEBIET: Memel

METELIN: (overprint): Russia

MEXICANO: Mexico

MN: Korea

MOÇAMBIQUE: Mozambique

MONROVIA: Liberia

МОГ А: Ukraine

MORROCCO AGENCIES: Great

Britain – Offices in Morocco

MORVI: India – Morvi

MQE: Martinique

M.V.I.R. (overprint): Romania

N

NABHA: India – Nabha

NACIONES UNIDAS: United

Nations

NAMIBIA: South West Africa

НАРА ПАРЕ: Montenegro or Serbia

NATIONS UNIES: United Nations

N.C.E. (overprint): New Caledonia

N.D. HRVATSKA: Croatia

NED or NEDERLANDSE

ANTILLEN: Netherlands Antilles

NED or NEDERLANDS NIEUW

GUINEA: Dutch New Guinea

NEDERLAND: Netherlands

NED-INDIE, NEDERL-INDIE,

NEDERLANDSCH-INDIE: Dutch Indies

NEGRI SEMBILAN: Malaya – Negri

Sembilan

NEZAVISNA DRZAVA HRVATSKA:

Croatia

NIEUW GUINEA: Dutch New

Guinea

NIPPON: Japan

N.L.E. CALEDONIE: New Caledonia

NOPTO MAPKA: Serbia

NOREG, NORGE: Norway

NOUVELLE CALEDONIE: New

Caledonia

NOUVELLES HEBRIDES: New

Hebrides

NOWANUGGUR: India

NOWTA: Serbia

ПОЧТА: Russia

ПОЧТ MAPKA (no country name):

Azerbaijan

ПОЧТОВАЯ MAPKA: Finland, Russia

N. SEMBILAN: Malaya

N.S.W.: New South Wales

N.Z.: New Zealand

O

OAXACA: Mexico – Oaxaca

OCCUPATION FRANÇAISE

(overprint): Hungary

OCEANIE: French Polynesia

OFFENTLIG SAK: Norway

OFF. SAK.: Norway, official stamps

ÖFTERRICH: Austria

OKCA: Russia

ORANJE VRIJ STAAT: Orange

River Colony

ORCHA: India – Orcha

ORE: Denmark, Sweden or Norway

ORTS-POST: Switzerland

O.S.: Norway (officials).

ÖSTERREICH: Austria

ÖSTERR-POST,

ÖSTERREICHISCHE POST: Austria

OUBANGUI-CHARI: Ubangi

OAYM, OAYMII, or OAYMIIAKOI:

Greece

P

PAHANG: Malaya – Pahang

PAISA: Nepal

PAPUA: Papua & New Guinea

PATIALA: India – Patiala

PATMO or PATMOS (overprint):

Italy–Aegean Islands–Patmo

P. C. Ф. C. П.: Russia

PEN, PENNI, PENNIAS: Finland

PERAK: Malaya – Perak

PERSANE: Persia

PERUANA: Peru

PERV-AEREO: Peru

PESA (overprint): German East Africa

PESETAS: (no country name): Spain

PFENNIG: Württemberg, Bavaria or

Germany

PIASTER: Austria – Offices in Turkey

or Germany – Offices in Turkey

PIASTRA or PIASTRE (overprint)

on stamps of Italy: Italy – Offices in

Crete and in Turkey; on stamps of

Great Britain: Great Britain – Offices

in Turkey; on stamps of Russia:

Russia – Offices in Turkey; on

stamps of France: France – Offices

in Turkey

PIASTRO (overprint): Italy – Offices

in Crete

PIES: India

PICE: Nepal

P.M. (overprint): Italy, military stamps

РОССИЯ: Russia or South Russia

POCZTA: Poland

POCZTA POLSKA: Poland

POLSKA: Poland

POLYNESIE FRANÇAISE: French

Polynesia

Р. О. П. И. Т. (overprint): Ukraine

PORTEADO: Portugal

PORTE DE CONDUCCION: Peru

PORTE DE MAR: Mexico

POSTAGE, POSTAGE &

REVENUE with denominations in d

(pence) (shillings) or £ (pounds), and

portraits of a king or queen, but no

country name given; Great Britain:

with denominations in annas: India –

Kishengarh

POSTES: Belgium, France, French

Colonies or Luxembourg

POSTES CENTIME with numeral in

center of stamp covered by a

network of colored lines: France –

Alsace and Lorraine, under German

occupation

POSTES followed by

EGYPTIENNES: Egypt or United Arab

Republic; by **HEDJAZ** and **NEJDE:**

Saudi Arabia; by **OTTOMANES:**

Turkey or Mesopotamia; by picture of

crescent: Afghanistan

POSTES PERSANES: Persia

POSTE VATICANE: Vatican City

POSTGEBIET OB. OFT. (overprint):

Lithuania, under German occupation

POST STAMP, POST & RECEIPT

with values in annas: India –

Hyderabad

POSTZEGEL (no country name):

Netherlands

PRINCE FAROUK: Egypt

PRINCIPAUTÉ DE MONACO:

Monaco

PRO TACNA Y ARICA: Peru

PROTECTORAT FRANÇAIS

(overprint): French Morocco

PTO. RICO, PUERTO RICO: Puerto

Rico

PUTTIALA (overprint): India –

Patiala

PYB or Pyb: Russia, South Russia

or Finland

Q

QUINDAR, QUINTAR: Albania

R

RAJASTHAN (overprint): India –

Rajasthan

RARATONGA: Cook Islands

RECARGO: Spain

REICH, REICHSPOST: Germany

REIS (no country name): Portugal

REP. DI S. MARINO: San Marino

REPOBLIKA MALAGASY: Madagascar

REPUBBLICA ITALIANA: Italy

REPUBBLICA SOCIALE ITALIANA:

Italy – Italian Social Republic

REPUB. FRANÇ. or REPUBLIQUE

FRANÇAISE: France or French

Colonies

REPUBLICA DE GUINEA

ECUATORIAL: Equatorial Guinea

REPUBLICA DOMINICANA:

Dominican Republic

REPUBLICA ESPANOLA: Spain

REPUBLICA MOCAMBIQUE

(overprint): Mozambique

REPUBLICA ORIENTAL: Uruguay

REPUBLICA PERUANA: Peru

REPUBLICA POPULARA

ROMINA: Romania

REPUBLICA PORTUGUESA: Portugal

REPUBLIEK VAN SUID-AFRIKA:

South Africa

REPUBLIK INDONESIA SERIKAT:

Indonesia

REPUBLIQUE ARABE UNIE:

United Arab Republic

REPUBLIQUE AUTONOME DU TOGO: Togo
REPUBLIQUE CENTRAFRICAINE: Central African Republic
REPUBLIQUE d'AZERBAIJAN: Azerbaijan
REPUBLIQUE DE CÔTE D'IVOIRE: Ivory Coast
REPUBLIQUE DE GUINÉE: Guinea
REPUBLIQUE DE HAUTE VOLTA: Upper Volta
REPUBLIQUE DEMOCRATIQUE DU CONGO: Congo
REPUBLIQUE D'HAÏTI: Haiti
REPUBLIQUE DE CONGO: Congo or Congo Republic
REPUBLIQUE DU DAHOMEY: Dahomey
REPUBLIQUE DU MALI: Mali
REPUBLIQUE DU NIGER: Niger
REPUBLIQUE DU SENEGAL: Senegal
REPUBLIQUE DU TCHAD: Chad
REPUBLIQUE DU TOGO: Togo
REPUBLIQUE GABONAISE: Gabon
REPUBLIQUE ISLAMIQUE DE MAURITANIE: Mauritania
REPUBLIQUE LIBANAISE: Lebanon
REPUBLIQUE MALGACHE: Madagascar (Malagasy).
REPUBLIQUE RWANDAISE: Rwanda
REPUBLIQUE TOGOLAISE: Togo
REPUBLIQUE TUNISIENNE: Tunisia
R.F. (no country name): France
RHEINLAND-PFALZ: Germany – Rhine Palatinate, under military occupation
RIAL or RIALS: Persia
RIAU (overprint): Indonesia
RIN, RN., Japan
R I S (overprint): Indonesia
RN or RIN: Japan
ROHANIA: Romania
ROMANA, ROMANIA, ROMINA: Romania
ROSS DEPENDENCY: New Zealand
ROYAUME DE L'ARABIE SAOUDITE: Saudi Arabia
ROYAUME DE YEMEN: Yemen
ROYAUME DU BURUNDI: Burundi
ROYAUME DU CAMBODGE: Cambodia
ROYAUME DU LAOS: Laos
ROYAUME DU MAROC: Morocco
RP: Liechtenstein or Switzerland
R. P. ROMINA: Romania
R.S.M.: San Marino
RWANDA: Ruanda-Urundi

S
SAARE (overprint): Saar
SAARGEBIET: Saar
SAARLAND, SAARPOST: Saar
SACHSEN: Saxony
SAHARA ESPAÑOL or SAHARA OCCIDENTAL: Spanish Sahara
ST. CHRISTOPHER-NEVIS-ANGUILLA: St. Kitts-Nevis
S.A.K.: Saudi Arabia
SARKARI: India – Soruth

SAURASHTRA or SORRASHTRA: India – Soruth
SEJM WILNIE: Central Lithuania
SELANGOR: Malaya – Selangor
SEN: Japan or Ryukyu Islands
SERBIEN (overprint): Serbia
SERVICIO POSTAL MEXICANA: Mexico
SEVILLA-BARCELONA: Spain
SHQIPENIA, SHQIPENIE, SHQIPERIA, SHQIPERIA, SHQIPERISE, SHQIPNI, SHQIPNIJA, SHQIPONIES: Albania
SICILIA: Two Sicilies
SIEGE DE LA LIGUE ARABE: Morocco
SIRMOOR: India – Sirmoor
SKILLING: Denmark or Norway
SLOVENSKA POSTA or SLOVENSKO: Czechoslovakia – Slovakia
SLOVENSKO: Czechoslovakia – Slovakia
SLOVENSKY STAT, SLOVENSKENO (overprint): Czechoslovakia
S. MARINO: San Marino
SN: Japan
SOL: Peru
SOLDI: Austria – Lombardy-Venetia
SOLIDARITE FRANÇAISE: French Colonies, general issue
SOMALIA ITALIANA: Italian Somaliland
SONORA: Mexico
SORUTH: India – Soruth
SOUDAN (overprint): Sudan
SOUDAN FRANÇAIS: French Sudan
SOURASHTRA: India – Soruth
SPANISH WESTERN SAHARA: Spanish Sahara
S.Q. TRSTA-VUJA: Trieste
SRI LANKA: Ceylon
SRODKOWA LITVA: Central Lithuania
ST or STG: Siam
STATE OF SINGAPORE: Singapore
S. THOME (or TOME) E PRINCIPE: St. Thomas & Prince Islands
STOTHKHK: Bulgaria
S.T. TRSTA-VUJA: Trieste
STT VUJA or VUJNA: Trieste; (overprint): Trieste
SUIDAFRIKA: South Africa
SUIDWES AFRIKA: South-West Africa
SUOMI: Finland
SURINAME: Surinam
SVERIGE: Sweden
S. W. A. (overprint): South West Africa
SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC: Syria
SYRIE, SYRIENNE: Syria

T
TAKKA: Bulgaria
TAKSE: Albania
TANGANYIKA KENYA UGANDA: Kenya, Uganda & Tanzania
TANGER with "Correo Espanol": Spanish Morocco – Tangier; (overprint) on postage due stamps of France: French Morocco, postage

due stamps; on stamps of Spain: Spanish Morocco – Tangier
TANGIER: Great Britain – Offices in Morocco
TANZANIA, UGANDA, KENYA: Kenya, Uganda & Tanzania
TAXA DE GUERRA with values in AVOS: Macao; with values in O\$: Portuguese Africa; with values in RP: Portuguese India; with values in REIS: Portuguese Guinea
T.C.E.K.: Turkey
TCHAD: Chad
T. C. POSTALARI: Turkey
TE BETALEN: Netherlands, Dutch Indies, Netherlands Antilles or Surinam; also preceded by "A PAYER": Belgium
TERRITOIRE DE IFNI (overprint): Ifni
TERRITOIRE DU NIGER: Niger
TERRITORIO DE IFNI (ESPAÑA): Ifni
TERRITORIO DEL AFRICA OCCIDENTAL ESPAÑOL: Spanish West Africa
TERRITORIOS (or TERRS.) ESPAÑOLES DEL GOLFO DE GUINEA: Spanish Guinea
TETUAN: Spanish Morocco – Tetuan
THAILAND or THAI: Siam
THRACE INTERALLIEE or THRACE OCCIDENTALE (overprint): Thrace
TIMBRE IMPERIAL JOURNAUX: France
TIMBRE POSTE (overprint): French Morocco
TJENESTE-FRIMARKE: Denmark
TJENESTEFRIMERKE: Norway
TOGA: Tonga
TOLIMA: Colombia – Tolima
TOUVA: Tannu Tuva
TRANS-JORDAN: Jordan
TRANSKEI: South Africa
TRENGGANU: Malaya – Trengganu
TRIPOLI: Tripolitania; preceded by "FIERA CAMPIONARI": Libya
T. Ta. C.: Turkey
TUNIS, TUNISIE: Tunisia
TURKIYE CUMHURİYETI
POSTALARI: Turkey
TURKIYE, TURK POSTALARI: Turkey
TUVALU: Ellice Islands

U
UAPCTBO: Bulgaria
ПАРСТВОЪЛАГ АРИЯ: Bulgaria
U.A.R.: United Arab Republic
UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA: South Africa
UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANGANYIKA & ZANZIBAR: Tanzania
UNTEA (overprint): West New Guinea
ПРГА ГОРА: Montenegro, under Italian administration

V
VALLES D'ANDORRE: Andorra
VATHY: France – Offices in Turkey
VATICANE: Vatican City
VENDA: South Africa

VENEZ. VENEZOLANA,
VENEZOLANO: Venezuela
VIET-NAM CONG-HOA: Viet Nam
VIJJA STT or VIJUNA STT: Trieste;
(overprint) on stamps of Jugoslavia:
Trieste

W _____
WEST IRIAN: West New Guinea
WESTERN SAMOA: Samoa
WN: Korea

X _____
XAPTO HMOI: Greece
XEJEPА: Montenegro

XEAEPA: Montenegro
XII CAMPIONARIA TRIPOLI: Libya

Y _____
YCA (overprint): Peru – Yca
Y. C. C. P.: Ukraine
YCCP (overprint): Ukraine
YCTAB: Montenegro
YEN, YN.: Japan, Manchukuo or
Ryukyu Islands
YKPAИHCЬKA: Ukraine

Z _____
Z. AFR. REPUBLIEK, ZUID
AFRIKAANSCHЕ REPUBLIEK:

Transvaal
ZAIRE: Belgian Congo
ZAMBIA: Northern Rhodesia
ZEGELREGT: Transvaal
ZELAYA: Nicaragua – Zelaya
ZENTRALER KURIERDIENST:
Germany
ZIMBABWE: Southern Rhodesia
ZONA PROTECTORADO
ESPAÑOL (overprint): Spanish
Morocco
ZONE FRANCAISE: Germany,
under French occupation
ZRACNA POSTA: Trieste
ZUIDWEST AFRIKA: South West Africa

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