

# Zoek de verschillen

Filatelie heeft vele invalshoeken.

Soms vind je een zegel die niet hetzelfde is als al die andere.

Dat kan een verschoven drukgang zijn.

Of het is een perforatie die flink is verschoven.

Een afwijkende zegel zoeken vraagt veel geduld.

En dan ineens is er die geweldige vondst.

De meesten vinden dit maar niks.

En toch is dit ook filatelie.

Er zijn personen die dit heel erg leuk vinden.

Zelfs belangrijk genoeg om zo'n verzameling te laten keuren.

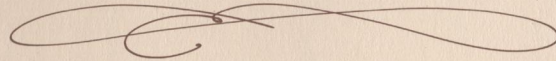
En dan krijg je bijvoorbeeld deze belangrijke en moeilijke verzameling.

MS  
126

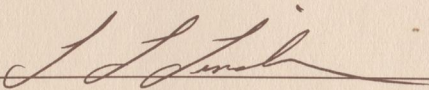
**The 20th Century Collection  
of  
U.S. Stamp  
ERRORS**

# The 20th Century Collection of U.S. Stamp Errors

## *Certificate of Authenticity*



This is to certify that *The 20th Century Collection of U.S. Stamp Errors* is comprised of perforation or color-shift stamp errors of the U.S. Postal Service. Each stamp error and its correctly-issued version is certified to be genuine and in Mint, Never-Hinged condition.



Thomas L. Lidemann  
President  
Calhoun's Collectors Society





## 10-Cent Jefferson Memorial

Issued: December 14, 1973

The Jefferson Memorial definitive stamp, first released in Washington, D.C., was issued by the U.S. Postal Service to meet the new first-class postal rate effective in March 1974. Above the central design of the Jefferson Memorial is a quotation from the Declaration of Independence, written almost entirely by Thomas Jefferson when he was only 33 years old. His signature appears below the quotation.

The Jefferson Memorial stamp error has a horizontal perforation shift. This error was caused by misplaced perforations across the stamp sheet after it was printed. Although the perforation machinery is equipped with an electric eye scanner and self-adjusts to changes in the alignment of stamps on a sheet, on rare occasions the electronically controlled machine will fail and produce the perforation shift.

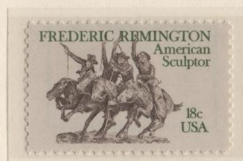
Before his death, Thomas Jefferson designed a simple, six-foot high stone obelisk to mark his grave, with the inscription: "Here was buried Thomas Jefferson, author of the Declaration of American Independence, of the Statute of Virginia for religious free-

dom, and the father of the University of Virginia." No mention was made of his two terms as president of the United States.

In spite of Jefferson's wishes against any monument erected in his name, the Jefferson Memorial was dedicated on April 13, 1943, the 200th anniversary of his birth. Situated in East Potomac Park in Washington, D.C., the memorial was built in the classical style that Jefferson so admired. The rotunda of the memorial is, in fact, very similar to the rotunda which Jefferson designed for the University of Virginia.

Inside the circular colonnaded structure is the memorial room dominated by a 19-foot bronze statue of Jefferson, standing on a 6-foot base of black granite. The domed limestone ceiling rises another 67 feet above the head of the statue. Around the interior marble walls are four panels which hold bronze plaques with selections of Jefferson's writings. These writings, from the Declaration of Independence, the Virginia Statute and other works, are quotations setting forth his beliefs in the basic freedoms of all people.





## 18-Cent Frederic Remington

Issued: October 9, 1981

If any one artist conveyed America's image of the Old West—hard-riding cowboys, silent mountain men, prospectors, feathered Indians and soldiers on galloping horses—it was Frederic Remington (1861-1909). Painter, sculptor and illustrator, Remington was the most famous and prolific of the 19th-century artists who captured raw Western life before it vanished.

Like most great Western artists, Remington was not a native Westerner. He was born in Canton, New York, and studied at Yale for two years before going west in 1880 on an inheritance from his father.

Through Montana, Texas, Indian Territory and Mexico, Remington went prospecting, cowpunching, scouting and sketching. He crossed the Rockies with a wagon train, then hit the Santa Fe Trail and the Oregon Trail with the homesteaders. He was fascinated by Indians and spent much time sketching them in their encampments. He rode with a U.S. Cavalry scouting party in search of bands of Apaches hiding in Arizona canyons, and accompanied the troops in the Indian wars of 1890-91, covering the aftermath of the Battle of Wounded Knee.

Remington took up sculpture toward the end of his life. He created his sculptures in clay and wax, and then had them cast in bronze. His small, animated works were greeted with acclaim. With a fine eye for detail and a swift hand for "freezing action," Remington documented whatever excited him. His bronze sculpture, "Coming Through the Rye," is honored on a commemorative stamp issued on October 9, 1981. This work shows four raucous cowboys shooting their way into town for a celebration. Created in 1902, it was one of the first Remington works to be procured by a museum and is one of his finest sculptures.

The Remington stamp error is a vertical brown color shift. The brown color shift probably occurred when a ridge, caused by a splice connecting two rolls of paper together, jarred the high-speed Andreotti printing press and shifted the brown color out of position.



## 3-Cent Statue of Liberty

Issued: June 24, 1954

In 1954, the first issues of a new series of regular issue United States postage stamps appeared. It was called the Liberty series and it was the first new series of regular stamps in almost 20 years. The Liberty series stamps continued in use until 1968 when they were replaced by the Prominent Americans series.

The stamps of the Liberty series provide a historic record of American heroes, patriots, presidents and distinguished citizens whose efforts have led to freedom and liberty in America and other nations. It also includes monuments and buildings that Americans recognize as symbols of liberty. The most famous, of course, is the Statue of Liberty which is recognized around the world as a symbol of freedom and hope. Depicted on four of the stamps in the series, the Statue of Liberty unites all the stamps in the series with the theme of liberty.

The Statue of Liberty is the most revered monument in America because it stands for the ideals upon which our country was founded. Standing in New York Harbor on Liberty Island since 1886, the statue and its torch became a beacon of hope and welcome for millions of immigrants coming to America. Not surprisingly, the famous statue has appeared on over 20 U.S. postage stamps and on the stamps of many foreign countries as well.

The first Statue of Liberty stamp in the series was the 3-cent purple stamp issued in June 1954. It depicts the statue and a halo-like effect with the motto "In God We Trust." The Statue of Liberty stamp error is a vertical perforation shift.



## 15-cent Oliver Wendell Holmes

Issued: June 14, 1978

As Supreme Court justice, author and legal philosopher, Oliver Wendell Holmes (1841-1935) held views that were in advance of his time, but are commonplace in law today. He was called the "great dissenter," not for the number of dissents that he wrote while on the Supreme Court, but for the high judicial and literary quality of those he did write. For his influence on U.S. constitutional law, Oliver Wendell Holmes was included in the Prominent Americans series of U.S. definitive stamps issued from 1965-75.

Justice Holmes was born in Boston and spent most of his life there prior to joining the Supreme Court. He served in the Union Army during the Civil War and was wounded three times before his discharge in 1864. Two years later he graduated from Harvard Law School. He set up his law practice in Boston and also began lecturing and writing on the law. Holmes was appointed to the Massachusetts supreme court in 1882, becoming

its chief justice in 1899. In 1902, at the age of 60, he was appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court by President Theodore Roosevelt. He served on the Court until 1932.

In the early 20th century, the majority of the Court ruled that most laws regulating the economy infringed on the rights of businessmen. Holmes dissented in these cases, most notably those concerning child labor and limits to working hours. He also wrote dissenting opinions that concerned freedom of expression, even against the United States government.

The 15-cent Holmes stamp became the most familiar U.S. stamp in 1978 when the first-class postal rate was unexpectedly raised to 15 cents. The Holmes stamp error was issued in booklet pane form and vertically misperforated. This occurs when the printed stamp is not properly aligned with the perforating equipment.





## 20-cent Franklin D. Roosevelt

Issued: January 30, 1982

The only U.S. president elected to office four times, Franklin Delano Roosevelt first took office in 1933 when America was in the depths of the Great Depression. In his first 100 days in office, he set in motion a series of programs to bring about recovery known as the New Deal. These programs brought relief to the unemployed and drastic reforms in business and government. In 1936, Roosevelt was reelected by a huge margin.

As the nation emerged from the Depression by the late 1930s, the threat of war in Europe and Asia faced President Roosevelt with new challenges. While trying to keep the United States out of the war in Europe, he also began to strengthen our military forces and began sending all possible aid to our allies. In 1940, he was elected to an unprecedented third term as

president. After the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, President Roosevelt declared war on the Axis powers. Even as he inspired and led the nation during World War II, he was looking forward to peace by planning a United Nations to avoid future wars. As the war neared its end, and Roosevelt was just beginning his fourth term, he suddenly died on April 12, 1945 at Warm Springs, Georgia.

As a tribute to the most popular president of the 20th century, the U.S. Postal Service issued a commemorative stamp in honor of the 100th anniversary of Franklin D. Roosevelt's birth at Hyde Park, New York. The stamp pictures an informal, smiling portrait of the 32nd president based on a photograph taken in 1937 at Hyde Park. The FDR error stamp is a vertical perforation shift.



## 6-Cent Olympic Cycling

Issued: August 17, 1972

For the 1972 Munich Olympic Games, the United States Postal Service released its first Olympic stamp issues since 1960. Four different commemorative stamps were issued, two featuring sports of the Summer Olympics and two picturing sports of the Winter Olympics. All four stamps were designed by artist Lance Wyman, who used the graphic symbols of each sport depicted. As on the stamp featuring the sport of cycling, he created the illusion of motion by repeating each figure several times in the five colors of the Olympic rings. The Olympic rings appear in the upper left corner over the block letters "U.S."

The 1972 Olympic stamps, which include the green color-shift error of the cycling stamp, were some of the first U.S. stamp issues to be printed on the new Andreotti press of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. This printing press was intended to create high quality stamps in up to seven colors at high speeds. The high speeds were made possible by printing the stamps on huge rolls of paper (called webs). Although the new press

worked well and most of the stamps were perfect, the color-shift error occurred because of the difficulty of getting precise color registration with the five different colors, each applied by a different printing plate.

One of the original sports of the modern Olympic Games held since 1896, cycling competitions in the Olympics are held on a track, or velodrome, and on the road. Track events include the sprint, a tactical race in which the racers maneuver for position before the final sprint to the finish; the time trial which is a simple race against the clock; and the pursuit, in which the racers start on opposite sides of the track. The individual and team road races are long distance races over a set course. Until 1984, only men competed in Olympic cycling events. In Munich in 1972, one of the greatest amateur cyclists of all time, world champion Daniel Morelon of France, repeated as the sprint champion. All the other events were also won by Europeans.



## 18-Cent Edna St. Vincent Millay

Issued: July 10, 1981

American poet Edna St. Vincent Millay (1892-1950) popularized the attitudes and views of liberal youth, who thought of themselves as the "Smart Set" in the decade of the Roaring Twenties.

She evolved into a bohemian role naturally, after leading a gypsy existence on Maine's rocky coast during her childhood. Her mother, divorced when Millay was eight, believed in and supported Millay's budding literary talent. Her confidence was justified when in 1912, at the age of 20, Millay's poem, "Renaissance," was published in an anthology of prizewinning verse. The poem begins with these well-known lines: "All I could see from where I stood/Was three long mountains and a wood."

Millay graduated from Vassar College in 1917, and moved to New York City, where she gravitated toward the writers and artists in Greenwich Village. She became exceedingly popular among college students as she portrayed in her writing the feelings and desires of the youth of her time.

Her first book of poems, *Renaissance and Other Poems*, appeared in 1917. The second book, *A Few Figs From Thistles*, published in 1920, carried the verse that epitomized the "flaming youth" of the 1920s: "My candle burns at both ends/It will not

last the night/But, ah, my foes, and oh, my friends/It gives a lovely light!" At age 30, Millay became the first woman to win the Pulitzer Prize for poetry. In all, she wrote 15 volumes of original poetry, several translations, five verse plays, short fiction, and dialogues and essays.

Millay married New York importer Eugene Jan Boissevan in 1923. They moved to a farm in Austerlitz, New York, where she died October 19, 1950, about a year after her husband.

Although her life and writings expressed liberal, non-traditional notions, her style of writing, particularly the sonnet, was very conventional. She has been praised as a fine craftsman with a genuine sense of human compassion, but since she avoided the experimental techniques of her contemporaries, her style now appears old-fashioned and sentimental.

The Millay commemorative was designed by Glenora Case Richards, a painter from Connecticut noted for painting miniatures on old ivory. It was issued on July 10, 1981 at Austerlitz, New York, as part of the ongoing Literary Arts series of U.S. stamps. The Millay stamp error is a color shift involving only the black inscription above and below the central design.





## 8-Cent Angus and Longhorn Cattle

Issued: October 5, 1973

The "Rural America" issue of 1973-74 commemorates three important events in the development of America's frontier lands over the previous 100 years. The 8-cent stamp commemorates the centenary of the first Aberdeen-Angus cattle in America; and two 10-cent stamps celebrate the centenaries of the Chautauqua and the introduction of winter wheat into Kansas.

The Aberdeen-Angus cattle originated in northeastern Scotland and are distinguished from most other breeds by their black coats and hornless heads. They are quite large, weighing as much as 1600 pounds for cows and 2000 pounds for bulls, and are known throughout the world for their high quality meat.

They were first brought into the United States in 1873 and were responsible for the revolution in U.S. beef production. They were crossed with Texas Longhorns (hence the Longhorns in the background of the 8-cent stamp) to produce a breed that thrives in most areas of the United States.

The 8-cent "Angus and Longhorn Cattle" stamp was printed using two separate processes: blue, black, and red were engraved, while yellow, orange-brown, green, and tan were lithographed. In a few cases, the paper and ink were not properly aligned in one of the printing processes, resulting in the dramatic "color shift" error stamp.



## 50-Cent Lucy Stone

Issued: August 13, 1968

The Prominent Americans series of regular-issue U.S. postage stamps started in 1965 and ran until 1979. When the 50¢ stamp featuring Lucy Stone appeared in 1968, it was the first and only time in the entire series that a woman was so honored. Because this high-value stamp was issued at a time when the regular postage rate was just 6¢, it saw limited use and can be quite difficult to acquire today, especially in mint condition.

Lucy Stone was a pioneer in the women's rights movement in the 19th century. Born in 1818 near West Brookfield, Massachusetts, her family tried to instill in her the belief that women were inferior to men. She rebelled against that belief, and after graduating from Oberlin College in 1847, she lectured extensively against slavery and for the rights of women. In 1855, she married Henry Blackwell, but she retained her maiden name as part of her crusade for the legal rights of women.

In 1869, she and her husband helped organize the American Woman Suffrage Association in order to bring the plight of women to the attention of the nation. Starting in 1872, they edited *Woman's Journal* — a respected weekly magazine that communicated their beliefs. Lucy Stone died in 1893, but the work she undertook for half a century laid the groundwork for the success of the suffrage movement in the 20th century.

The Prominent Americans 50¢ stamp honoring Lucy Stone was issued on August 13, 1968, at Dorchester, Massachusetts — on the exact 150th anniversary of her birth. The error stamp features a dramatic horizontal perforation shift which occurred when the printed sheet of stamps was not properly aligned with the perforating equipment. As a result of this misperforation, the top portion of the stamp design actually appears at the bottom of the stamp.



## 8-Cent Osteopathic Medicine

Issued: October 9, 1972

Dr. Andrew T. Still (1828-1917), the developer of osteopathic medicine, did not receive much of a formal education in his childhood years due to the frequent reassignments of his Methodist minister father. Still studied medicine briefly in Kansas City, but he was basically a self-taught doctor. A surgeon during the Civil War, Still became dismayed at the crude medical methods used on the soldiers. It was then that Still began working on his theory of osteopathic medicine.

Still coined the word osteopathy to describe his method of medicine based on the Greek word, *osteon*, meaning "bone." As he later wrote in his *Autobiography*, bones were essential to the practice of osteopathy: "... a natural flow of blood is health; and disease is the effect of local or general disturbances of blood...the bones could be used as levers to relieve pressure on nerves, veins and arteries."

In his work in osteopathic medicine, Still formulated three main principles which have come to be known as the osteo-

pathic concept. The first principle is that the body has an inherent capacity to resist disease and to repair itself. The second is that there is a reciprocal relationship between the body and its organ systems. The third principle is that many of the body's problems result from man's incomplete adaptation to walking and standing upright, leading to the inevitable stresses on posture. Osteopathic medicine emphasizes the importance of a body's structure and mechanics in the cause and treatment of disease.

Still's theories regarding osteopathy were first published in 1874, and the first medical college for osteopathic medicine was established by Still in Kirksville, Missouri in 1892. Still and osteopathic medicine were honored by a commemorative stamp issued in conjunction with the 75th anniversary of the American Osteopathic Association, which Still also founded. The osteopathic stamp error is a color shift, in which the color orange has shifted downward.





## 3-Cent Thomas Jefferson

Issued: June 16, 1938

Thomas Jefferson, the third president of the United States, liked to think of his election as the "Revolution of 1800" because his victory made him the first leader of an opposition political party (the Democratic-Republicans) to win control of the national government from the party in power. With this peaceful transition of power, the days of uncertainty for the young American government were ended. Jefferson proved to the world the strength and staying power of the new republic and its democratic system.

Jefferson won undying fame at the age of 33 as author of the Declaration of Independence. His public service spanned 40 years as a legislator, governor, congressman, diplomat, secretary of state, vice president, president and university founder. Yet he also found time to be a successful lawyer, farmer, philosopher, writer, architect, scientist and inventor.

The crowning achievement of Jefferson's presidency was the purchase of the Louisiana Territory from France in 1803. Seeking only to secure the vital port of New Orleans for the United States, Jefferson's agent, James Monroe, ended up buying the entire

Louisiana Territory. At one stroke, the \$15 million purchase doubled the size of the nation and secured the Mississippi River, a vital highway for western commerce.

After Jefferson's second term, which was preoccupied by threats of war with England and France, he declined to run again and retired to Monticello, his home in Virginia. He died on July 4, 1826, the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

The 3-cent Thomas Jefferson stamp, part of the Presidential series of definitive stamps honoring all the deceased presidents of the United States, was issued in Washington, D.C. on June 16, 1938. Part of the appeal of the Presidential series was the fact that the presidents were placed in order of their terms of office, with each president's ranking coinciding with the denomination on which it appears (up until Grover Cleveland on the 22-cent stamp, who is the only president to serve two, non-consecutive terms). The Jefferson stamp error is a horizontal perforation shift.



## 13-Cent Christmas

Issued: October 21, 1977

In 1962, the U.S. Post Office began a tradition that still continues: issuing Christmas stamps each holiday season.

The first stamp was a secular one inscribed "Season's Greetings" against a depiction of burning candles and an evergreen wreath with a red ribbon. For the next few years, secular holiday symbols continued to decorate the stamps: the National Christmas Tree on the White House lawn in 1963, holly, mistletoe, a poinsettia, and a conifer sprig on a quartet of stamps in 1964; and an 1840 weathervane on a New England church in 1965.

Religious stamps were produced for the next three years, until the painting, *Winter Sunday in Norway, Maine*, marked the return to secular ones in 1969.

Then, in 1970, rather than choose between secular and religious stamps, the Post Office began to offer the public a choice of both. Nineteenth-century toys were featured on the secular stamps. In the block of four stamps were pictured a doll

in a carriage, a child riding a tricycle, a toy horse on wheels, and a cast-iron locomotive.

A Jamie Wyeth painting that illustrated lines from the carol, *The Twelve Days of Christmas*, appeared in 1971. Others have included a Santa holding a horn with a bag of toys at his feet; a needlepoint Christmas tree design; a "Dove of Peace" weathervane from Mt. Vernon; and a Currier and Ives print, *The Road—Winter*. The 1975 secular stamp design was adopted from an 1878 Christmas card, and a Nathaniel Currier lithograph, *Winter Pastime*, was featured in 1976.

The Christmas mailbox stamps, released during the 1977 holiday season, depicted a snowy scene of holiday mail resting in a rural mailbox. It was first issued on October 21 at Omaha, Nebraska. While printing these stamps, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing produced the color shift error. All of the colors, except the black and dark gray, are shifted to the left out of position.



## 37-Cent Robert Millikan

Issued: January 26, 1982

One of the most significant discoveries in the areas of physics and electricity belongs to Robert A. Millikan (1868-1953), who was awarded the Nobel Prize for physics in 1923 for his discovery.

After some advanced study in molecular physics and electricity, Millikan went to the University of Chicago in 1911 to teach physics. Some of his colleagues were trying to determine the electrical charge on a single drop of water, and so far, had only been able to determine an average value for thousands of water droplets. Millikan developed a method for using oil instead of water in their experiments, which reduced the troublesome effects of evaporation. Oil droplets were forced through a tiny hole into a metal box with transparent sides. By adding an electrical charge across the metal top and bottom of the box, Millikan could balance the gravitational force against the electrical forces, thus suspending the oil droplet in mid-air inside the box. At this point the amount of electrical force pulling upward on the charged droplet equals the amount of downward gravitational pull. Using the constant value for gravity, Millikan

was able to calculate a value for the droplet's charge—thus proving that the electronic charge has a universal value and is a fundamental constant of nature. His simple observations rate as the most convincing single proof of the atomic nature of electricity and earned him the honor of receiving the Nobel Prize.

Millikan is perhaps best known for his research on cosmic rays (which he named). He also conducted experiments that unified much work that had been done on ultraviolet, X-ray and cosmic radiations.

The 37-cent Robert Millikan stamp, the seventh in the Great Americans series, was the first-class postage rate for the first two ounces of mail. The Millikan stamp error is a vertical perforation shift, which may not be noticed unless the original stamp design is known. Occasionally, a stamp with a perforation shift does not appear to be an error because the perforation does not cut off part of the design. When a stamp with an incorrect perforation is placed next to a correctly-perforated stamp, however, the error is easily seen.





## (18-cent) "B" Regular Stamp

Issued: March 15, 1981

In order to produce the large quantities of regular stamps needed to fulfill public demand, the United States Postal Service usually begins work on the stamps far in advance of the issue date. However, during times of anticipated rate changes, it has had to issue contingency stamps printed without a denomination until the stamps with the new postal rate could be printed.

The very first non-denominated U.S. stamps were the 1975 special Christmas stamps. They were being printed before the new postal rate was agreed upon, so they were released with no denomination at all. On May 22, 1978 the first regular non-denominated U.S. stamp was issued. The orange stamp pictured a stylized eagle, the letter "A," and the inscription US Postage. Early in 1981, a raise in the first class mail rate to 18 cents was approved, and the second non-denominated regular stamp was

issued. It featured the same basic design as the previous "A" stamp, but was distinguished by the letter "B" and its purple color. Like the "A" stamp, it was valid for domestic use only.

Two more U.S. non-denominated "C" and "D" eagle stamps have since been released as contingencies following a postal rate increase. In 1988 a non-denominated "E" stamp was issued that was dramatically different from the earlier non-denominated issues. Instead of the stylized eagle design, the "E" stamp pictured a colorful view of the planet Earth.

The non-denominated "B" stamp error is an example of a stamp with both horizontal and vertical misperforations, or perforation shifts. The printed sheet of stamps was not properly aligned with the perforating equipment which resulted in this error.



## 10.9-Cent Hansom Cab

Issued: March 26, 1982

One of the most popular and long-running series of U.S. postage stamps is the Transportation series begun in 1981. All of the stamps in this on-going series are definitive stamps and all of them have been issued only as coil stamps. Until 1986, all of the Transportation stamps were printed as one-color designs. The common theme of early forms of transportation in the United States has been enhanced by using a similar style of artwork for each stamp. These attractive designs, combined with the interesting and historic subjects, have given the Transportation series stamps their popularity.

Horse-drawn carriages were as common on American streets and roads in the 19th century as the automobile is today. Before 1800, the roads were so few and so bad that most people rode on horseback to travel any distance. By the early 19th century, however, improved types of suspension and road surfaces made traveling in carriages much more comfortable. The peak of carriage manufacturing occurred in the 1870s after the introduc-

tion of mass production methods. The coming of the automobile made carriages obsolete and few were seen after the early decades of the 20th century.

The Hansom cab was named after its designer, an English architect named Joseph Hansom. It was an elegant, two-wheeled, closed carriage often used for public transportation in the late 19th century. The driver's seat was set high on the rear and the occupants entered from the front.

The Hansom cab error stamp is a miscut coil. The original design of the stamp has been altered because the inscription "Hansom Cab 1890s" appears at the bottom of the stamp instead of at the top. Coil error stamps most often occur because of the highly automated manufacturing process used in making modern coils. The stamps are printed, perforated, rolled, sliced and wrapped in one continuous operation. Once the stamps are wrapped in rolls, they can't be inspected until the consumer opens the package.



Issued: January 20, 1968

Based on the natural rights philosophy of John Locke, Paine justified independence as the will of the people and revolution as a device for bringing happiness. In so doing, he prepared the way for the Declaration of Independence. Paine wrote in *Common Sense* that the welfare and destiny of America demanded independence from England's "corrupt" government, and insisted that America create a new republican system of government to best govern her people. During the war, Paine continued to publish pamphlets that helped keep up the morale of both soldiers and civilians. One of his pieces begins with the famous line: "These are the times that try men's souls."

First released in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, the 40-cent Thomas Paine stamp was issued as part of the Prominent Americans series of definitive stamps (1965-75) designed by Robert Glissman after a portrait by John Wesley Jarvis.

The Paine stamp error is a vertical perforation shift, meaning the perforation running up and down the stamp sheet was misplaced. Although the perforation machinery is equipped with an electric eye scanner and self-adjusts to changes in the alignment of stamps on a sheet, on rare occasions the electronically controlled machine will fail and produce the perforation shift.





## 8-Cent Traditional Christmas

Issued: November 1, 1973

By the time he was 20 years old, Raphael (1483-1520) was considered one of the three great masters of the Italian Renaissance along with Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo. Born Raffaello Sanzio in Urbino, Italy, Raphael received early instruction in painting and architecture from his father, Giovanni, who was a portrait painter of modest talent. Giovanni died in 1494, leaving his son an orphan. Raphael then apprenticed himself to work under Il Perugino, one of the great Italian painters of the Early Renaissance.

Raphael's early paintings show the influence Perugino had on him, but Raphael left Perugino when he was 21 to study under the master painters Leonardo and Michelangelo. Under their tutelage, Raphael's paintings became more rhythmic and expressive, more emotionally mature and softer in color.

In 1508 Raphael went to Rome where his genius was finally recognized. Under the patronage of the Catholic popes, Raphael

Painted frescoes in the papal apartments. He was also appointed to design and oversee the building of St. Peter's Cathedral, the highest commission an artist could hope for in Rome. When he died at age 37 of an acute fever, Raphael was buried in the Pantheon in Rome, an honor given only to those whose lives have changed history.

Since 1970, the U.S. Post Office has issued two special stamps in honor of Christmas per year – one "traditional" (usually religious), and one "contemporary" (non-religious). The traditional Christmas stamp for 1973 featured Raphael's *Small Cowper Madonna*, now found in the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. The Raphael Christmas stamp error is a vertical perforation shift; although the Andreotti press is equipped with an electronic eye scanner, occasionally the scanner fails to adjust to a change in the alignment of the stamp sheets and a perforation shift is the result.



## \$1 Rush Lamp and Candle Holder

Issued: July 2, 1979

Beginning in 1975, the Prominent American series of definitive U.S. stamps, in use for 10 years, was replaced by the Americana series. All 25 of the Americana issues depicted subjects that related to the history and culture of the United States, including symbols, historic landmarks, musical instruments and our basic freedoms. The common design element uniting the series of stamps was the phrase along two of the borders.

The \$1 lamp stamp is one of a group of four stamps in the Americana series to depict an antique lamp used in the United States. The rush lamp and candle holder was brought from England by early colonists. It was designed to hold rushes, used in place of candles, that had been dipped in hot grease. The rushes provided poor lighting, however, and a candle was usually used by the American colonists. The lamp stamp was issued on July 2, 1979 in San Francisco, California in conjunction

with the release of the new \$1 Susan B. Anthony coin.

The most famous \$1 rush lamp stamps may be the stamps, discovered in 1986, in which the candle and flame are inverted in relation to the candle holder. A single inverted rush lamp stamp was sold at a philatelic auction for \$21,000. These inverted stamps are not the only errors to appear in the \$1 rush lamp stamp; a color shift error is also known.

The \$1 rush lamp stamp was printed on two presses. The tan background, orange glow, and yellow candle and flame were printed first on an offset press. The stamp sheets were then fed into an intaglio printing press, where the dark brown lettering and candle holder were printed. On some stamps, this dark brown printing shifted downward. This color shift probably occurred when a ridge, caused by a splice connecting two rolls of paper together, jarred the high-speed printing press and shifted the brown color out of position.



## 18-cent Flag Over Lighthouse

Issued: April 24, 1981

The U.S. Postal Service has traditionally issued a regular-issue stamp portraying the United States flag for the first-class mail rate. In 1981, it broke with tradition by issuing three distinctive flag stamps. A different design was used for the sheet, coil and booklet stamps and each was inscribed with a phrase from the song *America the Beautiful*. The 18-cent coil stamp pictured the flag over the South Portland Head Lighthouse on the Maine coast, with the words "from sea to shining sea" below.

The first coil stamps were released in the United States in 1906, but not by the U.S. Post Office. Manufacturers of vending and stamp-affixing machines bought imperforate sheets of stamps from the Post Office. The sheets were cut into strips,

which were then perforated and pasted together, end to end, and rolled into coils. In 1908, the Post Office decided to issue its own coil stamps. At first, they were printed the same way as the private manufacturers' coils, but eventually new technology like the rotary press was developed. The coil stamps are continuously printed, perforated, cut into strips and then rerolled into coils. Coil stamps quickly became popular and now account for half of the stamps in use in the United States.

The Flag over Lighthouse error occurred during the process when the printed stamps, still on rolls of paper, were cut into strips. The miscut most likely happened because the stamps and cutting machinery were not properly aligned.





## 10-Cent ZIP Code

Issued: January 4, 1974

The United States became the second country in the world to use post codes for expediting mail delivery when it introduced the Zoning Improvement Plan, or ZIP code in 1963. By using ZIP codes, mail handling could be speeded up with the use of automated equipment. Six hand-sorting operations were eliminated by the use of ZIP codes and electronic address-reading machines.

The ZIP code consists of a five-digit number that identifies each postal delivery area in the United States. The first digit identifies which one of the ten geographical areas the mail will be sent to. The second digit narrows the area down to the state, part of a heavily-populated state, or two or more less-populated states. The major post office or sectional center is identified with the third digit, and the fourth and fifth digits identify the local

post office or delivery station. A nine-digit ZIP code system was introduced later to further narrow down the mail's destination.

An intensive advertising campaign was initiated by the Post Office to publicize the new ZIP code system and to encourage its use. A stamp issued early in 1974 to meet new postal rates used the design of a "pop art" poster previously used to promote the ZIP code. The multicolor stamp was printed on the new Andreotti press, which could print up to seven colors at high speeds. The ZIP code stamp error is a color shift error in which all of the colors were printed out of position. In the case of the green and orange colors, which are created by a combination of the basic red, blue and yellow colors, the shift has caused these colors to almost completely disappear from the stamp's design.



## 17-Cent Rachel Carson

Issued: May 28, 1981

The third stamp in the Great Americans series of definitive postage stamps honored Rachel Carson, an American biologist and author. Her last book, *Silent Spring*, warned of the possible harm caused by the indiscriminate use of pesticides and resulted in an increasing awareness of environmental pollution. It also increased research into the effects of pesticides and other chemicals on the natural environment.

Rachel Carson (1907-1964) was born in Springdale, Pennsylvania on May 27, 1907. Her interest in wildlife and the outdoors led her to study biology at the Pennsylvania College for Women. After graduating from there in 1929, she attended Johns Hopkins University and also did work at the Woods Hole Marine Biological Laboratory. In 1936, Rachel Carson became a marine biologist with the U.S. Bureau of Fisheries, later the U.S. Fish and

Wildlife Service. She also became editor in chief of their publications.

Her first book, *Under the Sea*, was published in 1941 but brought little recognition. Her second book, *The Sea Around Us* (1951), was widely acclaimed and won the National Book Award that year. She also wrote *The Edge of the Sea* in 1955. In all of three of these books, Rachel Carson demonstrated a thorough knowledge of the sea and a sensitive style of writing.

The Great Americans stamp honoring Rachel Carson was issued on May 28, 1981 at Springdale, Pennsylvania. The Carson stamp error is a horizontal perforation shift that has changed the design of the stamp. On the error stamp, the denomination and "USA" are at the top instead of properly located at the bottom of the stamp.



## 50-cent Iron “Betty” Lamp

Issued: September 11, 1979

The Americana series of regular postage stamps introduced in 1975 depicted subjects that related to the history and culture of the United States. The common design of all 25 stamps in the series was a patriotic phrase inscribed along two of the borders. Early American lamps, dating from the colonial era to the 19th century, appear on the four high-value stamps, ranging from 50 cents to 5 dollars.

The iron “betty” lamp depicted on the 50-cent Americana issue was used by the Pilgrims and other settlers in Plymouth Colony from the mid-1600s to the late 1700s. It was originally made by the Dutch of forged or cast iron. The name “betty” is believed to have come from the German word *besser*, which means “better.” The main part of the iron betty lamp was a

shallow dish that was filled with fish or whale oil and contained a small floating wick. An upright handle with a pointed hook extended from the back so the lamp could be suspended from a chairback or hung in a crevice between fireplace stones. Betty lamps that were made in the American colonies were made of tin, brass or pewter.

The 50-cent iron betty lamp stamp was printed in three colors—orange, tan and black—on two different printing presses. An offset press was used for the tan background and the orange circle representing the glow of the light. The error lamp stamp is an example of a color shift error, which means the paper and ink were not properly aligned as the paper went through the printing press.





## 6-Cent Flag Over White House

Issued: January 24, 1968

The United States national flag first appeared on a U.S. postage stamp in 1869 when two flags framed the eagle and shield design of the 30-cent value of the first U.S. pictorial stamps. However, it wasn't until July 4, 1957 that the first U.S. stamp to prominently display "Old Glory" as the central design appeared. The red, white and blue Flag stamp was the first U.S. commemorative to be printed on the new multicolor Giori press.

Beginning in 1963, a full-color U.S. flag definitive stamp in the first-class letter rate has always been available for postal customers. The first Flag definitive, a 5-cent stamp issued in January 1963, depicted the U.S. flag over the White House. This also began the tradition of showing the flag over a prominent national landmark or landscape. When the first-class rate was raised to 6 cents in 1968, the Flag over White House stamp was revised to include the green trees around the Executive mansion and the landscape of Washington, D.C. in the background.

The 50-star U.S. flag was first flown on July 4, 1960, after the

admission of Hawaii as the fiftieth state of the Union. Its history goes back almost 200 years before that to the flag of the United American Colonies which featured 13 red and white stripes. On June 14, 1777, the Continental Congress adopted the "Stars and Stripes" design for the new United States. It also featured 13 red and white stripes, but added a pattern of 13 white stars on a blue field for the union of states. One of the most famous early U.S. flags flew over Ft. McHenry during the War of 1812 and inspired Francis Scott Key to write our national anthem. This flag had 15 stars and 15 stripes even though there were 18 states in the Union. Finally, by the Flag Act of 1818, the present flag of 13 red and white stripes was established with the number of stars representing the states.

The 1968 Flag over White House stamp was first issued on January 24, 1968 at Washington, D.C. The error stamp features a vertical perforation shift.