

Linn's Stamp News

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WORLD'S LARGEST WEEKLY STAMP NEWS AND MARKETPLACE

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New coil and bound-booklet self-stick Flags will be historic issues for USPS, Bureau

By Michael Schreiber

In a few weeks, two new 32¢ Flag Over Porch self-adhesive stamps manufactured by the United States Bureau of Engraving and Printing will be available to collectors and the general public.

One stamp is in coils and one is in booklets, and both will be historic issues when they are released May 21 without a first-day ceremony.

The new coil stamp, in rolls of 100, will be the first U.S. self-adhesive coil stamp mass-produced for sale over post office counters.

The new booklet stamp will be the first self-adhesive booklet stamp packaged and manufactured as a traditional booklet with card covers. The cardboard-covered vending booklets that went on sale earlier this year were jury-rigged, being made from stamps formatted for never-folded panes sold over-the-counter.

The new self-stick Flag stamps will be waving far and wide as 9 billion of them will flood post offices. The printing quantities are for slightly more than 7.3 billion coil stamps and about 1.7 billion booklet stamps.

The 9 billion quantity for a single stamp design represents a massive portion of the 50 billion or so stamps the Postal Service typically acquires in a fiscal year.

For the 1996 fiscal year, the Postal Service plans to acquire 30 billion self-adhesive stamps, up from 8.8 billion in 1995 and 2.8 billion in 1994.

The number of new self-

adhesive Flag stamps will exceed by far last year's self-adhesive Flags (1.9 billion Flag Over Porch stamps in panes of 20 made by Avery Dennison) and last year's water-activated Flag coil stamp (6.1 billion made by the Bureau in four roll sizes).

One of the new self-stick Flag stamps actually is out early.

The new 32¢ Flag Over Porch self-adhesive coil stamp to be issued officially May 21 in Washington, D.C., was sold as early as mid-April in at least one New York City post office.

Examples of the new coil stamp are pictured here in color. The stamps shown are from New York City and were sent to *Linn's* by a collector.

Linn's is not aware of the specific post office or post offices that sold the coil stamps early.

It is believed that the coil stamp was sold early because the U.S. Postal Service originally had established April 3 as the coil stamp's first day.

The first day was changed to an undetermined date in late spring and then to May 21, as reported in *Linn's*, March 25 and April 15, respectively.

The new booklet of 32¢ Flag Over Porch self-adhesive stamps will be a booklet of 20 with two bound-in panes of 10, similar to the Bureau's bound booklets of perforated, water-activated stamps.

The new self-adhesive coil and the new self-adhesive booklet stamp each will have a red "1996" year date in

their bottom-left corners.

The coil rolls of 100 are packaged in clear plastic containers known to collectors as "bubbles." Perforated, water-activated coils of 100 have been sold in this packaging for years.

Post offices receive sheets of the coil bubbles in boxes, packaged as 100 rolls (10 by 10) per sheet. Sheets of bubbles are molded with perforationlike appendages so a postal clerk can easily separate a bubble from the larger unit by tearing it off.

In contrast to previous U.S. coil stamps sold in bubbles, the bubble for the new coil includes three lines of text printed in black. It reads: "100 count coil 32¢ FLAG O/PORCH TOTAL: \$32.00."

Shown on this page (top) is a mint, numbered strip of three of the new self-stick coil with plate number combination 66666. The strip is cropped photographically from a larger strip of five.

Below the strip are three singles, two with backing paper and one without. The single stamp on the right, without any backing paper, shows what the new coil stamp looks like when it is peeled away from its backing. It has wavy die-cuts at the sides and straight edges at top and bottom.

The stamp's die-cutting gauges about 11 (10.95), using *Linn's* film-base Multi-gauge. The coil stamps have 11 teeth on the left side and 12 teeth on the right side.

The single stamp on the left is still attached to its backing. It was cut from a (Please turn to page 16)

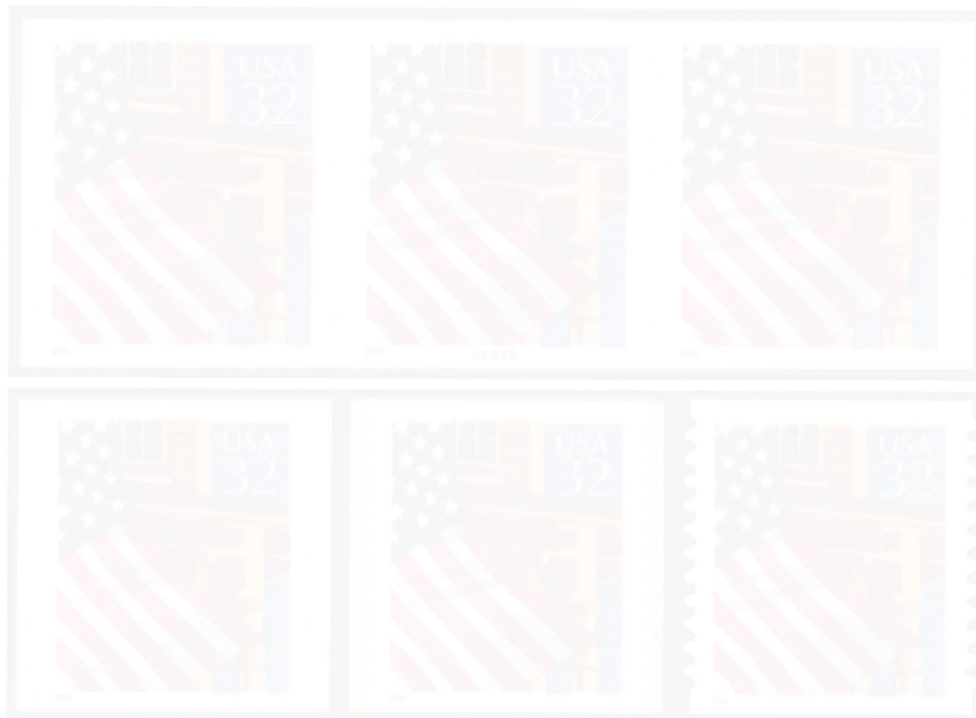


Plate number strip of three (top) and three singles of the new self-adhesive 32¢ Flag Over Porch coil stamp to be issued May 21. The stamp has been sold early, and these images are from actual stamps. The issue also will include a new self-adhesive booklet stamp.

USPS changes first-day site for stamps, cards, envelope

By Michael Baadke

Six days before the scheduled issue date for its 32¢ Centennial Olympic Games stamps and matching 20¢ postal card set, the United States Postal Service abruptly changed the location of the first-day event from Atlanta, Ga., site of this year's Summer Olympics, to Washington, D.C.

USPS also advanced the date and changed the location for the issuance of its 32¢ Paralympic Games envelope.

The planned May 9 release of the envelope in Atlanta was scrapped, and it was announced that the envelope would share the stage May 2 with the Olympic Games stamps. The ceremony will start at noon outside the Postal Service's L'Enfant Plaza headquarters in Washington.

What caused such a hasty shift in plans for one of the most important stamp issues of the year? And why move the stamps from the logical location of Atlanta to a Washington site unrelated to the Games?

The first official report from USPS gave no reason.

Information in an April 26 half-page USPS media advisory about the event provided only bare details about the Washington ceremony and gave no indication why the location had been suddenly changed. The only emphasis in the advisory was to note that the new stamps and envelope would be available only in Washington May 2, with the word "only" underlined.

The emphasis clearly indicated that if you hoped to find Olympic stamps in Atlanta May 2, you'd be out of luck.

Three days later, Postal Service officials stated cautiously, "We anticipate first-day sales in Atlanta," but that there would be no ceremony in Atlanta for the stamps. The revision was attributed to a USPS desire to accommodate Atlanta-area

collectors who had planned to obtain the stamps in Atlanta May 2.

One Postal Service spokesman told *Linn's* that no specific events precipitated the move of the ceremony. He remarked that the unveiling of the stamp designs took place in Atlanta (Feb. 1 at a sports trade show), and that it was decided to issue the stamps in Washington.

The real answer may be that USPS knew when it wasn't welcome.

In the April 27 edition of *The Washington Post*, a story by Bill McAllister and Thomas Heath reported that increasing friction between the Postal Service and officials of the United States Olympic Committee came to a head April 25 when USOC deputy secretary general John Krimsky "accused the federal (Please turn to page 20)



Jersey's sports and scenery

Jersey will salute sports and tourism on two sets of stamps to be issued June 8. One of the five Sports stamps is pictured on the left, and one of the six Tourism stamps is on the right. The designs of these 19-penny stamps feature rowing and Jersey's North Coast, respectively. More details about the stamps and Cap souvenir sheet are on page 18.

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PRINTED with soy ink on recycled paper MAILED: May 2
PAID CIRCULATION: 69,531 TOTAL DISTRIBUTION: 71,350
POSTMASTER: Address changes to Box 29, Sidney, Ohio 45365

Scouts on Stamps society plans Capex events, covers

The Scouts on Stamps Society International will hold its 1996 annual meeting at the Capex 96 international stamp exhibition in Toronto, Canada.

Capex 96 is the world philatelic exhibition being held in the Metro Toronto Convention Center June 8-16.

The SOSSI annual meeting will be held from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday, June 9, in the convention center. Visitors are welcome to attend. An auction will be held during the second hour of the meeting.

An SOSSI dinner will take place the previous evening, and SOSSI will staff a so-

ciety lounge at Capex 96 throughout all nine days of the show.

Host of SOSSI events will



Cachet for the Scouts on Stamps Society International souvenir cover for the Capex 96 stamp show.

be the Maple Leaf Chapter No. 15. Based in Toronto, this chapter has been in continuous operation since it was chartered April 14, 1962.

Two covers for this event will be sold at the SOSSI lounge, and both may be ordered by mail for delivery after Capex 96.

An SOSSI cover (in three colors) will picture a reproduction of the Cape of Good Hope stamp of 1900 that pictures a bicycle messenger. The cachet will tie in with the Capex 96 theme of "Transportation."

During the Siege of Mafeking (which lasted more

than 200 days) in the 1899-1902 Boer War, the town ran out of regular stamps and was forced to create its own.

The stamps are two similar versions of a portrait of Lord Baden-Powell (the British commander of the besieged town) and the Bicyclist stamp.

Baden-Powell had formed the youth in Mafeking into a Cadet Corps for carrying messages.

The Bicyclist stamp pictures one of them, Sgt. Major Warner Goodyear, age 12.

Seven years later in 1907, Baden-Powell established the Boy Scouts movement, and

many believe that his Mafeking Cadet Corps provided the inspiration.

A Maple Leaf Chapter cover pictures the chapter logo modified with the insertion of the Capex 96 logo. This cachet will be printed in green.

Covers will be franked with one of the new 45¢

stamps to be issued June 8 at Capex 96 and will be first-day canceled with the Capex 96 postmark for that day.

Cost will be \$1 per cover plus 50¢ per order for shipping (U.S. funds). Orders with payment should be sent to Jack Lyons, 47 Tremont Road, Islington, Ontario M9B 3X3, Canada. ■

Netherlands to start Comic Strip series

The philatelic bureau of the Netherlands post office (PTT Post Filatelie) announces that a new Comic Strip series of commemorative stamps will be introduced May 14. The stamps will have denominations of 70¢ and 80¢.

The philatelic bureau reported in its 1996 program announcement: "In the coming years, there will be a number of stamps featuring popular comic strip characters and cartoonists. The first two stamps will be issued in 1996."

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**NO BUYER'S SURCHARGE
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MAIL BID SALE
CLOSING DATE MAY 30, 1996
TERMS OF SALE

Lots will be sold to the highest bidder at a small advance over the second highest bid. The right is reserved to withdraw any lot. Successful bidders will be notified and payment is due, in full, within (5) days after receipt of invoice. Requests for extension must be submitted in writing when bidding. Buyers must remit in U.S. funds. Postage, insurance and/or registry will be charged to all buyers. Lots not as described are returnable intact, as received, within (5) days. Postage will not be refunded. The following are not returnable for any reason: Lots containing ten or more stamps, lots described as flawed, faulty, Avg or AS IS and photographed lots for reasons of perforations, centering or cancellations. Acceptance of purchase at the bid sheet address shall constitute good delivery.

ABBREVIATIONS USED
 * - Mint NH; * - Unused; * - Used; * - Cover; MB - Minimum Bid; EST - Estimate; OG - Original Gum; NG - No Gum; RG - Regummed; SOH - Sticker-on-the-rose; CDS - Circular date stamp; PB - Plate Block; P - Separate list and last numbers of non-consecutive group; FDC - First Day Cover; AVG Superb - Describes contents only; (P) - Photo; LH - lightly hinged; FI - For issue; S/S - Souvenir Sheet; BS - Backstamped

NET RETAIL VALUES FROM 1995 SCOTT, MICHEL, SG BRITISH COMMONWEALTH & LINN'S TRENDS.

UNITED STATES		UNITED STATES	
LOT DESCRIPTION	SCOTT NET	LOT DESCRIPTION	SCOTT NET
1 * 69, deep color, Choice VF (P)	75.00	34 * 253, good color, attractive incl. F-VF	350.00
2 * 75, intense color, wax added perfor. w/w	1,200.00	35 * 284-8, F-VF, OG MB: \$135	525.00
3 * 77, F (P) MB: \$30	100.00	36 * 296, pair w/pt. 8 & Inset, F-VF, OG	170.00+
4 * 85, strong grill, w/w incl. sound stamp	600.00	37 * 300, F-VF, OG MB: \$45	150.00
5 * 98, intense color, strong grill, Avg.	280.00	38 * 312, bright color, F-VF (P)	950.00
(P) MB: \$70		39 * 319, F-VF, OG	120.00
6 * 93, good color, VF	300.00	40 * 342, F-VF, OG (P)	425.00
7 * 113, expert repair, @ B, w/w Fine (P)	300.00	41 * 352, pair, F-VF, OG MB: \$45	110.00
8 * 121, rich color, wide margins, liny perf thin	375.00	42 * 354, pair (3-mm spacing), F-VF, OG	290.00
(P) MB: \$250		43 * 358, block of 4 (3-mm spacing), F-VF,	400.00
9 * 121, strong color, wide margins, shallow	375.00	OG MB: \$125	
thru, w/w XF (P) MB: \$190		44 * 369, Fine, OG	200.00
10 * 143, rich color, scarce this issue,	300.00	45 * 380, Fine, OG	95.00
outstanding XF (P) MB: \$275		46 * 423, XF, APS Cert., RG (P)	475.00
11 * 152, deep color, fancy cut, Fine (P)	110.00	47 * 438, XF, OG	200.00
MB: \$35		48 * 497, pair, F-VF, OG	200.00
12 * 211, VF-XF	300.00	49 * 523, F-VF, pair OG (P) MB: \$225	650.00
13 * 222, Fine, OG MB: \$30	110.00	50 * 571, B, some high, block of 4, F-VF,	200.00+
14 * 227, VF, OG	180.00	OG MB: \$120	
15 * 230-32, F-VF, OG MB: \$65	170.00	51 * 599A, VF-XF Gen'l OG (P)	180.00
16 * 232, Fine, OG MB: \$30	95.00	52 * 1051, PB, XF, OG MB: \$240	350.00
17 * 233, Fine-VF, OG MB: \$45	120.00	53 * 1895, strip of 5 (pl. 86), XF, OG	165.00
18 * 233, VF, OG MB: \$75	130.00	54 * 1903a, strip of 5 (pl. 86), XF, OG	225.00
19 * 233, strip of 3, w/letter & part inset,	390.00+	55 * 1908, strip of 3 (pl. 82), XF, OG	200.00
Fine, OG MB: \$170		56 * 2005, strip of 3 (pl. 82), VF-XF, OG	190.00
20 * 235, Fine-VF, OG MB: \$45	130.00	57 * 2002, 41 diff. strips of 5, XF, OG	479.50
21 * 236, beautiful pair w/inset, XF,	230.00	58 * Same as lot 57	
OG MB: \$200		59 * C18, VF, OG MB: \$85	120.00
22 * 236, block of 4 w/part inset, F-VF	480.00+	60 * C22, PB, XF, OG	120.00
OG MB: \$180		61 * J88, PB, XF Gen'l OG MB: \$150	165.00
23 * 238, rich color, F-VF, part OG	220.00	62 * Q10, Fine MB: \$70	225.00
24 * 239, XF beauty LH OG (P)	300.00	63 * NYB12, PB, XF Gen'l OG	200.00
MB: \$275		64 * F W1, space filler, Fine MB: \$45	67.50
25 * 240, deep rich color, Fine, OG (P)	525.00	65 * B W2, F-VF, OG MB: \$185	650.00
MB: \$180		66 * B W5, low gum strip, F-VF, OG	325.00
26 * 241, Avg. Fine, OG (P) MB: \$350	1,400.00	67 * W W5, w/pt. 8, F-VF, OG MB: \$130	325.00
27 * 241, F-VF, OG (P) MB: \$475	1,800.00	68 * 1219, entire, VF MB: \$35	55.00
28 * 241, VF, OG (P) MB: \$700	1,400.00	69 * HAWAII U12a, entire, VF	900.00
29 * 273, pl. 8 strip of 3 w/inset, F-VF, OG	280.00+	MB: \$475	
(2 stamps NH) MB: \$110		GREAT BRITAIN & COMMONWEALTH	
30 * 287, strip bright color, Avg. Fine,	210.00	70 * Makeady 18 Envelope (BGA 18-From	
OG MB: \$55		some facing, w/w SC \$205, MB: \$90	
31 * 288 w/pt. 8, P.Q. head F-VF, OG	200.00+	71 * 82, pl. 822, VF, OG MB: \$70	125.00
MB: \$90			
32 * 289, F-VF, OG	260.00		
33 * 290, rich color, lovely stamp VF,	240.00		
OG (P) MB: \$190			



GREAT BRITAIN & COMMONWEALTH		GREAT BRITAIN & COMMONWEALTH		GREAT BRITAIN & COMMONWEALTH		WORLDWIDE	
LOT DESCRIPTION	SCOTT NET	LOT DESCRIPTION	SCOTT NET	LOT DESCRIPTION	SCOTT NET	LOT DESCRIPTION	SCOTT NET
72 * BERMUDA 118-28, VF, OG	149.00	87 * PITCAIRN ISLANDS 11-12, VF, OG	80.00	92 * 21-2, VF, OG MB: \$65	95.85	107 * CHINA (REPUBLIC OF) 1355-A,	140.75
MB: \$70		88 * SAMOA 8, F-VF MB: \$170	500.00	93 * SOLOMON ISLANDS 41, line	125.00	XF, LH OG MB: \$95	
73 * CANADA 4a, VF MB: \$40	125.00	89 * 216-19, VF, OG MB: \$80	110.00	94 * SOUTH AUSTRALIA 5, shows		107A * DWI 28b, F-VF (P) MB: \$1	250.00
74 * CAPE OF GOOD HOPE 165, F-VF,	165.00	90 * SEYCHELLES 123-4A, VF, OG	108.00	adjacent stamp @ B, w/pt. cut @ B,	375.00	108 * DENMARK 17b, on thin, F-VF (P)	1,200.00
OG MB: \$50		91 * SINGAPORE 20, VF, OG MB: \$70	135.00	MB: \$475		109 * 138, VF MB: \$30	180.00
75 * 185, VF AS IS	3,250.00			95 * STRAITS SETTLEMENT 88, expert		109A * 139, VF, OG MB: \$30	85.00
76 * 185, Fine MB: \$70	250.00			repair, F-VF MB: \$55	225.00	110 * 140, F-VF MB: \$40	180.00
77 * 166, Fine, OG AS IS	3,000.00			96 * SWAZILAND 3a, printed London		111 * 175a-c (3 PB's of face), VF, OG	60.00+
78 * NL, B.S., Fine, OG MB: \$70	200.00			advert. on back, shallow thru, XF & some	340.00	MB: \$90	
79 * GIBRALTAR 132-45, VF, OG	115.00			(P) MB: \$90		112 * FRANCE 3b, entire, F-VF MB: \$30	200.00
80 * HELLIGLAND 14 & 1 1/2 perfor.				97 * 3a, inverted ovpt., VF (P) MB: \$180	475.00	113 * 7, entire, Certif., Fine MB: \$35	375.00
postal stationery, cut-out (on piece), signed				98 * TOBAGO 5, line encl. (local 7), F-VF	825.00	114 * 9, Bays, Certif., Fine looking MB: \$90	625.00
Lemberger, VF AS IS	300.00			MB: \$110		115 * 9b, Bays, Certif., nice looking	950.00
81 * 15 (on piece), signed Lemberger, VF	750.00			AS IS		MB: \$80	
AS IS	950.00			99 * TRISTAN DA CUNHA (Gibraltar)		116 * 48, F-VF MB: \$30	165.00
82 * 20 (on piece), signed Lemberger, F-VF	950.00			WWI cover w/pt. stamped POST OFFICE		117 * 96 & 96a, F-VF MB: \$45	122.50
AS IS	950.00			& MARITIME MAIL, Bklyn., NY address,		118 * 121-3, VF, OG MB: \$40	102.50
83 * NEWFOUNDLAND Wayne Airmail				cancel & XF (P) MB: \$225		119 * 133-A, F-VF, OG MB: \$30	177.00
100c face Scott Vol. 1A, page 471, XF,				100 * 142, VF, OG MB: \$40	110.00	120 * 140-2, Fine, OG MB: \$90	290.00
OG (P) MB: \$40				101 * TASMANIA 3, Fine MB: \$90	350.00	121 * B5-7, F-VF MB: \$25	105.00
84 * NEW ZEALAND 107-20, F-VF	161.80			WORLDWIDE		122 * 8, VF, OG MB: \$155 (P)	200.00
MB: \$70				102 * BRAZIL 1, Certif., F-VF MB: \$160	480.00	123 * B66-7, VF, OG MB: \$60	85.00
85 * PAPUA & N. GUINEA 123-3A,	155.00			103 * 2, Certif., Avg. Fine MB: \$70	175.00		
F-VF, OG MB: \$70				104 * 39, signed, bright color, VF MB: \$40	95.00		
86 * 139-46, F-VF, OG MB: \$75	82.15			105 * 40, strong color, VF MB: \$40	90.00		

BIDDING INFORMATION
 Telephone for status of bids Thurs., May 30th, 1996 9 A.M. - Midnite
PHOTOCOPIES AVAILABLE
 By who charge. Color, \$3 per page (up to 10 stamps, 3 covers) Enclose SASE

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