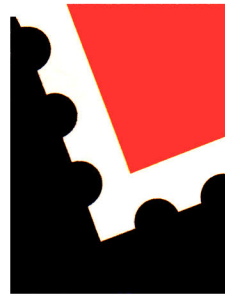


# Linn's Stamp News

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WORLD'S LARGEST WEEKLY STAMP NEWS AND MARKETPLACE

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## Third Scenic stamp in 2001 depicts Acadia Park; new stamp for airmail rate to Mexico, Canada

By Charles Snee

The third United States postage stamp in the Scenic American Landmarks series to be issued in 2001 will feature a colorful scene from Acadia National Park in Maine.

The new 60¢ self-adhesive stamp will be issued May 30 in Bar Harbor, Maine, and will be available at post offices nationwide May 31.

Postal clerks will be allowed to break up panes so that stamps may be sold individually.

An official U.S. Postal Service first-day ceremony is not planned.

According to Deb Wade of Acadia National Park, a free first-day ceremony is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. at the Jordan Pond House in the park.

Wade stated that parking is limited. "People wanting to attend might want to carpool, if possible," she said.

Wade also told *Linn's* that first-day cancellations will be available at the park ceremony and at the post office in nearby Bar Harbor.

For more information about the park and directions to Jordan Pond House, go to the park's Internet web site at [www.nps.gov/acad](http://www.nps.gov/acad).

The sixth stamp overall in the ongoing Landmarks series, the new stamp is based on a photograph by Carr Clifton of Taylorsville, Calif.

The design of the Acadia National Park stamp is in keeping with the designs of the Mount McKinley stamp (issued April 17) and the other four stamps in the series: 70¢ Nine-Mile Prairie (March 6), 60¢ Grand Canyon (2000), 40¢ Rio Grande (1999) and 48¢ Niagara Falls (1999).

A Nine-Mile Prairie stamp and a Mount McKinley stamp are shown on page 9.

The Scenic American Landmarks stamps and postal stationery all feature designs based on colorful photographs of some of North America's prominent geographic features.

People using these issues for international mail can give people around the world a glimpse of the beauty and

majesty of North America.

The new Acadia National Park stamp is a worthy addition to an appealing series.

"USA" is lettered in drop-out white at the Acadia stamp's upper left, in contrast to the previous five stamps, where "USA" appears at lower left.

A "2001" year date is printed in the bottom-left corner, and "Acadia National Park, Maine" is printed in the bottom-right corner.

The number "60," representing the denomination, is printed at lower right. The denomination is printed at upper right on each of the previous five Landmarks stamps.

A silver silhouette of a stylized jet airplane appears to the left of the stamp's denomination.

This aircraft symbol indicates that the stamp is intended to fulfill an international airmail rate.

Even though the word "airmail" does not appear on the stamp, the Scott Publishing Co. will list the Acadia National Park stamp as an air-



The scenic beauty of Acadia National Park in Maine will be on display when the United States Postal Service releases a 60¢ international-airmail-rate postage stamp May 30. The self-adhesive stamp is the third Scenic American Landmarks series stamp to be issued in 2001.

## Earliest \$2 Trans-Miss cover hits \$55,000, record for EKU

By Rob Haeseler

The earliest-known use of the United States 1898 \$2 Trans-Mississippi commemorative was auctioned for a record-breaking \$55,000 in San Francisco April 28.

Stiff competition for the cover was waged on the auction floor by exhibitor Alan Berkun, who surrendered the initiative to a determined

phone bidder.

The auction was held by Schuyler Rumsey at the Cathedral Hill Hotel in conjunction with the Westpex show.

The cover, illustrated here in color, was part of an extraordinary Trans-Mississippi collection formed over five decades by a now-retired California psychiatry professor.

More than 300 lots were expected to realize approximately \$400,000, but they reached a total of \$486,000, plus a 10 percent buyer's premium.

The psychiatrist was passionate about the \$1 Trans-Mississippi, which is based on a painting titled *Western Cattle in Storm*.

The auction included 101 examples of the \$1 in mint and used singles, pairs, blocks, multiples and on-cover uses, and 34 examples of the \$2 in similar formats.

The hammer fell on the \$2 cover at \$50,000. The 10 percent buyer's premium raised the final price to \$55,000, a record by far for any earliest-known-use (EKU) cover.

The cover, whose whereabouts was unknown until word began to spread about the psychiatrist's collection, overpaid by 99 times the then-current letter rate of 2¢ per ounce and was obviously created by a collector.

It was mailed from Philadelphia to Ocean City, N.J., on the afternoon of June 11, 1898. (Please turn to page 12)



The earliest-known use of the \$2 Trans-Mississippi stamps found on this cover that was auctioned for \$55,000 by Schuyler Rumsey in San Francisco April 28 at the Westpex show.

mail issue in the 2002 Scott *Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps and Covers*, scheduled for publication in October 2001.

A note in the 2001 Scott U.S. specialized catalog states: "Future issues that meet a specific international airmail rate and contain the airplane silhouette will be treated by Scott as [airmail] stamps."

Technical specifications released by the USPS call for the Acadia stamp to be issued in panes of 20 stamps with attached selvage on all four sides.

Contract printer Banknote Corporation of America, Browns Summit, N.C., sup-

plied an initial order of 100 million stamps for the Postal Service.

The 60¢ denomination exactly satisfies the international rate for a 1-ounce letter to Canada and Mexico. Because of the Jan. 7 rate increase, the 60¢ Grand Canyon stamp also meets this rate.

The Grand Canyon stamp was issued in 2000 to satisfy the then 60¢ rate for a half-ounce letter to any country except Canada or Mexico.

Many post offices likely still have sufficient quantities of the Grand Canyon stamp on hand. So the Acadia stamp may not see frequent use on mail until existing stocks of the Grand Canyon stamp are

depleted.

A 1-ounce letter to all other countries requires 80¢ postage, which the 80¢ Mount McKinley stamp issued April 17 satisfies.

Rates above 1 ounce require that the mailer know to which letter rate group (1, 2, 3, 4 or 5) the destination country belongs.

In the Jan. 29 issue, *Linn's* provided a helpful overview and basic rate charts that help explain this perplexing system.

The article and rate tables also are on *Linn's* Internet web site at [www.linns.com](http://www.linns.com). Scroll down the red margin on the left side of the home page (Please turn to page 9)

## Nondenominated Woody Wagon at Denver first-day-cover show

The upcoming nondenominated (15¢) Woody Wagon stamp, a service-inscribed coil stamp for presorted, first-class mail, will be issued Aug. 3 at the Americover show in Denver.

Americover is the annual show and convention of the American First Day Cover Society.

The stamp will picture a wood-paneled station wagon automobile.

The first-day ceremony will be held during the opening of the Americover show. It is scheduled for 11 a.m., Friday,

Aug. 3, at the Denver Marriott Tech Center on South Syracuse Street.

Souvenir programs will be available at this event for all who attend, according to the AFDCS.

The ceremony will be the opening of a three-day stamp

event featuring an celebrating FDCs, their collectors, cachetmakers and dealers.

For more information about the show or the society, write to Americover, Box 1335, Maplewood, NJ 07040, e-mail [americover@aol.com](mailto:americover@aol.com) or visit the web site [www.afdcs.org](http://www.afdcs.org). ■

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# Scout stamp society celebrates 50th anniversary

The Scouts on Stamps Society International will celebrate its 50th anniversary in conjunction with the Compex (Combined Philatelic Exhibition of Chicagoland) stamp show May 25-27 at the Forest View Educational Center, 2121 S. Goebbert Road, Arlington Heights, Ill.

SOSI activities to take place during the weekend include a dinner Friday evening, May 25; a board of directors meeting; an annual general meeting; and an auction on Saturday.

Several Scouts-on-stamps exhibits will be on display at the show.

Baden-Powell Chapter No. 1 of SOSI is hosting the 50th-anniversary celebrations.

The society, originally called the Organization on Stamps, was founded in November 1951 by Harold Bearce of Kansas City, Mo., with a total of only 10 members.

Harry Thorsen Jr., who in 1949 had written a small book, *Boy Scout Stamps of the World*, was invited to join but declined because communist youth were included. He said that he would join only if the organization was limited to Scouts.

As a result, in March 1952, the name of the group was changed to Scouts on Stamps Society with Thorsen as president and Bearce as the editor of the *Journal*. The first issue of the *Journal* was published in March 1952.

The organization grew rapidly and took its current name, Scouts on Stamps Society International, in 1956.

At present, SOSI has almost 1,000 members.

The first annual meeting was conducted at

the third National Scott Jamboree in 1953.

SOSI has held meetings and produced cacheted covers for each National Jamboree since 1953.

The society conducted its first international meeting in 1955 at the World Jamboree at Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario, Canada.

When Thorsen's book was published in 1949, about 60 Scout stamps had been issued. The total in 2001 stands at several thousand. The exact total will always be debated because there are many interpretations of what is a Scout stamp.

Many Scout stamp collectors include the Cape of Good Hope set of three stamps issued in 1900 for local use during the Siege of Mafeking. These stamps picture Col. Robert Baden-Powell, who founded the Scout movement in 1907, and Warner Goodyear, a youth of the Bicycle Corps. The Baden-Powell stamp is shown in Figure 1.

These stamps were issued seven years before Scouting started, so they are not truly Scouting stamps but are usually included in any listing of Scout stamps.

Czechoslovakia issued two stamps in 1918 for use on a mail service provided by the Sea Scouts. The 20-haleru stamp is pictured in Figure 2. The other stamp is denominated 10h. The inscription at the top of the stamps translates to "Czech Scout Post."

These two stamps also are collected by most Scout stamp collectors. However, they are not listed in most catalogs, except Zumstein, and they are considered to be local stamps. So are they the first Scout stamps? It depends on whom you ask.



Figure 2. This 1918 Czechoslovakian local was issued for a Scout Post service.

Thailand issued three sets of "Scout's Fund" overprints in 1920 and 1921. Figure 3 shows one of these overprinted semipostal stamps. They were issued to benefit the Tiger Cubs of the Wild Tiger Corps.

The Tiger Cubs were the predecessor of the Boy Scouts of Thailand. So, once again, some collectors question whether or not these were really Scout stamps.

The first Scout issue not questioned by anyone is pictured in Figure 4. This 1925 Hungarian semipostal stamp depicts a Boy Scout bugler in the foreground and Scouts camping in the background.



Figure 3. This semipostal stamp was issued to benefit a predecessor of the Boy Scouts of Thailand.

There are many other examples of stamps collected by some Scout stamp collectors but not by others.

Included in this category are stamps honoring famous men for their political or career accomplishments but who also were founders of, or patrons of, Scouting in their countries.

Jean Charcot stamps issued by France in

1938 and 1939 and by the French Southern Antarctic Territory in 1962 are illustrations of this. Charcot was an Antarctic explorer who happened to be one of the founders of French Scouting.

Today, many questionable Scout stamps are being issued. Each collector has to decide what he wants to collect and whether or not completion is important.

Scout stamp collectors, regardless of their difficulty in agreeing on what is a Scout stamp, are avid promoters of Scout philately through activities, such as merit-badge seminars, stamp exhibits, and SOSI chapter meetings.

Every four years, SOSI provides the staff for the stamp collecting merit badge at the Merit Badge Midway at the U.S. National Scout Jamboree.

Annual general meetings and smaller regional meetings are held in conjunction with many major stamp shows.

For further information about the SOSI, contact the organization's executive secretary, Carl Schauer, Box 526, Belen, NM 87002. ■



Figure 4. A Hungarian semipostal from 1925 shows a Boy Scout playing a bugle.



Figure 1. This Siege of Mafeking local stamp showing Col. Robert Baden-Powell was issued in 1900, seven years before he founded the Scouting movement.

## Vermont show to be held June 2

The Washington County Stamp Club will host a Vermont State Stamp Show June 2 at the Montpelier Elks Club in Montpelier, Vt.

Admission is free. Hours will be 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Approximately 15 dealers from five states will offer for sale a wide array of stamps, covers and supplies.

There also will be competitive exhibits, cacheted covers and a show cancellation. The United States Postal Service will operate a substitution selling issues.

For more information, write to Bill Lizotte, 98 Brooklyn Heights, Apt. 5, Morrisville, VT 05661-5907. ■

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## News flash: USPS raising rates July 1

The board of governors of the United States Postal Service voted unanimously May 7 to raise some U.S. domestic rates.

The additional-ounce rate for letter mail will jump to 23¢ as of July 1, and the postcard rate will advance to 21¢.

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