

Linn's Stamp

World's Largest Weekly Stamp News and Marketplace **NEWS**



Climb continues for 19th century

In November, Linn's 19th-century U.S. stamp index rose to its 14th consecutive all-time high.

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Jamestown pane pictures settlement

The front of the Jamestown pane pictures a conceptual drawing of the settlement and includes one stamp.

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Metropolitan show in New York Dec. 8-10

The show will take place at the Midtown Holiday Inn, 440 W. 57th St., New York, N.Y. Forty dealers will participate.

Pages 28, 48-49

Collector in India searching U.S. mixture finds no-die-cuts 10¢ American Clock

By Jay Bigalke

Two used completely imperforate vertical pairs of the United States 10¢ American Clock sheet stamp were discovered in India by collector Saleem M. Kahn.

Kahn found the stamps (Scott 3751) in 2005 when he was going through a U.S. stamp mixture.

The 10¢ stamps have no front die cuts, but they do bear indentations from the hyphen-hole cuts made in the backing paper.

The hyphen-hole cuts facilitate separating a pane.

The discovery is the first reported major error on a stamp in the American Design series.

Ashton Potter USA was the contractor for the 10¢ American Clock sheet stamp. The stamp was issued in January 2003.

The two imperforate pairs are on a clipped piece bearing other stamps that was likely cut from a small envelope sent via first-

class mail with insurance.

The piece bears "1" and "3" pencil notations in its upper-right corner. Below them is a total starting with a "4."

The markings likely are a postal clerk's tallying marks for the postage for a 4-ounce first-class letter, with postage of \$1.29 and a fee of \$3.20 for insurance for \$101 to \$200, a total of \$4.49, the total of the stamps affixed.

Part of what appears to be a blue and white insurance label is located at the left side of the clipping.

There is also a parcel post rate that would have required \$4.49 in postage, but it does not seem to apply.

In addition to the two pairs of 10¢ American Clock stamps, the piece bears a \$3.85 Thomas Jefferson Memorial stamp, a 23¢ George Washington stamp and a 1¢ American Kestrel stamp.

The piece was postmarked in Stewartville, N.J., ZIP code 08886, per two clear postmark strikes on the stamps. The cancellation date reads Dec. 23, 2004, almost two years after the 10¢ American Clock stamp was issued. The 10¢ American Clock stamp is still on sale.

Scott catalog editor James Kloetzel also examined the stamps and agreed that they are completely without die cuts.

Kloetzel stated that the imperforate would be listed as a major error in the 2008 Scott *Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue*, Vol. 1, scheduled for publication in April 2007. ■

Wait for stamp to honor deceased drops to five years effective Jan. 1

By Rick Miller

The United States Postal Service is reducing from 10 years to five years the time it takes for a person to become eligible to appear on a U.S. stamp following death. The change is effective Jan. 1.

The news came in a Nov. 15 press release from the Postal Service.

Bill McAllister's story in Linn's Nov. 6 issue reported that a change in the rule was imminent and would be announced soon.

In remarks delivered at the Nov. 15 Postal Service board of governors' meeting, Postmaster General John E. "Jack" Potter said: "Stamps are the signature of the Postal Service.

"For more than three decades, we have had a rule requiring notable Americans be deceased 10 years before they could be recognized for commemoration on a postage stamp. We created this rule to make certain their legacy stood the test of time.

"The Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee has been discussing this issue for some time and now has recommended that we reduce that wait time to five years.

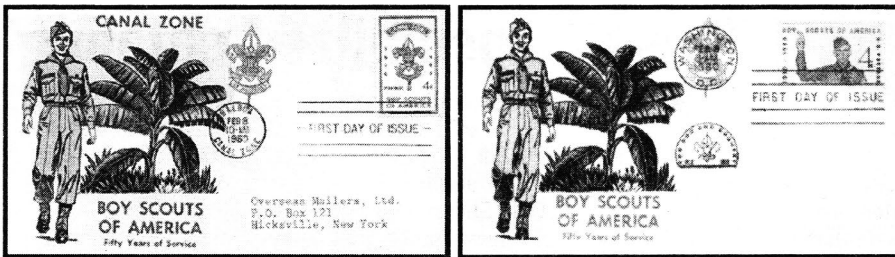
"In this era of instant communications, I think this is a reasonable suggestion, and it (Please turn to page 14)



Grenada issued this \$3 Rosa Parks stamp (Scott 3587) on May 27. The United States Postal Service's new five-year rule could bring a U.S. Rosa Parks stamp as early as 2010.



Piece bearing two pairs of United States 10¢ American Clock sheet stamps with no die cuts, found in 2005 in a United States mixture purchased by a collector in India. The stamp, printed by Ashton Potter, was issued in 2003.



Counterfeit cancels, fake Scouting cachets

Fake cachets and counterfeit cancels on United States Scouting stamps are reported in the November/December issue of the *SOSSI Journal*, publication of the Scouts on Stamps Society International Inc. Pictured above are two cacheted covers bearing Boy Scouts of America stamps. The cover pictured at left bears a genuine cachet and a genuine postmark for the Canal Zone 4¢ Boy Scouts stamp (Scott 151). The fake cover shown at right uses the same Canal Zone cachet design, which is unknown on a United States 4¢ Boy Scouts stamp cover (Scott 1145). In addition to the fake cachet, the postmark on the Boy Scouts stamp cover is a counterfeit that was printed on the envelope, likely with an inkjet printer. Other forged cancels and cachets are known on other Scouting stamps. For society membership or additional information, contact secretary Lawrence E. Clay, Box 6228, Kennewick, WA 99336, e-mail lclay3731@charter.net or visit the society web site at www.sossi.org. The precursor organization to the SOSSI was formed in 1951. The group published its first journal in March 1952 as the Scouts on Stamps Society. The word "International" was added in 1956.

Brit secular stamps upset church

The Church of England is expressing disappointment over the secular nature of Great Britain's 2006 Christmas stamps.

The stamps feature Japanese illustrator Tatsuro Kuchi's designs depicting Santa Claus, a snowman, a reindeer and a Christmas tree (*Linn's*, Nov. 6, page 1). The stamps were issued Nov. 7.

On Nov. 6, the BBC reported that the Church of England "regretted" Royal Mail's decision not to issue "Christian themed designs reminding people of the true meaning of Christmas."

The Church of England's general synod had approved a motion in 2004

calling for Royal Mail to issue Christmas stamps with Christian themes every year.

A spokesman for Royal Mail said that it alternates its designs each year between religious and non-religious themes.

One of the 2005 British Christmas stamps drew protests from Hindu groups. This 68-penny stamp (Scott 2327e) reproduces *Madonna and Child*, a 17th-century painting from India of the holy family with St. Anne. ■

Oil company logos on stamps

Guernsey issued a souvenir sheet of six stamps May 20 to honor Andy Priaulx, world champion in the World Touring Car Championship. The logos of the Castrol and Elf oil companies are visible on some of the cars shown on the stamps, according to

report in the autumn issue of the *Petro-Philatelist*.

The Petroleum Philatelic Society International publishes this journal four times a year.

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