



Finally awake ...



Last month was, indeed, a real sleeper as Dave Sadler plodded through about fifty years worth of US Postal Stationery – for those with insomnia, you will soon be able to view it again on our website.

This month, we are invited to bring in, what we believe is, our most beautiful stamp.

Treasures' Report: Checking Account -- \$751.24; Savings Account -- 1,484.14; Total -- \$2,235.38



Just as we thought there was an end to Star Wars series, the USPS gets into the act by honoring of the thirtieth anniversary of the opening of 'first' of the six episodes (**Star Wars IV: A New Hope**) – where were you in March of 1977?

On 28 March, the R2-D2 collection boxes will temporarily replace boxes in selected locations across the country. Patrons can now drop mail into them just like any other of other 280K USPS collection boxes, but they are a bit different visually – they are dressed out to look like the R2-D2 robot introduced way back then in a galaxy far, far ...

<http://www.uspsjedimaster.com/> - to see the flash movie



MEETING NOTICE:

The March meeting will be on **27 March at 7 PM** in the Library Conference Room (inside the main library area) just off the passageway running past the computer classroom.

The **24 April** and **22 May** meetings will also be in the Conference Room.

Upcoming Event:

Midwest Stamp Dealers Association - March 31/April 1

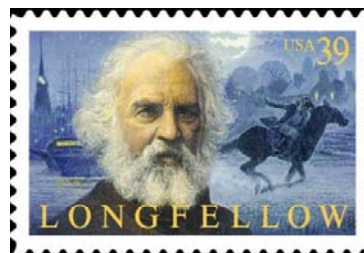


Wingate Inn
600 Milwaukee Ave
Prospect Heights IL

Next meeting:
7PM on Tuesday 27 March 2007
at the Warren-Newport Library
224 North O'Plaine Road, Gurnee IL



New Issues – March 2007



39¢ Henry Wadsworth Longfellow - March 15



1¢ Tiffany Lamp pane stamp - March 16



3¢ Silver Coffeepot pane stamp - March 16

Another lean month compared to last year at this time. This month offerings only add up to 43¢.

Officers:
Dr Tom Willer – President
Bill Schultz – Vice President
Howard Shaughnessy – Secretary
Walter F. Veile - Treasurer

Since the topic for this month's program is "Beautiful Stamps" it is only appropriate that we mention a series not noted for images of "dead white men" as found on most United States 19th Century Stamps (true the first were of Franklin, Washington and Lincoln) but after that they branched out into goddesses, allegorical figures and even an Indian maiden.

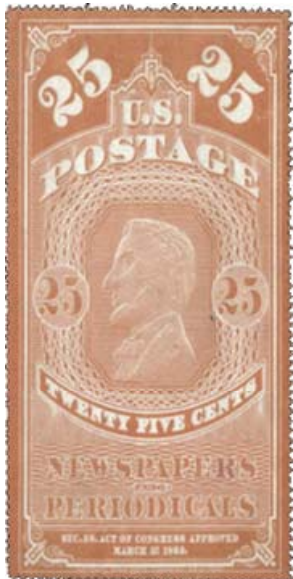
Though not the first (Austria - 1851), the US began issuing "Newspaper" stamps in 1865 for bulk parcels of periodicals rather than for individual newspapers (we use Postal Stationery Wrappers for this). As a follow on to Congress passing a law in 1863 that allowed postal employees who worked on trains or vessels (route agents) to accept newspaper parcels at the train or vessel and turn them over for delivery from the train or vessel without having them pass through a post office. Postage fees were paid in cash upon presentation of the parcels to the route agent. In 1865, the Post Office Department introduced **Newspaper and Periodical stamps** as an accounting tool to slow postal agents from 'pocketing' the fees.

The first issue were BIG - 2 x 3¼ inches, typographed/embossed on thin, hard paper and without gum. The style was copied from the private express company labels in that they could be easily seen when they were glued to large bundles of newspapers. This first series continued until 1869, (with the inauguration of President Grant and on behalf of his cronies - the old system of paying postage in cash was resumed).

Congress again authorized the use of **Newspaper and Periodical stamps** in 1874, after a recommendation from the Postmaster General estimated that as much as two-thirds of the postage collected for newspapers and periodicals was never turned in. This led to a new series of stamps printed by the Continental Bank Note Company (CBNC). The set comprising twenty-four stamps, were issued in values ranging from 2¢ to \$60 (Scott PR9-32).

Though not as large as the first issue, these stamps were still big (1 x 1½ inches) and considered elaborate and Victorianly attractive. They feature female allegorical figures ("Freedom," "Justice," "Victory," "Peace" and "Commerce") and goddesses from Greek mythology (Ceres, Clio, Minerva, Vesta, and Hebe). The high-value stamp (\$60.00) stamp portrays an Indian maiden.

In 1875, the Post Office Department produced a special printing of all stamps issued up to that time in conjunction with the Centennial Exposition to be held in Philadelphia, PA in 1876. This printing was un gummed and was contracted to the Continental Bank Note Company. The newspaper special printings were not 'hot' sellers because of their high face value and therefore very rare in the higher denominations (Scott PR33-56). The earlier 5¢, 10¢ and 25¢ newspaper stamps were also reprinted in 1875, by the National Bank Note Company (PR5-7).



Scott PR3



Scott PR15
Freedom



Scott PR17 Justice Scott PR24 Ceres Scott PR25 Victory Scott PR26 Clio Scott PR74 Minerva Scott PR75 Vesta Scott PR76 Peace Scott PR77 Commerce Scott PR28 Hebe

The American Bank Note Company (ABN) issued newspaper stamps using the same plates that had been used by CBNC, but were printed on soft, porous paper and in slightly different colors (Scott PR57-79) with a special printing of the 2¢ stamp (PR80) in 1883.

On July 1, 1885, the rate was reduced, to 1¢ per pound for any bulk mailing. This required the introduction of a new 1¢ stamp. The ABN produced the new stamp using the same Statue of Freedom design as the earlier low-denomination newspaper stamps. Along with the new 1¢ issue, a new 12¢, 24¢, 36¢, 48¢, 60¢, 72¢, 84¢ and 96¢ stamps were issued at this time, again in slightly different colors (Scott PR81-9).

In 1894, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP) low-balled the contract to produce all United States stamps. The BEP, using the plates from the previous printers, produced 12 newspaper stamps in face values from 1¢ to \$6 (Scott 90-101).

During this transitional period the BEP was printing these stamps from old plates, its designers and engravers were working on producing new stamps from new designs (Scott as PR102-13).

With the exception of the 1¢ through the 10¢, the central vignettes from some of the earlier stamps were re-used, but with new framing designs and devices. The low-denomination stamps still showed the Statue of Freedom, but from a frontal rather than a profile view as on the earlier stamps. These new stamps issued in 1895-97 on double-line "USPS" watermarked paper. These stamps are listed by Scott as PR114-25. In 1898, the series was discontinued and demonetized.

As nice as these stamps are, the collecting is not easy a task given the rarity of most of the higher denominations. The stamps are cataloged from a price from \$8.00 - \$250K+. This cost factor has greatly increased the chance of finding a forgery in this issue. With this in mind, you would not want to build your collection from eBay items.



Scott PR79
Indian Maiden