

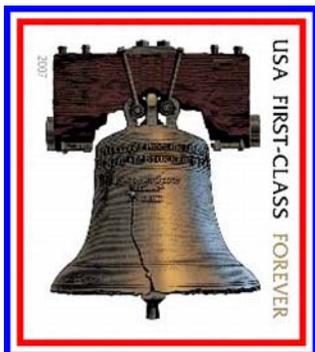


Last month was the most **Beautiful** stamp – this month, it is the **Smallest** stamp.

We were also quizzed by our president on odd stamp facts with three members walking away with prizes.



**Treasures' Report: Checking Account -- \$724.49; Savings Account -- 1,485.90; Total -- \$2,210.39**



'Forever Stamp'

The Forever Stamp went on sale April 12th at 41¢ to cover the first-class mail rate increase that will go into effect May 14. This stamp will cover any future first class postage rate increases, the price for the stamp will also rise -- but stamps purchased for 41¢ will still be honored on letters.

Instead of a denomination, the stamp carries the word "Forever" along its right side.

Non-denominated flag stamps will also be issued for this rate change, but unlike the Forever stamp, these will be sold at 41¢ and will be worth exactly 41¢, whenever they're used. If the rates go up, you will need to add the additional postage.

The USPS is betting with the Forever stamp, the non-denominated stamps will become a thing of the past with the Forever stamp will become the bridge between different stamp rates -- and they will not need to print extra 1¢, 2¢ or 3¢ stamps right before a rate change.

Some people will decide to buy extra Forever stamps this year as an investment against future postal rate increase, but the Postal Service isn't worried. The USPS will be able to earn interest on the money spent on the hoards of Forever stamps, knowing that some of the stamps will be lost or destroyed before they can be used. The agency will also save money it would spend printing the non-denominated stamps -- which in the past have been printed immediately after a rate change for use during the next rate change (It will probably be best to buy them up just as the next rate increase is announced).

## New Issues – April 2007



### Flag Stamp - 12 April

- 102700 [PSA PN/20]
- 106400 [WAG PN/100]
- 784400 [PSA CL/100]
- 784500 [WAG 3K]
- 785000 [PSA 10K]
- 785200 [WAG CL/100]
- 785300 [WAG 10K]



### Forever Stamp - 12 April

- 676600 [PSA CB/20]
- 676500 [PSA VB/20]
- 569900 [PSA ATM/18]

Note: No Coil Stamp announced at this time

Next month will be very busy - with about 30 new issues scheduled to help us through the rate change.

**Next meeting:**  
**7PM on Tuesday 24 April 2007**  
**at the Warren-Newport Library**  
**224 North O'Plaine Road, Gurnee IL**



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



1T1

As we continue thumbing through the *Back Of the Book*, we come upon a section designated as **Telegraph (T) Stamps**.

Telegraph stamps are service fee stamps that prepay or show payment or exemption from payment for delivery of a telegram. They, like postage stamps, which prepay a delivery of a message through the postal system, were used to prepay a message delivered electromagnetically.

The telegraph was the first modern long-distance communication system for sending coded messages by electrical transmission over a wire. The telegraph was invented by Samuel F.B. Morse, who installed a two-mile working telegraph line on the grounds of what is now New York University in 1837. Morse also devised the most commonly used dot/dash code for telegraphic communications, the Morse code.

In 1843, the first telegraph line open to public use went into operation between Paddington and Slough, England. In 1865, the first successful Atlantic cable linked the United States with Europe (quickly 'fried' three months later).

In most countries, the telegraph system came under the government post office. In the United States and Canada, the telegraph systems were never owned or operated by the government, so all U.S. and Canadian telegraph stamps are private and local stamps.



Telegraph Receiver Device, 1837

The first private telegraph stamps issued were the from the English and Irish Magnetic Telegraph Co., in 1853 with the first American telegraph stamps were issued by the New York City and Suburban Printing Telegraph Co., in 1859/1860.

Sending a prepaid telegram was quite similar to posting a letter. The telegraph stamp was applied to a telegraph form containing the message to be sent and dropped into a telegraph collection box. Couriers emptied the boxes and took the forms to the servicing telegraph office from which the message was sent.

American telegraph stamps are often inscribed "Commutation," "Frank," "Complimentary Frank," "Duplicate" or "Collect." - **Commutation** stamps were sold to the general public for prepayment of telegraph fees. - **Frank and Complimentary Frank** stamps were usually nondenominated and were given to important customers such as railroad, newspaper, and express company officials or telegraph company stockholders to provide one free telegram per stamp. - **Duplicate** stamps were for use in office or messengers' receipt books. - **Collect** stamps were the equivalent of postage due stamps, showing that the telegraph fee had not been paid or paid in full by the sender.

During the Civil War the government got creative and taxed telegrams using a 1¢ red (Scott R4) and 3¢ green (Scott R19) George Washington telegraph tax stamps. They were used to show payment of the tax on telegraph dispatches that was collected (and with other innovative taxes imposed in 1862) to pay for the cost of the Civil War. The law was later amended so that any internal revenue stamp (except proprietary stamps) could be used to pay any documentary tax.

The idea of issuing stamps in booklet form originated with telegraph stamps. The California State Telegraph Co. issued booklets of telegraph stamps in 1870 - 25 years before Luxembourg issued the first postal booklet in 1895. Most US telegraph stamps were issued in booklets (panes of six and nine most common).



5T1 Sheet

In the Scott Catalog, Telegraph stamps are designated by a number (the issuing company, 1-17), 'T', followed by another number designating the issue. Examples include:

- 1Txx - **American Rapid Telegraph Company** (1881-1894)
- 2Txx - **Atlantic Telegraph Company** (1888)
- ...
- 5Txx - **California State Telegraph Company** (1870) – issued the first booklet stamps in the US
- 6Txx - **New York City & Suburban Telegraph Company** (1859) – issued the first telegraph stamps in the US
- ...
- 16Txx - **Western Union Telegraph Company** (1871 - 1946)
- 17Txx - **United States Telegraph-Cable-Radio Carriers** (1947) – who issued the last stamps (3c, 10c and a 50c) in conjunction with the World Telecommunications Conference in Atlantic City NJ.



R19