

March 2026

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Newsletter of the Lake County (IL)

Philatelic Society - Established 1933

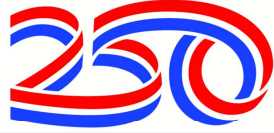
Website: [LCPSHOME.ORG](http://LCPSHOME.ORG)

# Perforations



Last month was "Show and Tell" where members brought, displayed and talked about items in their **AMERICA** collections.

This month, Dave Sadler will look at commemorative issues that celebrated the nations 100<sup>th</sup>, 150<sup>th</sup>, 200<sup>th</sup> and the current 250<sup>th</sup> founding of the country.

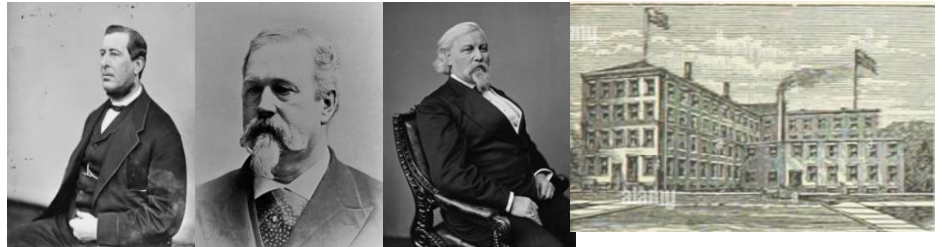



## The First Commorative Postal Issues

Next Show							Next Meeting						
April 26							March 26						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
		1	2	3	4	5							1
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
27	28	29	30				23	24	25	26	27	28	29
							30	31					
<b>April 18 - 19</b> <b>WISCOPEX 2026</b>  RADISSON HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTER 625 W ROLLING MEADOWS DR FOND DU LAC WI							<b>US Anniversaries</b>  						

We usually assume, that the Columbian Exposition stamps of 1893 as the first commemoratives issued in the United States. But, alas no ... twenty-two years before, the honorable Daniel J. Morrell, a lame-duck representative from Pennsylvania and chairman of the House Committee on Manufactures, introduced a bill creating the United States Centennial Commission, charged with "to prepare and superintend the execution of a plan for holding an exhibition of American and foreign arts, products and manufactures, under the auspices of the government of the United States, in the City of Philadelphia in the year of 1876". This was his last act before being forced into retirement by the disgruntled voters of his district. — Moving on to Connecticut ...

Once signed into law by President Grant, former Major General Joseph R. Hawley (of Connecticut) was "elected" president of the Centennial Commission. It so happened that one of his friends was the Third Assistant Postmaster of the United States (of Connecticut) whose duties included the issuance and monitoring of postage assets. Over a period of two years, in 1873 they decided that there should be a special postage issue to mark the **One-hundredth Anniversary** of the Republic.



D.J Morrell

J. R. Hawley

M. Jewell

Plimpton Manufacturing Co  
Hartford CT

**Next Meeting:**  
**2:00-PM on Tuesday, 24 March 2026**  
 Grayslake Historical Museum — Any Changes will be posted on: [lcpshome.org](http://lcpshome.org)



**Officers:**  
 Tom Willer - Presidents  
 Bill Schultz – Vice President  
 Dave Sadler – Secretary  
 Gary Olson – Treasurer

Late in 1875, Marshall Jewell, Postmaster General (former Governor of Connecticut) also decided it would be a good idea to honor the event with a special issue. – and it should probably be a stamped envelope. When asked, about a special issue, the **current contractor** for stamped envelopes, Plimpton Manufacturing Company (of Hartford CT), was more than happy to comply — and they so happened to have this wonderful new press ...

In March 1876, just months before the exposition was to open, the Postmaster General reported:

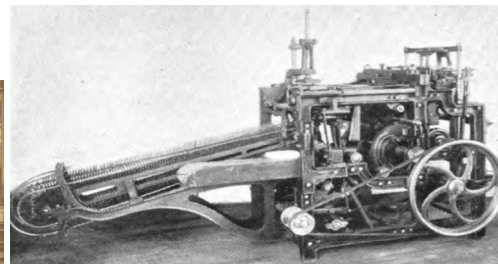
**"To illustrate the process of manufacturing stamped envelopes, the contractors (the Plimpton and Morgan Companies) proposed to put one of their improved new machines in the space devoted to the Post Office Department in the Government Building in the Centennial Grounds at Philadelphia, and keep it in operation during the continuation of the Exposition. This machine, with the exception of cutting the blanks or patterns, performs the entire operation of manufacturing, folding, stamping, gumming, and, if desired, printing a return request ..."**



Centennial Grounds, Philadelphia PA



Expo Post Office



Wickham Press

The design and dies were "quickly" prepared by Henry Mitchell (Plimpton Manufacturing Company). The design approved by the Post Office Department (in April), featured shield background, a mail carrier on horseback, representing 1776, and an express train, representing 1876, together with the three-cent value.

The design and dies were "quickly" prepared by Henry Mitchell (of the Plimpton Manufacturing). The design approved by the Post Office Department (in April), featured shield background, a mail carrier on horseback (similar to the 2-cent 1869 Pictorial issue), representing 1776, and an express train, tender and mail car running underneath telegraph wires representing 1876.



Scott 113

Plimpton moved one of the new "Wickham" machines to the Post Office set up at the exposition. The Post Office department assigned the production and marketing of the envelopes to Postmaster Fairman. He and his special crew operated the machine in public view and in almost constant operation, during exhibition hours, from the opening on 10 May and closing 10 November. The unit was capable of producing about 20K stamped envelopes per day.



Die I – Hartford Die (U218 & U219)



WM 2

There are four Scott varieties of the issue. Three common: U218 (red, single-line [die I] under postage); U219 (green, single-line [die I] under postage), and U221 (green double-line [die II] under postage). These were printed on special watermark 3 (US with an embedded 1876) paper issued produced just for the exposition.

The fourth variety, the very rare (\$60,000), Scott U220 (red, double-line [die II] under postage) was produced on watermark 2 (USPOD) paper - the same as the current contract envelopes and most likely produced in Hartford from paper on-hand and moved to the exhibition just prior to opening day .



Die II – Philadelphia Die (U220 & U221)

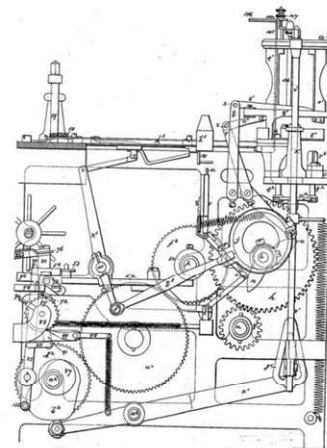


WM3

A single master die was used which produced some working dies with a single line under 'POSTAGE' (called the Hartford Die) and some with a "double line" (called the Philadelphia Die). The 3-cent red envelope (85 x 148 mm) was intended for commercial use and the 3-cent green envelope (83 x 138 mm) was a smaller size intended for private or personal use.

The Wickman press of 1876 was a major improvements in machinery designed to automate the production of envelopes, specifically focusing on the mechanisms for folding, gumming, and pressing the paper blanks. The key **Features and Improvements:**

- **Folding Mechanism:** The invention refined how the envelope flaps were folded, aiming for higher accuracy and speed compared to previous designs.
- **Gumming Application:** Improved the method of applying adhesive to the flaps.
- **Pressing/Finishing:** The machine improved the "pressing" or sealing phase, ensuring the flaps were securely sealed before being removed from the machine.
- **Design Simplicity:** The design was intended to be simpler, smaller and cheaper to manufacture, allowing for multiple units to be used within the same factory space.



Wickham Press "Innards"

All-in-all, our (and the world's) first commemorative met the goal set for the **1876 Centennial Exposition**, showcasing the cultural and industrial progress our nation in its first century.

**New Issues — March 2026**

Forever USA