

Stamp Tracks



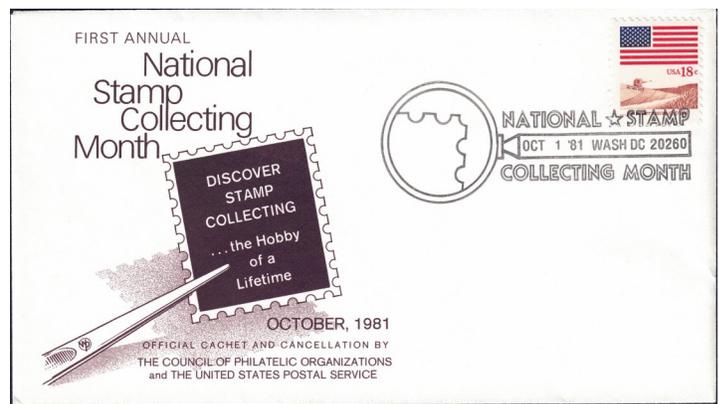
NEWS AND
INFORMATION FOR
PHILATELISTS OF ALL AGES

Stamp Collecting: The Hobby of a Lifetime

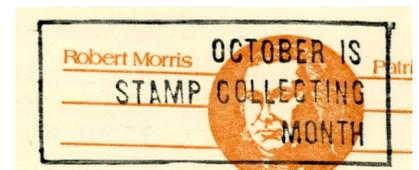
The philatelists in our membership will already be aware – October is National Stamp Collecting Month. On September 24, 1981, Postmaster General William F. Bolger stated in the United States Postal Service employee publication Postal Bulletin:

I do hereby designate October 1981 as National Stamp Collecting Month throughout the Postal Service and urge employees and customers alike to discover the joy of stamp collecting—the hobby of a lifetime.

The USPS also credits the Council of Philatelic Organizations (COPO) as co-founders of the celebration. COPO was comprised of several organizations from all over the world, primarily the United States. It included large organizations such as the American Philatelic Society, American Air Mail Society, and Cardinal Spellman Museum, as well as small stamp clubs around the country, including the Tucson Stamp Club. The Arizona Philatelic Rangers were also members. COPO encouraged its participating clubs to hold yearly October events, exhibits, and programs in schools and libraries. COPO disbanded in 1995.

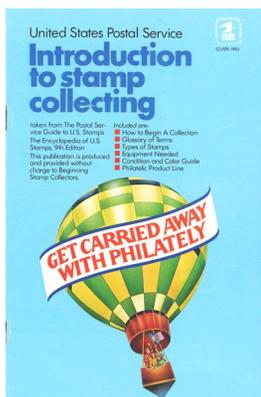


The first National Stamp Collecting Month cover issued 1981.



Slogan cancel on postcard of 1981

Annually, the USPS’s National Stamp Collecting Month promotional effort included “Intro to stamp collecting” booklets, collecting kits, souvenir cards, and slogan cancels (at right) on first class mail, reminding people of stamp collecting month.



that same year.

At left is the slogan “Get Carried Away with Philately” featured on the 1983 USPS “Intro to stamp collecting” booklet that tied in with the “Balloons” issue of



It wasn’t until 1985 that the USPS consistently issued colorful

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Postal History Foundation

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- Vice Chair: Mike Wood
- Treasurer: Ted Maynard
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Museum, Library, and Post

Office Hours:

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Message from the Chair

I have been a stamp collector since I was in high school and have collected many different countries and topics, aviation topics being one of my favorites. In 1913, the Swiss saw a need for military aviation in the coming war. Because their military budget was already fully committed, they formed a campaign, Flugspende, to raise consciousness about aviation and to raise money to support a military aviation unit. Among the activities of the Flugspende were a series of flight days including special mail-carrying flights. Local communities organized the flights and printed stamps to be used on mail on some of the flights. The postal service cooperated fully; it prepared official cancellations for all flights and set up temporary postal stations at the airports. There were eleven different stamps produced and above is one of the flown covers from my collection.



Happy Stamp Collecting Month *Bob Davis*

From the Treasurer

Our Resources:

- Talented Employees • Facilities
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They allow us to:

- ♦ *Introduce the world of stamps to children*
- ♦ *Operate a research library and archives*
- ♦ *Present an interactive museum experience*



Please be generous when you respond to the annual member letter.

The children, teachers, and parents thank you!

Western Cattle in Storm

Contribution by member Douglas Files

Among collectors, one of the most popular U.S. stamps has long been the \$1.00 Western Cattle in Storm issue, part of the Trans-Mississippi series of 1898. This article will explore the history and key features of this stamp which contribute to its fame in philatelic circles.

The 1893 World Columbian Exposition of Chicago had been such a success that officials in Omaha, Nebraska soon began planning a "Trans-Mississippi and International Exposition" to take place five years later. Stamp collectors had listed some complaints about the Columbian stamps which had been issued in conjunction with the Columbian expo. For example, writers in the press complained that the Columbian stamps were a single color and there were so many high values that most collectors could not afford to purchase an entire set. Philatelists lobbied the Post Office Department to make the next commemorative set more colorful and less expensive.

One of these postal aficionados was Edward Rosewater, an Omaha newspaper publisher who helped organize the Trans-Mississippi fair. In fact, Rosewater was so avid about stamps that he was elected vice president of the Universal Postal Union Congress in 1897. When he requested a stamp issue for the upcoming festival, the Postmaster General instead decided to issue a set of nine stamps depicting Western U.S. scenes.

Originally the \$1.00 value of the new set was to show grain harvesting or a flour mill. Postal officials later changed their mind and chose to feature a different symbol of Western commerce: the steer. The bison was



1898 \$1.00 Western Cattle in Storm Stamp from the Trans-Mississippi Series

Image scanned April 2005 by Stan Shebs, Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=127720>

Continued on Page 5

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Stamp Collecting

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stamp sets, usually the first week of October, to promote Stamp Collecting Month.

There was also an effort to coordinate slogan cancel designs with the new colorful October stamp issues designed to appeal to youth. The slogan cancels for these annual celebrations were produced on steel die cut slugs from 1981-2005. Postal workers did not confine their use to the month of October, sometimes even using them over several years. The slogan designs were very fun and kid friendly. Throughout the years our Stamp Discovery program has used slogan cancels and various types of postmarks as teaching tools for reading, history, geography, and other learning opportunities. Today's jet spray slogan cancels are not clear and crisp, like the old, and sometimes become blurred, hindering the ability to see the subject of the stamps.

The slogan cancels and stamps issued by the USPS during those promotional years bring back fond memories. We hope these old slogans and colorful October stamp issues inspire you to pull out your old stamp collection, share it with someone, and remember what it was like to **"Fall in love with stamp collecting."**



At left, slogan cancel "Fall in Love with Stamp Collecting" and at right the Family Unity stamp with pictorial hand cancel on a USPS souvenir card. 1984



"Do Something Wild: Collect Stamps." 1992



"Journey to a New Frontier... Collect Stamps." 1991



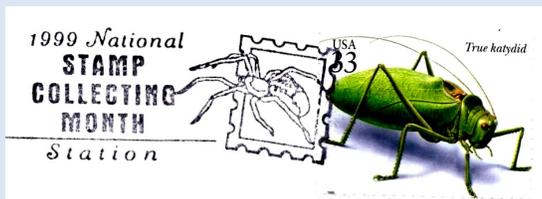
1989



1990



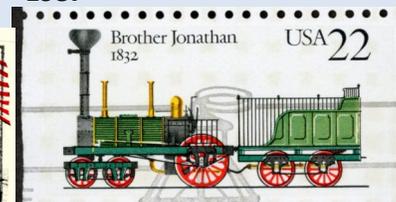
"For the ride of a lifetime- collect stamps." 1988



Insects & Spiders issue contributed by PHF member Mark Meaney. 1999



1987



Western Cattle in Storm

Continued from page 3

more emblematic of the western United States but cattle better exemplified the economy of the region.

As of May 1898 the post office planned to issue the \$1.00 Trans-Mississippi stamp showing “Western Cattle in Storm” in light brown. Designers and collectors had requested that the stamps be bi-color but with contemporary printing technology, this would have doubled the production time. During the Spanish-American War, new taxes caused the Bureau of Engraving and Printing to be overloaded with orders for revenue stamps, so postal leaders decided against using two colors. Only a few days before printing, coal black was settled on for the color of the \$1.00 stamp, which adds contrast to its attractive design. Both this contrast and the way the artist employed perspective make the lead steer “pop out” from the paper. (Note: When the U.S. Postal Service re-issued the Trans-Mississippi stamps in two souvenir sheets in 1998, the modern stamps were bi-color as had been originally planned.)

The Western Cattle in Storm design was pulled from the Scottish painting “The Vanguard” by John A. MacWhirter. Thus this paragon of philatelic Americana probably shows Scottish Angus cattle. Apologists note that the artist had made a trip to the United States the year before he rendered the painting, so the possibility exists that he painted American cattle. Further research into the issue has been stymied by the fact that the location of the original painting by MacWhirter is not known. In any case, the \$1.00 U.S. Trans-Mississippi stamp was designed by Bureau of Engraving and Printing employee R. Ostrander Smith, who probably employed an etching of the original painting to create the stamp’s remarkable look.

Only one 3-day print run was ever made for this stamp so the color of the black ink was fairly consistent throughout all stamps produced. A total of 56,900 \$1.00 stamps were issued to postmasters, but some went unsold and were returned to Washington, DC for destruction in early 1900. Thus it is not known how many copies of this stamp still exist. Only a single first day cover of the \$1.00 Trans-Mississippi stamp is known. This unique item traveled in the registered mail from New York City stamp dealer J. Murray Bartels to Hermann August Kah of Baden-Baden, Germany and entered postal lore. Due to these engaging philatelic aspects and its arresting visual appeal, the \$1.00 Western Cattle in Storm stamp will continue to inspire the hearts and minds of U.S. collectors.

References

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Neil, Randy L. and Rosenthal, Jack, *The Trans-Mississippi Issue of 1898*, 1997 published by Andrew Levitt, Danbury, Connecticut

“Western Cattle in Storm,” Wikipedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Western_Cattle_in_Storm, accessed 29 June 2023

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I Learned it in the Library!

One of the areas I'm researching for an upcoming exhibit is President Franklin Roosevelt as a philatelist. While I knew he was a stamp collector, I did learn several new details about FDR and his connection to stamps.

He didn't start his collection from scratch. His stamp collection was formed by his mother, Sara, who was given stamps and an album by her father. She traveled widely and added to her stamp collection; the bulk of it was comprised of stamps from Hong Kong with some from Britain and France. She then gave her collection to her brother, Frederic, who added the stamps of China and South American countries to it, and he eventually gave the collection to his nephew, when FDR was ten years old.

FDR made stamp collecting an acceptable hobby for adults. FDR's campaign manager, James Farley (who would later become postmaster general), had labels created for envelopes that stated "A Stamp Collector for President." FDR was proud of his hobby and his collection. His opponent, Herbert Hoover, declared that he had been a stamp collector as a child. Philatelists were annoyed that Hoover would perceive stamp collecting as a child's hobby. When FDR won the White House, philatelists and the general public began sending him stamps and covers, many of which he kept and added to his collection. Stamp-collecting fever sort of swept the nation.

Presidential philatelic perks. FDR requested that his secretaries and the White House mail room save stamps and covers for his collection. In addition to US citizens suppling him with philatelic material, he was also given stamps by ambassadors, dignitaries, and world leaders. Postmaster general James Farley would often stop the presses and take imperforate (un-perforated), ungummed sheets and sign them, then give them to FDR. FDR also designed and approved over 200 stamps while in office including the National Park series, two examples of which are shown at right.



Stamps affected his operations as President. FDR was extremely knowledgeable on geography due to his interest in stamps. He would surprise foreign dignitaries and leaders with talk of small, esoteric parts of their countries. When a certain south Pacific island was recommended as a way to advance towards Japan, FDR used his knowledge gained from stamps to propose a different island. FDR's study of an Argentinian stamp from his collection depicting hands clasped are said to be the inspiration for a famous photograph showing French Generals de Gaulle and Giraud.

His last act as President involved a stamp. A mere 30 minutes before the stroke that eventually took his life, FDR approved the design for the 1945 United Nations stamp and requested that the first sheet be purchased for him.

One aspect of FDR and philately I didn't bring up here is his and Farley's idea of a "philatelic truck," a mobile exhibit that traveled around the country, enticing young people to collect stamps. This is the subject of the new library exhibit! Keep an eye out for more details in the future.

Education Update by Lisa Dembowski education@phftucson.org

Stamp Collecting: The Family Hobby

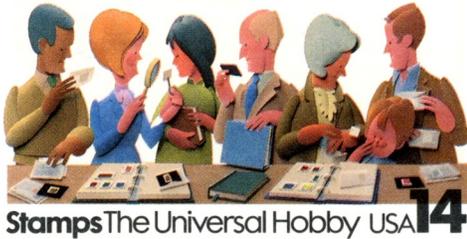
Connecting with the theme of Stamp Collecting month, the slogan in 1986 was “Philately, the Family Hobby.” The slogan was a good follow-up to the “Fall in Love with Stamp Collecting” slogan of 1984, as seen in a USPS promotional postcard, at right. The 1986 slogan cancel



pictured at left emphasizes the generational component of philately. The illustration shows an adult hand guiding the child into stamp collecting. How many of us were introduced to philately by a family member? My father brought international stamps home from work and eventually walked me into a stamp dealer’s shop. The rest is history.

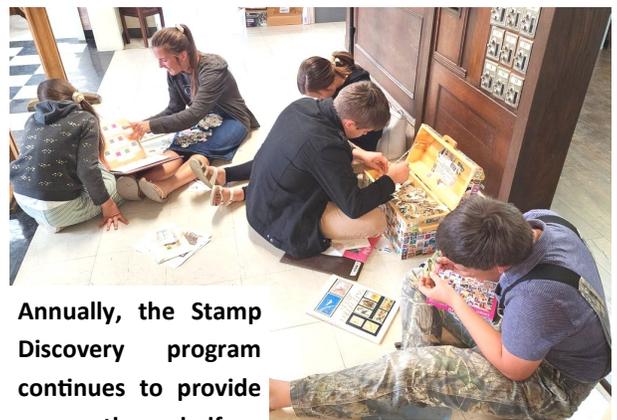


Parents and grandparents continue to order our “basic” stamp collecting kits. Teachers, parents, and grandparents continue to order lessons and topical stamps from our education store. They realize that postage stamps from around the world are a fantastic tool for learning about the world we live in, as well as required curriculum. Families around the world collect stamps, giving the gift of life-long learning to their children. Wherever people live or travel, stamps are collected. It is “The Universal Hobby,” as stated on the 1986 USPS postcard at left.



Families pass through Tucson and visit our museum and library. They have so much fun with the hands-on museum activities and finding stamps in our treasure chests. Some children “settle in” for quite a while looking at books, albums, and postal covers that we give them. The 2023 picture below is reminiscent of the 1984 USPS postcard, top right. The Indiana family spent two hours here. Out of the picture, playing and learning inside the Old Naco Post office, is the rest of the family. Every month we receive letters from this family and others like them, asking for more stamps.

The family hobby continues to provide hours of enjoyable learning for family members of all ages.



Annually, the Stamp Discovery program continues to provide more than half a million stamps to more than 11,000 students and families across the country and world. Our hard-working volunteers are asked to do many different tasks, which they happily perform, because it is for the kids and their families.

*Dear Postal History,
Thank you very much for the stamps you sent.
I would like to have some others too. I would like famous stories for kids stamps, Revolutionary war stamps, Cartoon stamps, Bee stamps, and Tiger stamps.
Thank you! Love, Lydia*

PHF Calendar

Board Meeting
October 28, 2023

Visiting the PHF

Open M-F 8:30am - 2:30pm with some exceptions. At times the library and/or museum might be closed on the day of scheduled field trips, meetings, and large group tours. Please check the online calendar or call at 520-623-6652 x 100 or 101

Our online public calendar is found on our website at: postalhistoryfoundation.org click on **Latest** → then click on **Event Calendar** OR postalhistoryfoundation.org/visit/calendar/

New Slusser Exhibit

**"Step Right in,
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You can visit our permanent and rotating exhibits in person (see Visiting the PHF, above) or online at home by going to our website and clicking

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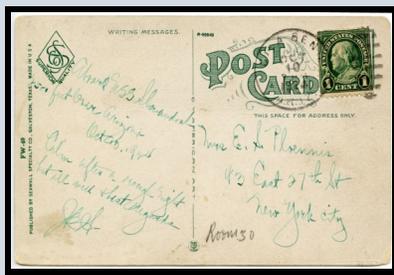
In Memoriam

Wallace A. Craig
Member, Ranger

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Tucson Stamp Club

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