Postal Service Smelling the Roses

Did you, or will you, pay the price? Ten greenbacks for this green Bucky souvenir? And where’s the Bucky that commands all those royalties for the UW? Nevertheless, the U.S. Postal Service claims it had to pay plenty for images depicted on and off the cover. This includes an AT&T Rose Bowl sponsor sticker affixed to the poly cover sleeve.

Remember when we paid just $2 for the 1994 Rose Bowl cover? It was red and had a Bucky, too. The $5 silk-cacheted Wisconsin sesquicentennial cover wasn’t a bad deal either.

Oh well, some things you just gotta have, even at a stiff price and on the Postal Service’s traditional non-collector-sized No. 10 envelope. I justified my “gotta have” purchase because I needed it for this illustration. How about you? Think about it, and you should have plenty of time. Considering the price and that this is an unlimited edition with a first printing of 15,000, I suspect these covers will be around for a while.

I’d love to publish your comments on this matter. Write me! ■

UW Postal Card First Day Update

Last month’s ATFP reported the University of Wisconsin Postal Card first-day ceremony was planned as a three-minute event to be held during halftime of a UW women’s basketball game. This was the information received from the Madison Post Office in mid-December.

In early January, however, plans were changed to include a half-hour ceremony (6:15 to 6:45 p.m.), just prior to game time on February 5. The ceremony, now open to the public, is scheduled to take place at the Nicholas Johnson Pavilion, which is located inside the Kohl Center in Madison. ■

Gregg Greenwald’s U.S. Varieties Report

- Scott 2603 — 10¢ Eagle and Shield “USA Bulk Rate” from plate No. 44444 has a new type of gum that is different than the previous shiny and low-gloss gum types.
- NEW — 10¢ Eagle and Shield “USA Presorted Std” self-adhesive coil (BEP).
- NEW 10¢ — Eagle and Shield “USA Presorted Std” gummed coil.
- NEW — 5¢ Wetlands self-adhesive coil (BEP) available in two distinctive colors.

The above can be purchased from two sources:

Bob Starkey, Philatelic Clerk, Main Post Office, 24 Corliss St., Providence, RI 02904-9713 (RStarkey@email.usps.gov)

Renate Fearonce, Philatelic Clerk, 1501 So. Cherrybell Strav, Tucson, AZ 85726-9998 (RFearonce@email.usps.gov)

Only the Providence Philatelic Center distinguishes the color varieties on the 5¢ coils.

- Scott 2912B — 25¢ Jukebox (BEP) from plate No. 222222 has a distinctively different look than the original. A strip of 25 with plate number (item No. 794631) can be ordered from the U.S. Postal Service: Stamp Fulfillment Services, P.O. Box 7247, Philadelphia, PA 19101-9014 (1-800-STAMP-24). Don’t forget the $1 handling fee for each order.

- Scott 2189 — 52¢ Humphrey has been found on a high-brite paper and has a much more blue glow under shortwave ultraviolet light (previous examples all glazed green).

Greenwald located the variety at the philatelic center in Madison.

- The 2¢ Locomotive and 5¢ Circus Wagon (BEP) have been reprinted for Disabled American Veterans mailings. The 2¢ Locomotive may be available from the USPS Stamp Fulfillment Services, but the 5¢ Circus Wagon is not.

- New varieties of the $9.60 32¢ Pink Rose vending booklet have appeared. The first is item No. 3610X with stamps removed from position 16, a format previously found on item No. 3610. Second, booklets where one pane has a reorder label and the other pane has a stamp removed have been found. Extremely rare!

Gregg recommends that if your local post office has any $9.60 Pink Rose vending booklets available, it would be worthwhile to check on what you can get. If you know the accountable papers person, ask if there are any of these booklets around before they are sent in for destruction. It’s Gregg’s opinion that any finds could easily be sold for double face to dealers or collectors.

If you’ve found any new varieties, please report them to: Gregg Greenwald, 2401 Bluebird Ct., Marshfield, WI 54449-3128 (bluebird@tiznet.com).

[Editor’s note: Gregg’s intermittent and informal reports replace his regular “U.S. Varieties Clearinghouse” column.]
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 7</td>
<td>CENWIPEX '99 Central Wisconsin Stamp Club Knights of Columbus Hall</td>
<td>3041 State Hwy. 13 North, Wisconsin Rapids (Contact: Dave Carney, P.O. Box 1122, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495)</td>
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<td>February 20</td>
<td>40th ANNUAL EXHIBITION AND BOURSE Janesville Stamp Club Craig Center, 4-H Fairgrounds, Janesville (Contact: Valerie Cook, 1604 So. Crosby, Janesville, WI 53546 — (608) 754-6497)</td>
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<td>February 20-21</td>
<td>STAMP SHOW '99 Kenosha Stamp and Cover Club St. Mark’s Auditorium 7202 Sheridan Rd., Kenosha (Contact: KSCC, P.O. Box 1524, Kenosha, WI 53141 — (414) 351-8131)</td>
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<td>March 6-7</td>
<td>STAMPFEST '99 Milwaukee Philatelic Society St. Aloysius Gonzaga Hall 1435 So. 92nd St., West Allis (Contact: John Fagan, W140N7470 Lilly Rd., Menomonee Falls, WI 53051 — (414) 251-0617)</td>
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<td>March 20</td>
<td>STAMP AND COIN FAIR (bourse) Wisconsin Valley Philatelic Society Saturday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Cedar Creek Mall, 10101 Market Rd., Mosinee (Hwy. 51 So. - exit 185) (Contact: Jim Johnson (715) 339-4326)</td>
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<td>March 27</td>
<td>BAYPEX '99 Green Bay Philatelic Society Ramada Inn Green Bay 2750 Ramada Way, Green Bay (Contact: Gordy Lindner, 1002 Amherst Tr., Green Bay, WI 54311 — (920) 465-6692)</td>
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<td>April 10</td>
<td>OUTAPEX '99 Outagamie Philatelic Society Columbus Club 2531 N. Richmond St., Appleton (Contact: Al Marcus, P.O. Box 11, Appleton, WI 54912)</td>
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<td>June 19-20</td>
<td>18th ANNUAL SHOW AND BOURSE Northwoods Stamp and Coin Club Nicolet College, LRC Building County G, Rhinelander (Contact: Larry Marten, 3295 Hancock Lake Rd., Harshaw, WI 54529)</td>
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<td>June 26-27</td>
<td>TRI-PEX '99 Italian Amer. Stamp Club, North Shore Phil. Soc., Polish Amer. Stamp Club St. Aloysius Gonzaga Hall, 1435 So. 92nd St., West Allis (Contact: Robert Hanek, NSPS, P.O. Box 17832, Milwaukee, WI 53217 — (414) 351-1519)</td>
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<td>July 30-August 1</td>
<td>NATIONAL TOPICAL STAMP SHOW '99 hosted by Waushesa County Philatelic Society Grand Milwaukee Hotel 4747 So. Howell Ave., Milwaukee (Contact: Robert J. Mather, 556-W29562 Roanoke Dr., Waushesa, WI 53189 — (414) 968-2392)</td>
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**Club News**

**FRED ZIEMANN RECEIVES WISCONSIN VALLEY PHILATELIC SOCIETY SPECIAL AWARD**

A highlight of the WVPS's 1998 Christmas party was recognition of several members who have made major contributions to the club. Fred Ziemann received special recognition as outstanding member of the year. Ziemann is the club's treasurer and newsletter editor. He also handles youth activities and coordinated the group's extensive Marathon County Wisconsin sesquicentennial cancels project.

WVPS President Rick Rodriguez presents Fred Ziemann (l) with outstanding member of the year award.
I'm known in some quarters as a big mouth, but I have big ears and two eyes (one of which is good), all of which is irrelevant to the question: What's the difference between a stamp show and a philatelic exhibition? My first impulse is to say, the spelling.

A stamp show would mean that only stamps would be shown: mint, used, CTOs, plate blocks, etc. There would be no covers, FDCs or otherwise; no postal stationery, e.g., postal cards, aerograms and the like. Postal history might make it if the exhibitor relied strictly on canceled stamps to make the point.

Such a show could be a "philatelic exhibition" if the descriptive write-ups included philatelic knowledge pertaining to the stamps on display. Which suggests another question: What is philatelic knowledge? I'd like to know what you think about that one.

You've already come to realize that a philatelic exhibition can run the entire gamut of not only postal issues of all kinds, but in many cases Christmas seals and other varied adhesive issues put out by a variety of agencies. These are sometimes called "poster" stamps.

As a judge, my gut feeling is that these are not, in the narrow sense of the word, "philatelic" items. My bias though, is that most such materials are printed to be used on postally delivered mail, and if the organization sponsoring a philatelic exhibition has approved them as an exhibit, it is my obligation to evaluate that exhibit as I would any other.

This, I think, is a vital aspect of being a good judge. It's important to realize one's biases, understand their origins, and to recognize the right of collectors to collect what's of interest to them and to exhibit it.

So, it's not just the spelling, but the kind of research and write-ups that lead the casual viewer of an exhibit to know more than what is obvious from seeing the material displayed. This makes the difference between showing stamps and exhibiting material of a philatelic nature.

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- STAMPFEST '99, Mar. 6-7, West Allis
- BAYPEX '99, Mar. 27, Green Bay
- OUTAPEX '99, Apr. 10, Appleton
- WISCOPEX '99, May 8-9, Wauwatosa

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Thoughts on the Joys and Agonies of History as Told by Stamps

Part 1 — “Killing” the Dreamer: The King Stamp

Richard Ralston is professor and chair of the Department of Afro-American Studies, UW-Madison. He holds a Ph.D. degree in history and anthropology, with published credits of nearly 50 major articles and book chapters. He is also a member of the Wisconsin Humanities Council Speakers Bureau and presented a seminar at STAMP SHOW ’97, which was held in Milwaukee.

Introduction
For me, stamps represent more than mere postage. While its unit cost changes from time to time, as an historical artifact it is cheap at any cost. I call myself a stamp historian and a student of postal history, which is quite different from collectors who buy or subscribe to uniform runs of first-day covers, value mint condition stamps, and strive to fill spaces in their albums. These folks have staks upon staks of albums and paraphernalia — hinges, glassine envelopes, watermark detecting materials, and perforation gauges — and dream of finding one of those rare stamp misprints or goofs.

What kind of collector am I? I don’t collect for rarity. I don’t collect for errors. I don’t even collect for completeness. Only grudgingly did I fork over the 10 bucks necessary for the special Badger-Bruin Rose Bowl cover that every Wisconsin collector should have. I do enjoy poring over those unsorted stamp mixtures every coin and stamp shop has, and at shows, look for me ghoulishly up to my elbows in crash covers. Or enjoying the sight of mail that did not go through with its interesting history revealed by the markings on this “failed mail.”

My interest resides in stamps as part of the whole mail-moving enterprise as history that extends from postal workers, sorters, carriers, to “killers” and covers and, of course, to the little engine without which none of the standard challenges of snow and sleet would matter — the stamps. Who or what is depicted on the stamp over time and what that says about what is happening in the rest of the society.

Stamps as teaching tools
By scholarly profession as an Africanist historian with a special interest in the historical relationship between the United States and Africa, I have collected stamps from all over the world. I make frequent use of stamps as subject matter and as historical artifacts in my history courses on Africa, the Caribbean, and the Upper Midwest. For example, it is possible for students to explore the social, economic and natural history of the Caribbean basin through its stamps, depictions of flora and fauna on Trinidadian stamps, the domestic economy of Haitian women, the arrival of the English featured on Barbadian stamps, and the Columbus “discoveries” told through a joint Italian-Spanish stamp issued in the Virgin Islands.

American postal history has reflected many prevailing societal attitudes toward African Americans and other “minorities.” It wasn’t until 1940 that the U.S. Postal Service issued its first stamp featuring an African-American subject, a stamp commemorating the 75th anniversary of the 13th Amendment abolishing slavery (Figure 1). Tuskegee educator Booker T. Washington (after much lobbying by supporters) became the first black individual depicted on a stamp, a 10¢ issue printed in the same year (Figure 2).

Following Washington’s appearance were stamps depicting Iowa-educated agricultural scientist George Washington Carver (1948, Figure 3), and a second Booker T. Washington stamp (marking the centennial of his birth in 1956). Frederick Douglass, the renowned abolitionist writer and orator was pictured on a first-class stamp in 1967 (Figure 4). Two years later, the Postal Service “stamped” St. Louis Blues composer W.C. Handy (1969, Figure 5), and soon Ohio poet Paul Laurence Dunbar (1975, Figure 6). They were practi-
His dream is mine. I am convinced that one person can make a difference. Nothing is impossible if the dream exists. I practice thinking and believing, for I too am a dreamer.

Surely, the back of the resistance to national recognition for Martin Luther King, Jr., was partly broken by the issuance of the King stamp on his birthday at the end of the previous decade. In sort, years before the King holiday was accepted, Americans had already begun placing King’s image on their most precious possessions, their mail to the power company and to relatives. The humble stamp was quietly elevating Dr. King to first-class status as it simultaneously sent the first-class mail on its way.

Next time, in honor of Black History Month, I will tell you how one could teach a whole course using only the dates of the month of February and relying largely on stamps to illustrate that history.

By Robert Gould, Badger Stamp Club


The Brookman Price Guide for Disney Stamps, published in 1998, is a large format, soft-bound book with 248 pages. It is essentially a sales catalog that has illustrations of Disney stamps and sets issued by more than 35 different countries. This is an updated edition of the original guide issued in 1993.

In the front of the catalog is a three-page article on stamp collecting with a focus on Disney, written by the American Philatelic Society. The article covers a variety of topics including how to start collecting stamps, where to locate additional information, how to store and care for stamps, and getting involved with clubs. This is followed by a short article by Ken Lawrence, who owns and exhibits a Walt Disney topical collection. He writes about the history of Disney stamps and of his collection, which includes items that go back to the 1930s. There are several obvious typographical errors in this section and I would hope that the rest of the catalog was properly proofed and any mistakes corrected.

The main portion of the catalog is devoted to listing and illustrating Disney stamps. It is divided by country and then by the year issued. The catalog covers mainly 1979 to 1998, but does include listings for the 1968 United States 6c Walt Disney stamp and the 1970 San Marino set of 10, which was the first Disney set offered for sale.

There are many illustrations showing entire sets with souvenir sheets. They include the well-known characters of Mickey Mouse, Donald Duck and Pluto, as well as Snow White, Cinderella, Peter Pan, Bambi and the rest of the Disney family. There are also a large variety of Disney stamps for the topics of sweets and about Christmas. The illustrations are of a nice size and present a clear image of each theme. Some items, such as booklets or souvenir sheets are not shown, but have been previously illustrated in the set.

Below each illustration is the Brookman Disney catalog number, a very brief description of the subject and the retail price.

There are several order forms with easy-to-read instructions and $100 worth of coupons that can be used when purchasing stamps from this catalog. This is a good resource guide for Disney enthusiasts and I would recommend it to those collectors.

SHAUGHNESSY Takes On...

Round two of the U.S. Postal Service 1999 philatelic emissions

Can't you just hear Jimmy Cagney (who is this year's "Legend of Hollywood") saying to Azeesaly S. Jaffer, "You rat, you dirty rat... putting me in the company of Daffy Duck, spiders and insects. Where is that half of grapefruit when I really need it?"

Who in the hall is Bascom on the University of Wisconsin postal card? Might make more sense to honor a Great Dane who ran through opposing football teams with little opposition. Maybe he's inside Bascom studying NFL playbooks.

Of the three other postal cards, one honors Redwood, the oldest of libraries and the first to lend publications. Located in Newport, RI, where folks could not afford to purchase books.

Our first president figures into the two remaining cards, one honoring Mt. Vernon, his home and where he died 200 years ago. The other, the university which bears his name (along with Robert E. Lee) — Washington and Lee. When was the last time they played in the Rose Bowl? As close as they will come is to use the upcoming Coral Rose stamp on their alumni fund letters.

And what is this with roses? Red, yellow, pink, coral... wonder what other color inks the USPS bought at closeout for upcoming rose varieties? Now if only they gave out their scent I would not complain.

Those Who Served are honored with a postal cancellation and then only the wavy portion. Or maybe this stamp is for waiters and bartenders — "Hi, my name is Azeesaly and I'll be your server this year."

Since the Packers will have their philatelic moment, why not the Forty Niners? The rush for gold at the Super Bowl. Funny, none of those depicted look like Steve Young or Jerry Rice.

Atlas Shrugged, and so does the philatelic community with the appearance of postal paper to honor Ayn Rand. Buy this one so when the Legends of Hollywood series honors Gary Cooper you have enough additional postage for the rate increase at that time.

As we collectors add on the years, the USPS thinks about us. Stamps for Hospice Care and Prostate Cancer Awareness remind us that 1999 makes us another year wiser, at least for some of us.

How many of you went for the encyclopedia to learn who John and William Bartram and Frederick Law Olmstead were? Those who live in the areas where these men did their magic — the Bartrams were botanists and old Fred was a landscape architect — knew the answers right off. We tend to dismiss these types but we all enjoy their parks and plants.

The Irish are known for their wit. Seems several of them were looking at gravestones at night using their flashlights to read the inscriptions. Each called out the age of the deceased while trying to top the others with their finds. Finally Paddy says, "My gosh, here's one who lived to be 200! He's Miles from Dublin." So when the USPS honors us Irishers with our stamp we're all miles from Dublin, etc.

Finally, I could not let the misspelling of "Endeavour" on the recent space shuttle stamp pass without comment. When was Dan Quayle hired by the USPS? Actually, I thought the caption for this stamp should be, "Not tonight dear. I have a headache."
Sample Question: Who wrote "20,000 Leagues Under the Sea?"
Sample Answer: Jules Verne, France #770

- No one stamp-issuing entity (country) may be used more than three times. For example: the United States can only be used as the country of issue for a maximum of three different answers.
- Only one answer sheet per WFSC member (not individual) may be submitted.
- Entries must be postmarked by April 1, 1999, and mailed to: MaryAnn Bowman, P.O. Box 1451, Waukesha, WI 53187.
- The decision of the judges is final.
- The prize for the winning club is an autographed copy of the 2nd edition of "Adventures in Topical Stamp Collecting." It can be donated to your club or local library, circulated among club members, or used as a club prize or auction item.
- In case of a tie, a drawing will be made.

Good luck! Here are the questions —
1. What movie won the 1939 Academy Award for best picture?
2. What mammal can fly?
3. Name the only father-son presidential pair.
4. You have heard of a gaggle of geese and a school of fish. Complete this phrase to name a collective group of some animal: An army of _______.
5. Whose motto is “Be Prepared?”
6. What is the only two-toed bird?
7. What animal has the heaviest brain of all living animals?
8. Who killed Hemingway?
9. Who composed the Brandenburg Concertos?
10. Who wrote “The Origin of Species?”
11. Who is Bram Stoker’s vampire?
12. Who was the supreme god in ancient Greek religion?
13. What breed of dog was closely guarded for centuries by an imperial court?
14. Name one of two mammals that lay eggs.
15. What reddish metal slowly forms a greenish surface film in moist air?
16. What was the first automobile regularly made for sale?
17. Who was the first American to fly in space?
18. What Australian animal is believed to be a link between mammals and reptiles?
19. Who wrote the famous words “To be or not to be, that is the question?”
20. What large yellow flowers produce seeds that are good to eat?

— End of quiz —
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