



The Overprint

Newsletter of the Reading Stamp Collectors' Club

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Issue: JANUARY and FEBRUARY 2023

NO MEETINGS IN JANUARY OR FEBRUARY

NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY MARCH 7th at 7:00 pm

Social Time from 6:30 pm onwards

Program to be announced closer to date

RSCC Events Recap:

On December 6th we had our final meeting of 2022 with a Christmas / Holiday theme. We had 9 members in attendance, the best turnout for 2022. Holly Springer brought a wonderful album of early Christmas Cards many of which had early Christmas Seal stamps. Quite a collection. Let's see if we can get to double digit attendance in March.

PSLC News.

The Lancaster Stamp Club is starting to meet in Person again. The first meeting will be held on Wednesday January 11th at Landis Home. Same location as pre Covid.

They will still be doing Zoom meetings on the 4th Wednesday of the month and I will be doing the main presentation on "British Inland Airmail 1933-1934" on January 25th.

Treasurer's Report:

The club ended the year with a bank balance of \$ 1,343.15 and our CD stands at \$ 3,076. The majority of dues for 2023 have been collected. I will be sending out a separate email to those of you who have not yet sent them in to me.

UKRAINE: 2023 EUROPA THEME CHANGED

Europa 2023 theme changed to show solidarity with Ukraine



The Europa stamp theme for 2023 was changed to “Peace — the highest value of humanity” at the request of Ukraine’s post office, according to an April 29 press release from PostEurop. The trade association representing European public postal operators, PostEurop also selects the theme for the multinational Europa stamp series.

According to the press release, Ukrposhta (Ukraine’s post office) proposed the theme “to show solidarity with Ukraine and to promote the universal value for all humanity — peace.”

A contest will be held to select the common design to be used by all participating nations.

Underwater fauna and flora, originally to be the subject of Europa stamps in 2023, will now be the theme for 2024. Likewise, the theme of national archaeological discoveries is postponed from 2024 to 2025. Each postal administration will select its own stamp designs for these themes.

The decision to change the stamp theme for 2023 was made at the April 25 meeting of the PostEurop board of directors, the press release said.

Ukraine began issuing Europa stamps in 1997. In 2006, it won PostEurop’s online contest for the most beautiful stamp.

USPS Gets Festive With a Lunar New Year Stamp



What:

The U.S. Postal Service will commemorate the Lunar New Year in San Francisco with the unveiling of the Year of the Rabbit Forever stamp.

The first-day-of-issue event for the stamp is free and open to the public. News of the stamp is being shared with the hashtags **#LunarNewYear** and **#LunarNewYearRabbit**.

When:

Thursday, Jan. 12, 2023, at 11 a.m. PST

Where:

[Asian Art Museum](#)

200 Larkin Street

San Francisco, CA 94102

Background:

The Postal Service will issue the latest Lunar New Year stamp celebrating the Year of the Rabbit. This stamp design calls to mind the elaborately decorated masks used in the dragon or lion dances often performed in Lunar New Year parades. This three-dimensional mask depicting a rabbit is a contemporary take on the long tradition of paper-cut folk art crafts created during this auspicious time of year. The rabbit mask design incorporates colors and patterns with symbolic meaning.

Art director Antonio Alcalá designed the stamp and the pane with original art by Camille Chew. The Year of the Rabbit stamp is being issued in panes of 20. It will always be equal in value to the current First-Class Mail 1-ounce price.

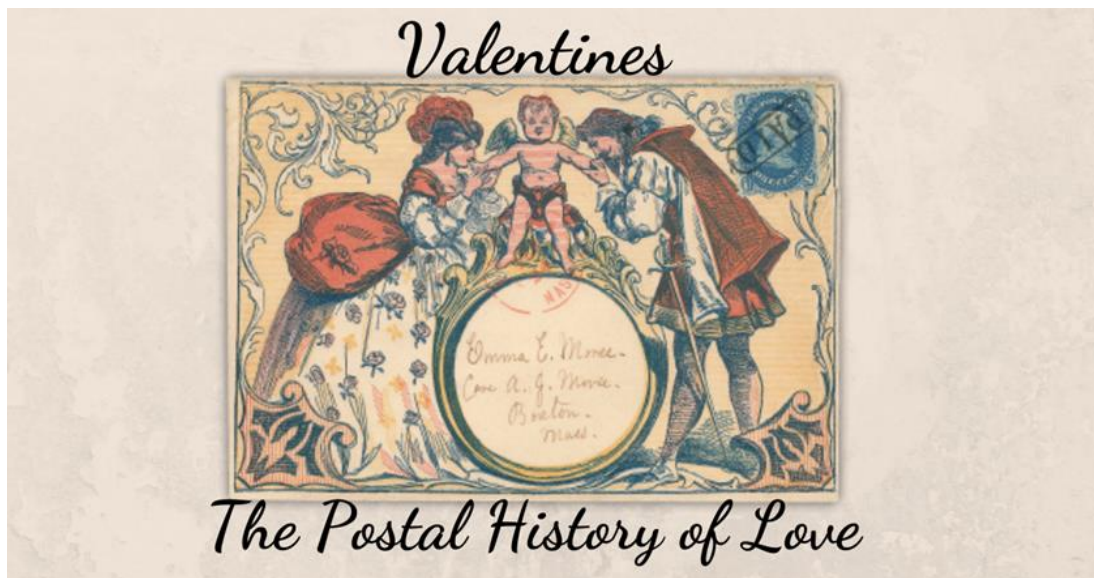
Lunar New Year is one of the most important holidays of the year for many Asian communities around the world and is primarily celebrated by people of Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, Tibetan, Mongolian, Malaysian and Filipino heritage. Across these varied cultures, many traditions exist for ringing in a new year of good luck and prosperity.

USPS: Mailing Services Price Changes

The change is expected to take effect January 22, 2023

FCM Letters (1 oz.)	\$0.60	\$0.63
FCM International Letters (1 oz.)	\$1.40	\$1.45
Single-piece FCM Letter and Flat, additional ounce	\$0.24	No change

As this issue encompasses Valentines Day I am including three articles regarding Valentines day and Philately. The first is courtesy of the American Philatelic Society and is a reprint of an article from February 2019. The second pertains to Valentines and postmarks and the third features USA "LOVE" Stamps. These last two articles are courtesy of Stamp News Now from February 2011.



Valentines: The Postal History of Love

2/10/2020 - Member Only Exclusive

3¢ George Washington

This “beautiful Valentine use with the first stamp issued in the Western Hemisphere” (**Figure 1**) showcases the 3¢ black on grayish paper portrait of George Washington used by Greig’s City Despatch Post of New York City, issued February 1, 1842 (Scott 40L1). Mailed two weeks later on February 14, the stamp is tied by the large red circular datestamp with “N.Y.” inverted in use for less than six months before the company was bought by the government, becoming the United States City Despatch Post.

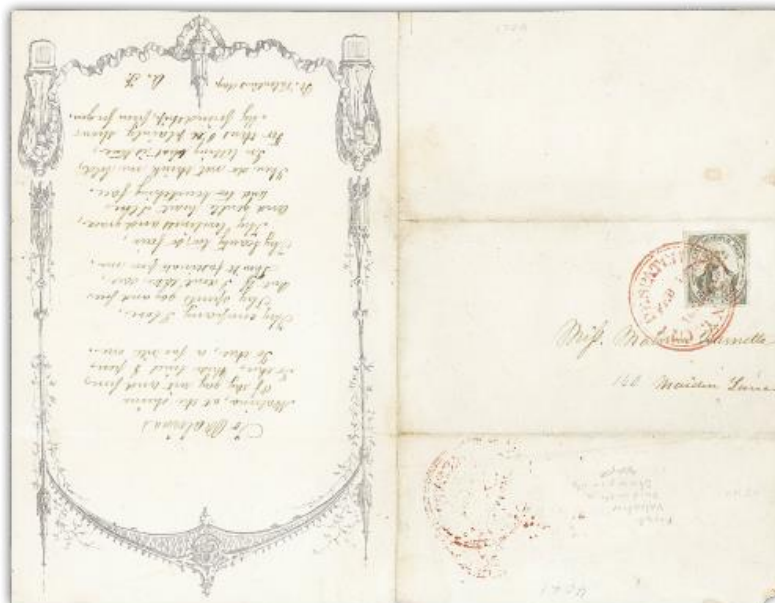


Figure 1. Lot 2407 of "U.S. Postal History" auction at Siegel Auction Galleries, November 8, 2017. Lot 2407 in the sale, it was estimated at \$5,000 to \$7,500, but hammered down at \$21,000.

1¢ Blue Benjamin Franklin

Benjamin Franklin Bailar, the 64th U.S. Postmaster-General, formed a fantastic collection of stamps, covers and ephemera related to his namesake, the first American Postmaster-General. Among its many highlights offered in the Siegel sale of that collection in 2015 was this beautiful and colorful Romeo and Juliet Valentine in which Shakespeare's tragic lovers pay tribute to Cupid. An embossed multicolor enclosure featured lovebirds and a label bearing the charming couplet:

You are all my heart's treasure. My joy and my pleasure.

The connection to Benjamin Franklin is the Valentine's handsome 1861 1¢ blue Franklin, Scott 63, neatly canceled and tied with a lozenge "PAID" handstamp (**Figure 2**).



Figure 2. Siegel Auction Galleries 2015. Despite a small tear, the cover estimated at \$2,000 to \$3,000, sold for \$6,750.

2¢ Blue St. Louis Penny Post

A 2002 Rarities of the World auction featured "the most spectacular of the four recorded covers bearing the 1857 2¢ blue St. Louis Penny Post stamp," Scott 8LB3. This gilt-and-lace Valentine's cover contained an enclosure with even more elaborate gilt and enamel decoration surrounding the sender's ardent love poem (**Figure 3**). The cover is datelined February 13, and addressed to "Mrs. Scoot / Sixth Street above Morgan / Street next door to No. 170 / St Louis / Moissori."

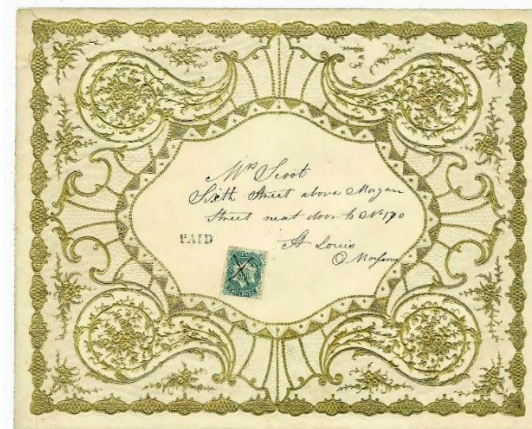


Figure 3. This cover featured in Siegel Auction Galleries' 2002 Rarities of the World sale. The cover sold for \$32,500.

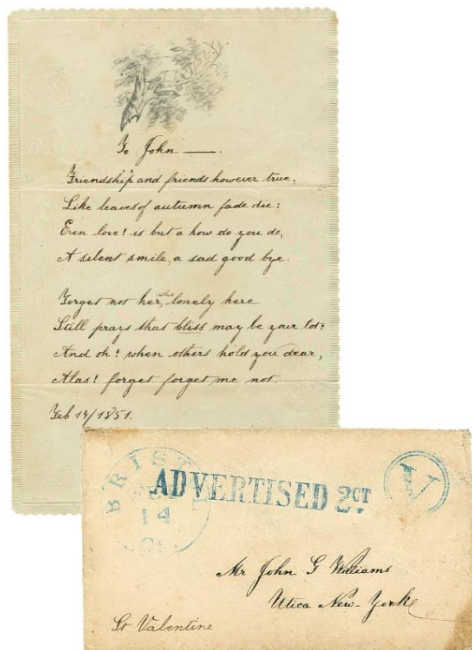


Figure 4. The Valentine was estimated at \$400 to \$500 in a 2015 auction sale, but sold for \$200 — almost as though it seemed haunted.

Unclaimed Stampless Cover

Love can have a tragic outcome, as many can testify. Few fates seem sadder than that of this stampless envelope mailed on Valentine’s Day 1851 (noted below the address) from Bristol, Connecticut, to John G. Williams of Utica, New York. The embossed enclosure, signed “Rosamond,” is headed by her sketch of two doves in a tree inscribed “Love,” and what the auctioneer described as “a poignant poem to John about friendships and love dying, including:

**A silent smile, a sad goodbye
Forget not her who lonely here
Still prays that bliss may be your lot.**

The cover tells the rest of the tale (**Figure 4**). Never called for by John, the woeful love letter languished, nor did advertising its presence at the post office bring John by. It was unclaimed, a fate we can hope “Rosamond” did not share.

The 1851 1¢ Type 1 and Friends

“The unique use of the 1851 1¢ Type I on a Valentine” was reckoned “one of the greatest postal history rarities of the 1851 issue” in Siegel’s 2013 Rarities of the World sale, combining Scott 5 in a vertical pair with the 1¢ Type IIIA (8A), a 1¢ Type Ib (5A) at the tip of the backflap and three 3¢ brownish carmine Type II (11A) to pay the 12¢ rate on this overweight Valentine’s envelope (with Cupid’s bow and quiver on the backflap) sent six miles in Connecticut.

Siegel reckons the 1851 1¢ Type I as “the rarest of all U.S. stamps issued regularly prior to the 1868 Grills.” Still, for all the expense and extravagance that the sender went to, would the tiny hand-chosen card within the elaborate multicolored Valentine succeed in enraptured the recipient?

The cover, however, is magnificent (**Figure 5**).



Figure 5. Siegel Auction Galleries "Rarities of the World" sale, 2013. The cover sold for \$50,000.

1847 5¢ Franklin

Not all Valentine's Cards are created for the newly infatuated, as witness this embossed card sent with an 1847 5¢ Franklin (**Figure 6**) from Boston to Hubertson, Massachusetts. The mature admission from man to woman is that she is "My Comfort / And My Joy" on a card that doesn't need a Cupid.



Figure 6. Sold in Siegel Auction Galleries' November 2017 sale of "U.S. and C.S.A. Postal History" for \$475.

Editor's Note: "Valentines: The Postal History of Love" was originally published in the February 2019 issue of The American Philatelist.

Fred Baumann

Fred Baumann served as the Editorial Content Specialist of *The American Philatelist* from September 2018 to December 2019.

"Spread the Love" With Valentine's Postmarks

Each year *Mekeel's & STAMPS Magazine* alerts our readers to the availability of Valentine's Day cancellations from post offices

across the United States, and how to obtain them. Here's a sampling from a March 23, 2009 *Mekeel's & Stamps* article.

Have Your Valentine Cards Play Post Office

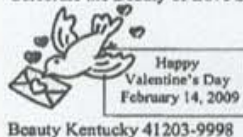
More than a dozen Post Offices in communities with love-themed names across America are offering special postmarks for Valentine's Day that will make the envelope just as much of a treasured keepsake as its contents.

Customers should enclose stamped, pre-addressed valentines into a Priority Mail or Express Mail envelope or box addressed to: Postmaster, Valentine Remailing, City, State ZIP Code (see listing below)

cluding Argentina, Australia, Italy, England, Ethiopia, China, Zimbabwe and Kenya.

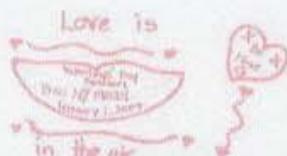
For the 15th consecutive year, the Romeo, MI, and Juliette, GA, Post Offices continued their alliance, which offers a Valentine's Day pictorial postmark featuring the theme of Romeo and Juliet. To receive this identical-dual cancellation, enclose your stamped, addressed valentines in a larger envelope, and mail to Romeo and Juliette Valentine Cancellation, Postmaster, 356 Bowdoin, Juliette GA 31046-9998.

Celebrate the Beauty of Love Station



Beauty Kentucky 41203-9998

Beauty, KY 41203



Bliss, NY 14024

Not shown, Bliss, ID 83314



Romeo, MI 48065



Deary ID 83823



Eros, LA 71238



Hartville, WY 82215



Heart Butte, MT 59448



Loving, NM 88256



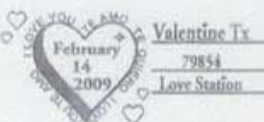
Loveville, MD 20656



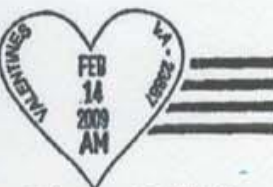
Loving, TX 76460



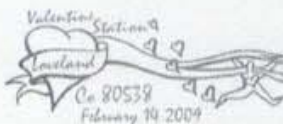
Romance, AR 72136



Valentine, TX 79854



Valentines, VA 23887



Loveland CO 80538



Loves Park, IL 61111



Valentine, NE 69201



Honey Grove, PA 17035

Loveland postmarks more than 200,000 cards and letters each year from all 50 states and more than 100 countries in-

Love, American Style

The United States Postal Service issued its first Love stamp in 1973, Scott 1475, using the block letter "LOVE" design of Robert Indiana. Since then a variety of themes and designs have been used to portray Love.



1973, Sc. 11475



1982, Sc. 1951



"Puppy Love"
1986, Sc. 2202



1988, Sc. 2378 & 2379—for Wedding Invitations and reply envelopes, before separate Wedding stamps were produced by the USPS.



1990, Sc. 2440



1992, Sc. 2618



1995, Sc. 2957 & 2958, Cherubs by Raphael, from the Sistine Chapel



2001, Left, Sc. 3496 (a love letter from John Adams to Abigail Smith) and right, Sc. 3499 (a love letter by Abigail Smith, later Abigail Adams to John Adams)



I know why I stopped collecting British Stamps. Here is the list for 2023

12 Jan - Iron Maiden

23 March – Flowers

6 May - His Majesty King Charles 111: A New Reign

8 June – Warhammer

13 July - River Wildlife

19 Oct - Harry Potter

16 Feb -X-Men

13 Apr - The Legend of Robin Hood

22 June - Windrush:75 Years

5 Sep - To be announced

2 Nov - Christmas 2023

9 March - The Flying Scotsman

17 May - Blackadder

10 Aug -Terry Pratchett's Discworld

21 Sep - Dame Shirley Bassey

I have highlighted issues that I think seem relevant to Great Britain. The rest... well what can I say. When you add definitive issues and regional stamps and booklets, how can anyone afford this. It seems the USPS has gone down the same path. Thoughts??