

"Serving Lebanon and Berks Counties"

THE PATENT - OVERPRINT

The combined monthly newsletter of the Lebanon and Reading Stamp Collectors Clubs

August 2025

Number 71

The August meeting of the Lebanon Stamp Collectors Club will be held on Tuesday, August 19, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Room at the Lebanon Community Library in historic downtown Lebanon. Mike Bach will be here from Reading to give us a "Rum Tale". Stop by and see what it's about!

MINI-COLLECTIONS

By Richard Colberg

President – Lebanon Stamp Collectors Club

July 31, 2025



By now I'm sure all of you have discovered that the world of stamp collecting is huge. And it didn't take you long to figure out that collecting the entire world was an unattainable goal. But, biting off a piece of it IS attainable. At one end of that scale is a complete country collection. Truly complete could run into some serious dollars, but you can set your own limits. At the other end of the scale are what I call Mini-Collections. Here you take something small: a stamp, a stamp issue, or a topic. Then you can add to the "collection" as you see fit, or as more material presents itself. The following are some examples to get you started.

Australia – Kangaroos and King George V

Over time the pages of my old Minkus worldwide stamp album did not have enough spaces for all of my Australian Kangaroo and King George V stamps. As I eventually found out, many same-colored stamps were actually different. They differed by watermark and perforation. So, I made special pages for these two issues. The entire “mini-collection” is now on seven pages, two of which are shown below. The watermark illustrations were copied from catalogue pages.

The kangaroo stamps were issued from 1913 to 1933 and exist with five different watermarks and three different perforation schemes. The King George V stamps, also issued from 1913 to 1933, exist with five different watermarks and five different perforation schemes. Including the officials, there are 134 different stamps. I’m missing 20. Most of what I’m missing is expensive and they’ll probably stay missing. Note that there are five green 1-penny King Georg V stamps – all different. The penciled numbers are Scott Catalogue numbers.



AUSTRALIA
King George V



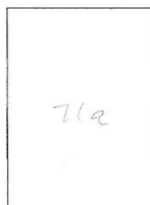
1918 – 1923 Perf. 14, 14 ½, & 14 ½ x 14



1924

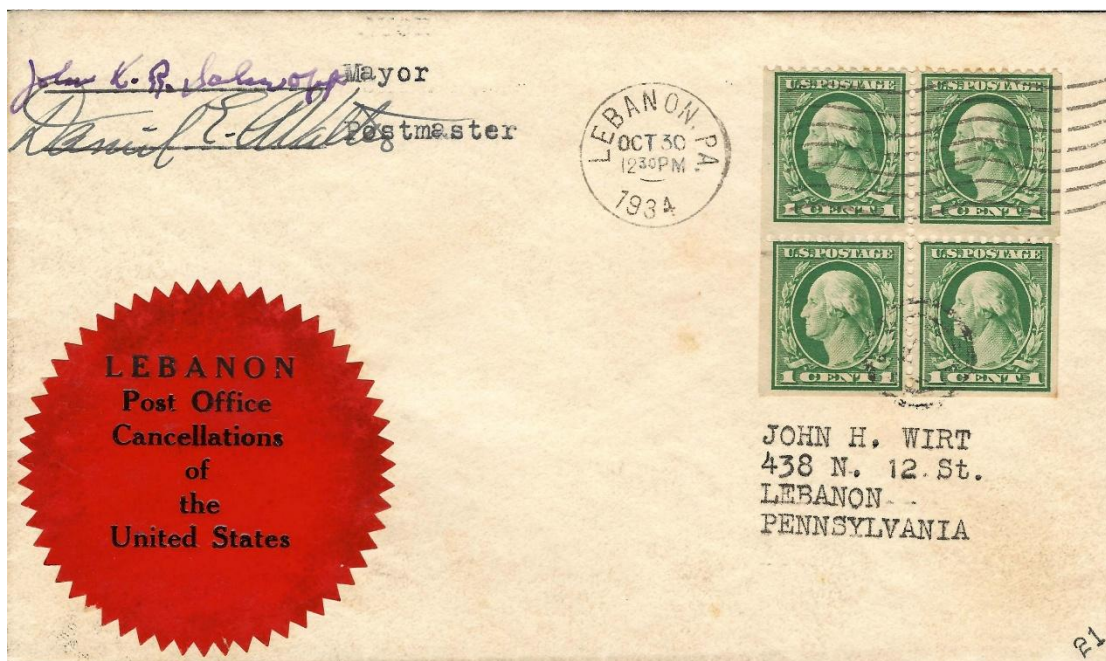


1926 – 1930 Perf. 14, & 13 ½ x 12 ½



Lebanon, where?

Recently, while sorting through a philatelic estate, I came across a group of fifteen envelopes all cancelled from different Lebanon cities around the USA. Two were from Lebanon, PA and the rest were all different. According to Google, there are 35 or 37 cities in the U.S.A named Lebanon. So, my little find of fourteen different Lebanon cancels is fewer than half of those available.

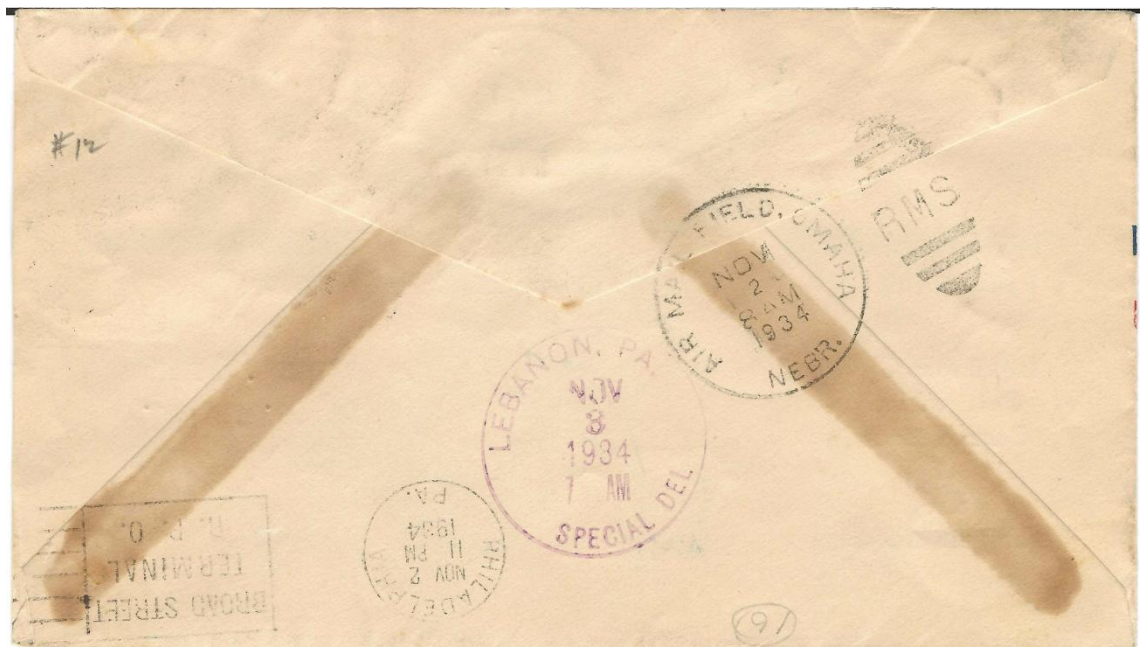
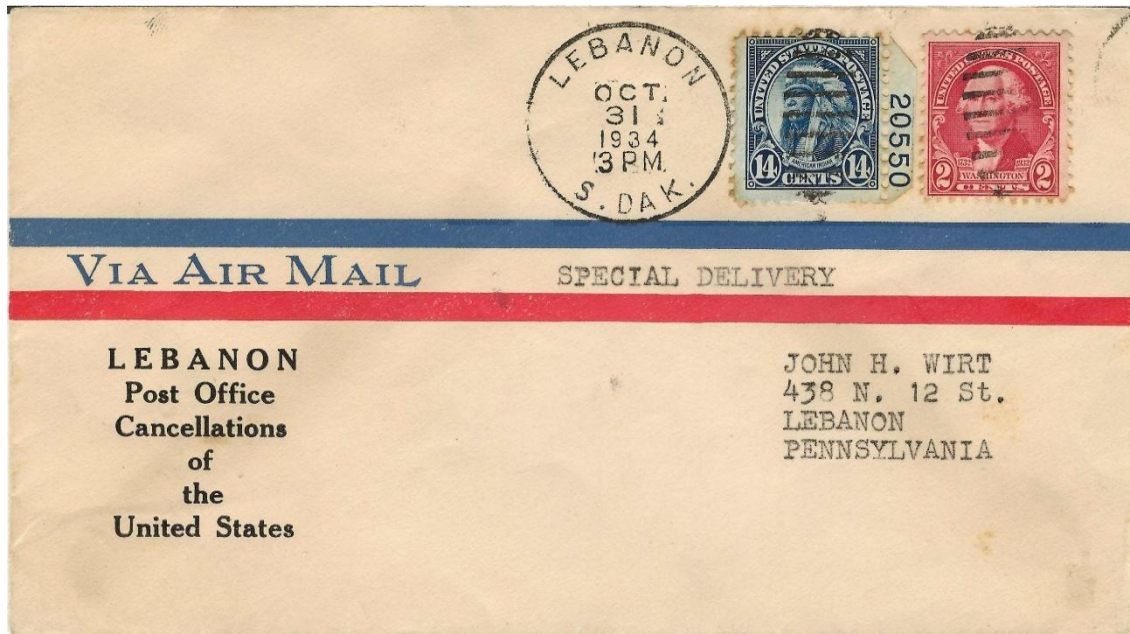


Above we have one of the two Lebanon, PA covers. This one is signed by the mayor and the postmaster. These covers were obviously prepared by a stamp collector. A nice touch here is the one-cent over-franking with a block of four stamps from the Scott #498e booklet pane.

Shown following is a cover (front and back) from Lebanon, South Dakota (Who knew?). Lebanon, SD is squarely in the middle of nowhere! It is 125 miles from Sioux Falls and its population was 42 in 2024. Its 1930-35 population was about 330. The town size is only 40% of the size of New York's Central Park!

This cover entered the mail stream at Lebanon, SD at 3 p.m. on Oct. 31, 1934. Several markings on the back of the cover help us to determine the route to Lebanon, PA. The first is a clearly struck duplex AIR MAIL FIELD, OMAHA / NEBR. at 8 a.m. on Nov. 2, 1934. Attached is a barred oval RMS marking. So, somehow this cover traveled from Lebanon, SD to Omaha, Nebraska. There it was put on a train to Philadelphia. This is confirmed by a Philadelphia machine cancel, BROAD STREET TERMINAL R.P.O., at 11 p.m. on Nov. 2, 1934. That's 15 hours in transit from Omaha to Philadelphia. (600 miles at an average speed of 40 MPH) The next, and final, back stamp is a Lebanon, PA. / Special Del CDS at 7 a.m. on Nov. 3, 1934. This shows 8 hours in transit from Philadelphia to Lebanon, Pa. Train or truck?

And the postage? I've got questions. Air mail postage was 8-cents. Special Delivery postage was 15-cents. This cover is franked with 16-cents postage. Was the 15-cent Special Delivery rate all-inclusive? But the plate number single of the 14-cent stamp is a nice touch!



The remaining covers are (alphabetically) from Lebanon, Cal., Lebanon, Conn., Lebanon, Ill., Lebanon, Ind., Lebanon, Kans., Lebanon, KY., Lebanon, MO., Lebanon, NY., Lebanon, Ohio, Lebanon, OKLA., Lebanon, OREG., and Lebanon, WIS. I'm sure that among these there are several intriguing tales like that of Lebanon, SD.

PNCs – no, not the local bank!



For our purposes, PNC stands for Philatelic Numismatic Covers. I'm not sure how big or small the market is for these items. But I have a mini-collection of three.

First off, we have the \$2 bill issued in celebration of our bicentennial in 1976. Those of you who were around at that time will remember those euphoric times when there seemed to be an unlimited supply of "Bicentennial This-N-That." Fun times, really. It was the year I moved to Lancaster, and I was able to attend Interphil '76 in Philadelphia – my very first international stamp exhibition.

There's a lot of hype on the back side of this item. It proclaims, "This is the 1st official first day of issue of a United States currency". [\\$10 - \\$15 on eBay.](#)



Here we have a 5-cent coin FDC/PNC, billed as the Return to Monticello. Its immediate predecessor, in 2005, had the Ocean in View on the back. [\\$7 on eBay.](#)



Here we have another Bicentennial-related item. The medal is encased in plastic film and is not centered in the hole in the envelope. Their fault, not mine! The medal has Paul Revere on one side and a Lexington-Concord militiaman on the other. The block of stamps is the Military Uniforms set issued on July 4, 1975. [\\$8 - \\$20 on eBay.](#)



Here's a mini-collection of one. Fifty years ago, a dealer-friend found me and said I had to have this cover. I lived in Shreveport, LA at the time. The sharp-eyed of you have found the reason in the upper left corner. I spent the first eleven years of my life in Chicago. My first reaction was, "Who is Hinsdale?" I contacted the research department of the Chicago Public Library to see what they knew of the firm. All they could tell me was that it was a law firm. I determined that there is no familial relationship. Now in the 21st century, Google has made me no smarter on this subject! This turned out to be an expensive piece of memorabilia. The 7-cent stamp is Scott #214 and is worth \$90 on cover. The U-311 envelope is pretty common.

Mini-Minnie Collection



Artificial ingredients: What are the five most popular world stamps in 2025?

Editor's note: the following bit of prose was generated by presenting ChatGPT, an artificial intelligence software, the following prompt: "Using stamp collecting hobby sources, generate a list of the five most popular stamps in the world in 2025, along with reasons supporting their popularity." The results are interesting and, to my estimation, rational, even if they aren't accurate. I cannot find a "Chinese Junk" stamp from 1897! Maybe the year should be 1913? It just goes to show you that the internet can't always be an adequate substitute for the knowledge of a seasoned philatelist.

Sure! While I can't access real-time data about specific stamps in 2025, I can make an educated guess based on current trends, market behavior, and the types of stamps that have historically been and are likely to remain popular among collectors. Here are five stamps that are likely to be among the most popular in 2025, along with reasons supporting their popularity:



"Blue Mauritius stamp sold for \$1,148,850 in 1993" – Pinterest.de

1. The "Blue Mauritius"

- Reason for popularity: The "Blue Mauritius" is one of the rarest and most sought-after stamps in the world. Known for its history and rarity, it was issued in 1847 in Mauritius. Only a few copies are believed to exist today, and their rarity and historical significance make it highly coveted among collectors and investors.
- Current trend: With stamp collecting evolving into an investment market, the "Blue Maritius" remains at the top of any list of highly valuable stamps. If any of

these stamps are sold or discovered in 2025, it would likely dominate headlines and continue to be in high demand.

2. The “Penny Black”

- Reason for popularity: The world’s first postage stamp, the “Penny Black”, was issued in 1840 in the United Kingdom. Its historical significance as the first postage stamp ever issued makes it a staple in the collections of serious philatelists.
- Current trend: With its rich history and status as the “grandfather” of stamps, collectors will continue to pursue this piece of history, especially as interest in Victorian-era collectibles is at a high point. Its continued prominence in major auctions and as a symbol of the early postal system guarantees its place as one of the most popular stamps.

3. The “Inverted Jenny”

- Reason for popularity: The “Inverted Jenny” is an American stamp that was issued in 1918 with a printing error. The aircraft on the stamp was printed upside down, making it one of the most valuable and iconic error stamps in the world.
- Current trend: The error nature of the stamp and the legend behind it (where only a few misprints made it into circulation) ensures it remains extremely popular. As American philately continues to grow, the “Inverted Jenny” will likely remain in high demand, especially among error stamp collectors.



“Stamp sells for \$300,000 found in old album in NZ.” – glenstephens.com

4. The “Tiflis Stamp”

- Reason for popularity: The Tiflis stamp, issued in Georgia in 1857, is highly prized because of its rarity, historical value, and the fact that it was used during the short period that Georgia was part of the Russian Empire. A limited number of these stamps were printed, making them incredibly valuable.
- Current trend: There is a growing interest in regional and empire-related stamps as collectors look beyond the traditional European and American markets. This stamp is especially popular among collectors interested in Russian and Caucasian history, and its rarity ensures it will remain in demand.

5. The “Chinese Junk” stamps (1897)

- Reason for popularity: Issued by China in 1897, these stamps are particularly popular due to their iconic design featuring a Chinese junk (a traditional sailing vessel). The stamps are sought after for both their aesthetic appeal and the connection they have to Chinese maritime history.
- Current Trend: With increasing interest in East Asian collectibles and the rise of collectors focused on Chinese cultural and historical items, the “Chinese Junk” stamps will likely see continued growth in popularity. They’re relatively affordable compared to some of the more famous error stamps, yet still pack significant value due to their scarcity.

ARE YOU SURE?

By Richard Colberg

While still in France, I attended the June 2025 meeting of the Paris Stamp Club. This was a special event on a couple of fronts. One, in recent years it has been a tradition to hold the June meeting in a dining room at the French Senat. The dining rooms are strictly a private deal! But a member of the club is the head of security at the Senat. So, he’s our get in free card. And two, our get in free member is retiring in November. Thus, this was the end of an era.

As is custom, the dinner was preceded by 3-4 15-minute philatelic presentations by club members. I did this last year.

One of this year’s presentations was titled, “*Courriers des Élections Sénatoriales*” by member Clément Chevalier. This translates to *Senatorial Election mail*. The presentation centered around the picture below.

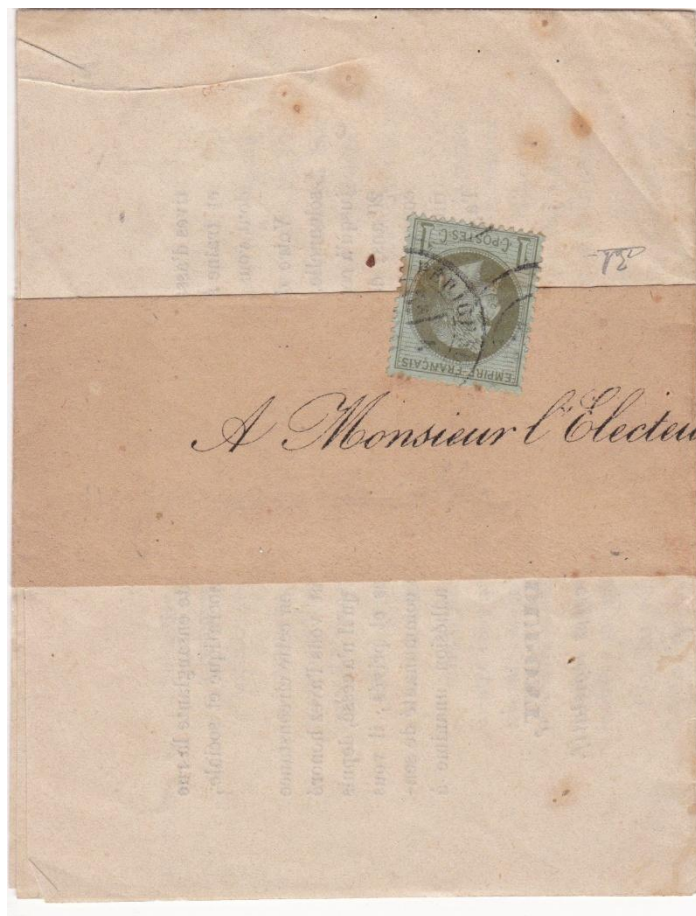
This is a ballot as sent. It is addressed to Mister Elector. The darker colored paper is a band around the ballot. The stamp was used to seal everything closed and maintain secrecy. The sharp-eyed of you will notice that the stamp is cancelled but the cancel does not tie the stamp to the document!

At this point in the presentation there was heard dissent from an attendee. Hold on Kemo Sabe! One of the club members is Jean-Francois Brun, one of the foremost philatelic experts in France. Jean-Francois was taking issue with the cancellation.

The presenter maintained that the stamp was cancelled off-line like a precancel. This is an 1870s document. The stamp on the document was issued in 1870. Precancelled stamps came into being in France in 1893, but not in the format seen here. The cancellation on the stamp is a Pothion Type 17 or 18 CDS, in use in the mid-1870s.

It would appear that the stamp must have had gum on it when it was applied to the document. This would add credibility to the stamp having been cancelled off-line as a mint stamp. But Jean-Francois wasn't having any of that. In the end, the presenter and expert agreed to disagree.

The type of "discussion" we witnessed that evening is exactly what kept me from making a presentation to the club on *any* French philatelic subject for several years. If you're not really, really sure, keep your mouth shut! I am surer these days and last year made a presentation of my French R.P.O. exhibit. I got through it intact.



Lebanon Stamp Collectors Club Calendar

Please contact the editor if you are interested in presenting at one of our monthly meetings.

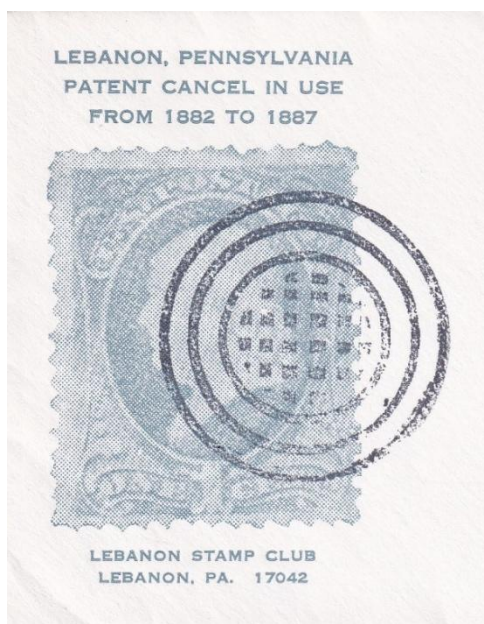
Date	Presenter and Subject
August 19, 2025	It's a Rum Tale – Mike Bach
September 16, 2025	Civil War Pension Philately – Scott Ney
October 21, 2025	
November 18, 2025	
December 16, 2025	Holiday Dinner at The Rotunda Restaurant and Pub

The Lebanon Stamp Collectors Club thanks the Philatelic Society of Lancaster County for hosting our affiliate page, which is accessible by clicking the following link:

[The Lebanon Stamp Collectors Club – Philatelic Society of Lancaster County \(lcps-stamps.org\)](http://lcps-stamps.org)

The PSLC Events Calendar is located at the following link:

[Philatelic Society of Lancaster County – Award-winning, non-profit community organization dedicated to promoting stamp and postal history collecting as a hobby for education and fun. \(lcps-stamps.org\)](http://lcps-stamps.org)



The Lebanon Stamp Collectors Club Lebanon, PA 17042 – 17046



The Overprint

Newsletter of the Reading Stamp Collectors' Club

**Meetings held at Calvary Lutheran Church,
1009 Elizabeth Avenue in Laureldale.**

**Elizabeth Avenue crosses Kutztown Road in the Muhlenberg Township area.
(About a mile north of Rt 222)**

**Meetings are the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.
(doors open around 6:30 for pre meeting social time)**

TUESDAY September 2nd

**THE TOPIC IS:
"Stamps from Countries that no longer exist"**

Presenter: All Members

**Those attending this meeting should bring a philatelic
item to share with other members.**

Happiness is... a stamp collection: Royal Mail celebrates 75 years of Peanuts

Charlie Brown, Snoopy and the gang are back – this time with a delightful British twist. To mark the 75th anniversary of the beloved Peanuts comic strip, Royal Mail has unveiled a charming new set of stamps. Expect postboxes, seaside sandcastles, and even Buckingham Palace cameos.

Written By: [Katy Cowan](#)

17 July 2025



It was the psychological grounding of our youth. High-brow cartoon entertainment for inquisitive young minds. And I've never been able to shake off the Lucy nickname – mostly because I was always the one offering unsolicited advice (usually from behind an imaginary lemonade stand). So when I heard Royal Mail was marking Peanuts' 75th anniversary with a set of celebratory stamps, my inner child beamed.

The special edition, designed entirely by [Interabang](#), includes eight beautiful designs featuring Charles M. Schulz's iconic characters, but this time, with some heartwarming British details thrown in. Snoopy perches on a red postbox with Woodstock. Lucy and Linus build sandcastles at the seaside. Charlie Brown and Franklin have a kickabout. And the whole gang enjoys tea and cake in true UK fashion.

You'll also spot Snoopy and Woodstock on guard outside Buckingham Palace, while Schroeder tickles the ivories to Elgar's Pomp and Circumstance, joined by an unusually enthusiastic Lucy and Charlie Brown.

It's a lovely, nostalgic nod to a comic strip that has stood the test of time, one that still makes us laugh, reflect, and occasionally cry, three-quarters of a century later.

First published in 1950, Peanuts became a global phenomenon. At its height, the strip appeared in over 2,600 newspapers, including the Daily Mail here in the UK. Schulz's cast of anxious, overthinking, endlessly relatable kids struck a chord with audiences everywhere – and that appeal hasn't dimmed.

"For generations, Peanuts has brought laughter, comfort, and quiet wisdom," said David Gold from Royal Mail. "This stamp collection is a heartfelt tribute to Charles M. Schulz's enduring legacy and the timeless charm of his comic strip."

And while Snoopy might have taken a few detours over the years – from moon missions with NASA to high fashion collabs – the heart of Peanuts remains the same: a quiet, comforting celebration of the human experience, with just the right mix of melancholy and joy.

If you fancy getting your hands on the full set (and let's face it, who wouldn't?), the stamps are available to pre-order now from royalmail.com/peanuts, with general release starting 24 July (on our 16th birthday). There's even a presentation pack if you're feeling fancy.

It's a fitting tribute to the world's favourite beagle, and a reminder that, no matter how grown-up we get, we're all still kids at heart... just trying to kick that football before it gets pulled away again.



New sprayed-on postmark for the U.S. mail service 250



Philatelic Foreword by Jay Bigalke

A new sprayed-on postmark celebrating the 250th anniversary of the United States Postal Service began appearing on mail in July 2025. The design features a stylized eagle in flight alongside the text marking the Postal Service's historic milestone.

These sprayed-on cancellations are appearing on letter mail across the country as part of the yearlong recognition by the Postal Service of its founding in 1775. Keep an eye out for them. While the clarity and placement may vary, collectors are beginning to report nice examples turning up in daily mail.

The USPS introduced a dynamic Eagle in Flight emblem on April 25, crafted in collaboration with branding agency Turner Duckworth. The symbol features a majestic bald eagle poised mid-takeoff, perched atop the bold "USPS 250" typography in classic USPS red, white, and blue. This refreshed design pays homage to the iconic sonic eagle logo of 1993 and the original 1970 postal seal, symbolizing the agency's heritage of connecting Americans while projecting its readiness to serve into the future.

The postmark example nearby is the USPS publicity image for the postmark, minus the location information of the cancellation. On the actual postmark the eagle is closer to the center with the years 1775 and 2025 within the two bars as shown.

For collectors intrigued by postmarks, I highly recommend exploring the website of the Post Mark Collectors Club at www.postmarks.org. You'll find directories of post offices, research resources, and details about the Margie Pfund Memorial Postmark Museum and Research Library near Bellevue, Ohio.

The club's site also includes an extraordinary gallery of more than 30,000 photos of post offices across the United States, its territories, and even a few international locations. I've visited the museum myself and found it well worth the stop — especially if your travels bring you near Cleveland.

Courtesy of Linn's Stamp News:

Penny Black and Mulready Covers – Follow-up

Penny Black first official day of use

The Corinphila auction of 2–7 June also included the 'World's First Postage Stamps – The Simon Beresford-Wylie Collection'. One of the highlights from the sale was a 6 May use of the Penny Black, which was the first official day of use (lot 35026). The cover bore a 1d intense black (EA) from plate 1a, with clear to large margins, which had been used as wafer seal on the reverse of a folded entire sent from Bath to Wells. One of only two recorded examples from this date with the adhesive used as a wafer seal, it was tied by a red Maltese Cross cancellation and had a neatly struck Bath

CDS of 6 May alongside. There was a further Maltese Cross strike on the front. Using the 1d black as a wafer seal was contrary to regulations, and it is



most likely the postal clerk was still unfamiliar at this early stage with the appropriate procedure and used the adhesive both as an



indicator of prepayment and to seal the wrapper. The second Maltese Cross strike on the front further indicated some confusion as to the proper usage of the

new stamps. Featuring some restoration, the cover made CHF42,000.

SOLD FOR £38,239

Stanley Gibbons Sale



A stamps and covers of the world sale, including Great Britain, is taking place on 30–31 July. One of the highlights is an 1840 2d Mulready lettersheet (stereo a105) (lot 66). Sent from Whitchurch

in Hampshire to London, it was uprated with two four-margined 1d blacks (FC/FD) from plate 1a, which were tied by clean, red Maltese Crosses, with another strike cancelling Britannia. There was a light 'Sutton Scotney/Penny Post' receiving handstamp alongside. The reverse had a Whitchurch datestamp of 'MY 15 1840' and London arrival handstamp for the following day. Used on the 10th official day of use, it has an estimate of £8,000–£10,000.

Penny Black block

A highlight from outside of the USA in the Siegel 'Rarities of the World' sale on 25 June was a very fine block of nine of the Great Britain 1840 Penny Black (lot 291). Few blocks of the Penny Black still exist of this size and only a handful exist in blocks larger than nine. From plate 4 and lettered G-I to IK, this block featured balanced margins all around, a superbly detailed impression, full original gum and only a minor imperfection (faint toning at left), ranking it among the finest quality blocks of nine (or larger) in existence. In a deep intense shade, its hammer price of \$80,000 exceeded its \$50,000–\$75,000 estimate.



SOLD FOR £59,342

