

The PhilateliKid

The newsletter for Stamp Collecting Clubs for Kids (SCCFK)

Collect Stamps (The Most Educational Hobby)

www.stampcollectingclubsforkids.org

November 1, 2023

In the May 2022 issue of *The PhilateliKid*, we began brief descriptions of various “Back of the Book” (“BOB”) listings in the Scott Catalogues. In subsequent issues we looked at stamps which begin with the letter “B,” “C,” “CE,” “CL,” “CM,” “CB,” “CO,” “E,” “D,” “F,” “FA,” “J,” “K,” “L,” “LO,” “O,” “PR,” “PN,” “PS,” “WS,” “BK,” “Q,” “JQ,” “QE,” “CVP,” “WX,” “QI,” “#X,” “REA,” “RV,” and “RY.” This month we will look at

“-P.”

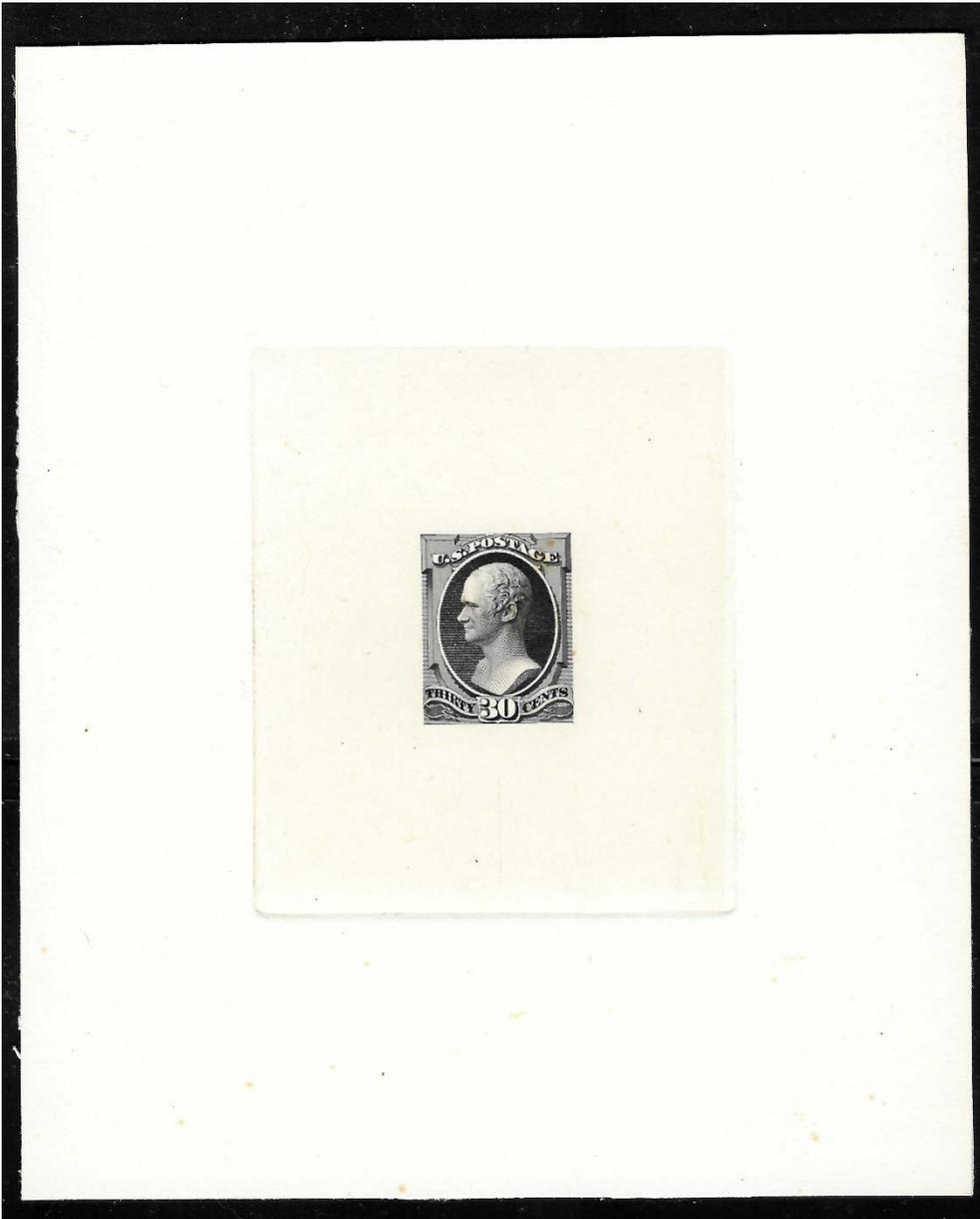
**Stamps Having a capital “P”
within the Scott number:
“-P”**

Stamps in the Scott Catalogue with the capital letter “P” in the catalog number are Proofs.

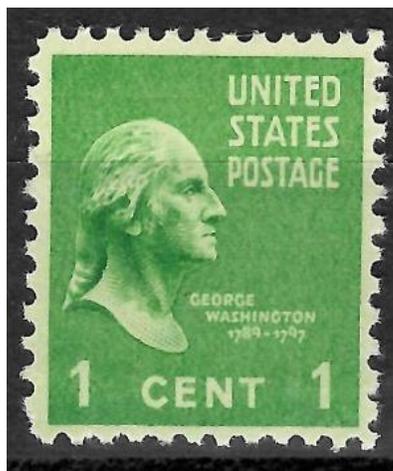
The capital “P” is preceded by a number that corresponds to the number of the listing of the stamp in the catalog. Hence 154P1 is the first proof of Scott catalog stamp number 154. If there is a number other than “1” after the capital letter “P” it means that more than one type of proof of that stamp exists.

A proof is an exact copy of the stamp that is yet to be printed. Proofs are not valid for postage. Hence proofs are listed only in unused condition.

On the left is Scott 154P1. It is pictured at actual size.



Prexies



On various days in 1938, the United States Post Office Department (USPOD) issued a series of stamps called the Presidential Issue, but stamp collectors commonly call them “Prexies.” It consists of 32 stamps featuring all the deceased Presidents of the United States as of that date, with the values ranging from ½ ¢ to \$5.00. The Scott numbers for these stamps begin with #803 and end with #834. It is interesting to note that each stamp in the series, shows

a U.S. President, with the exception of the ½ ¢, 1 ½ ¢ and the 4 ½ ¢ stamps which feature Benjamin Franklin, who never was President, Martha Washington, wife of our first President, and a drawing of the White House.

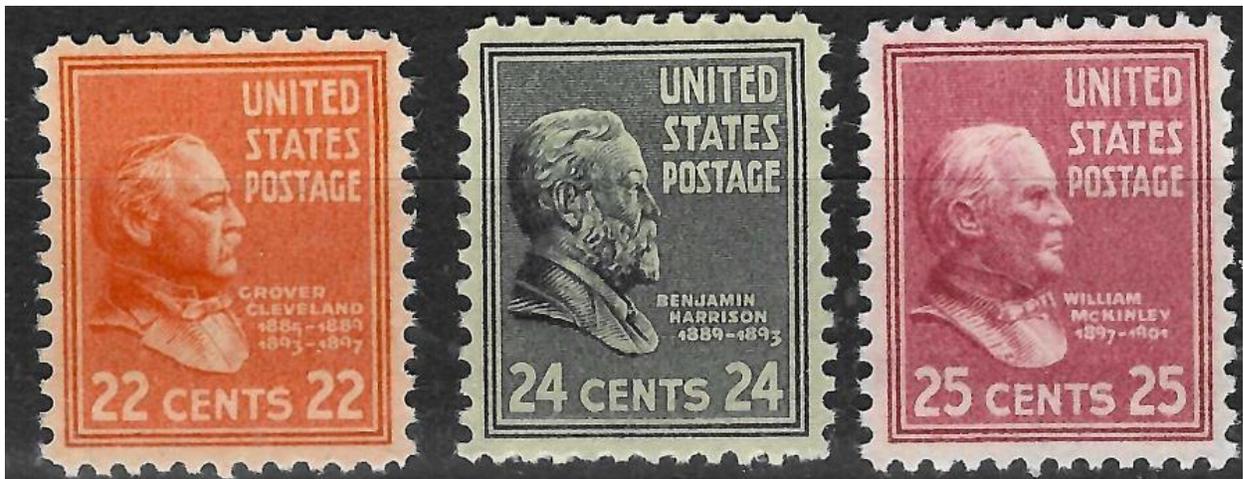


The Prexie denominations increase in order of the Presidents who served. Hence, the 2¢ stamp is of President John Adams, the 2nd President, and the 3¢ stamp featuring Thomas Jefferson who was the 3rd President, and so forth. That resulted in some very unusual denominations of stamps being issued, for no apparent need postally, such as a 17¢ stamp (the 17th President, Andrew Johnson, who became President after our 16th President, Abraham Lincoln, was assassinated) and a 21¢ stamp (the 21st President, Chester Arthur.)

Grover Cleveland, the 22nd President is on the 22¢ stamp, and Benjamin Harrison, the 23rd President is on the 24¢ stamp, and **there was not a 23¢ stamp.**



Could that have been an error? Not really, for you see, Grover Cleveland served not only as our 22nd President, being succeeded by Benjamin Harrison, but then Grover Cleveland served again, 4 years later, as our 24th President. Apparently, the Post Office Department did not think it was necessary to feature Grover Cleveland on a 22¢ stamp and also again on a 24¢ stamp. I do not know why the 23rd president was on a 24¢ stamp, though. Why not a 23¢ stamp, and then skip the 24¢ stamp? I am guessing, but I suppose that someone said that there would be almost no use for a 23¢ stamp, but that a 24¢ stamp would get a little use. The 25¢ stamp shows President William McKinley, who, served after Grover Cleveland's second term, making President McKinley the "25th" President.



Apparently calmer heads then prevailed, so the 26th President, Theodore Roosevelt, was NOT on a 26¢ stamp. The denomination jumped to a more useful amount: 30¢. The 27th President, William Howard Taft was on a 50¢ stamp, President Woodrow Wilson, the 28th President, was on a \$1 stamp, Warren G. Harding, was on the \$2 stamp, and the last deceased President as of 1938, Calvin Coolidge, is featured on the \$5 stamp.

Each Prexie featured not only an image of the President, but the name of the President, and the dates served. There are many interesting facts concerning this series, and here are just a few. The first 5 Presidents had no middle name. There were 2 Presidents named John Adams. The 2nd John Adams is identified using his middle name: John Quincy Adams. President Harrison, our 9th President, had his full middle name spelled out on the stamp, thus "William Henry Harrison." President Taft was the only other President for which his full middle name was spelled out on the stamp, "William Howard Taft." It makes sense to differentiate the two President Adams by using their middle names (the first President Adams did not have a middle name) but why Presidents William Harrison and William Taft? There must be some reason, but it is a mystery to me! Also, note that President Grant has a middle initial, "S" after his first name.

Hey kids! Here is a challenge for you. What was the “S” an abbreviation of? Write me, and the first 10 responses with the correct answer will receive a free 18¢ President Grant stamp. (Be sure to write you name and address on your reply.)

Q. 1. What was Grant’s birth name?

Q. 2. Was a mistake made of Grant’s name on his congressional appointment to West Point?

Q. 3. Was Grant known as “Uncle Sam Grant” or simply “Sam” by his West Point classmates?

Q. 4. Who is buried in Grant’s tomb?

Q. 5. Where is Grant’s tomb located?

Q 6.. Who is the only President that filed for personal bankruptcy?

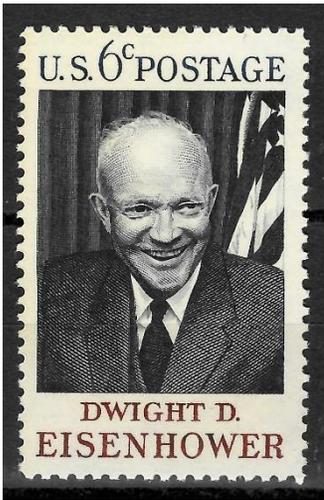
When the Prexies were issued by the Post Office Department in 1938, the only living former President was Herbert Hoover, who eventually was commemorated on a U.S. stamp in 1966, Scott # 1269 It was issued on August 10, 1965, the year after his death on October 20, 1964. He was the 31st President. The tradition for 30 years was that the Post Office issued a stamp on the birthday of the deceased president on the year immediately after his death. President Hoover was born on August 10, 1874.



Franklin D. Roosevelt, our 32nd President, died on April 12, 1945. He was commemorated on four stamps, each issued on a different date in 1945 or 1946, Scott # 930, 931, 932, and 933. The 3¢ stamp was issued on June 27, 1945, just 2 months and 15 days after his death.

President Herbert Hoover, Scott 1269, issued August 10, 1965. He died on October 20, 1964. His birthdate was A 10, 1874. President Harry Truman, Scott 1499, issued on May 8, 1973. He was born on May 8, 1884, and died on December 26, 1972.



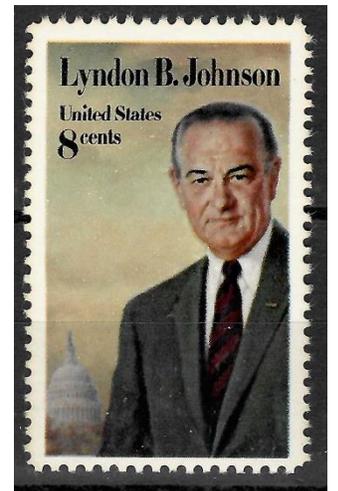


President Dwight D. Eisenhower, was commemorated on a stamp issued on October 14, 1969, Scott #1383, He was born on October 14, 1890, and died on March 28, 1969.

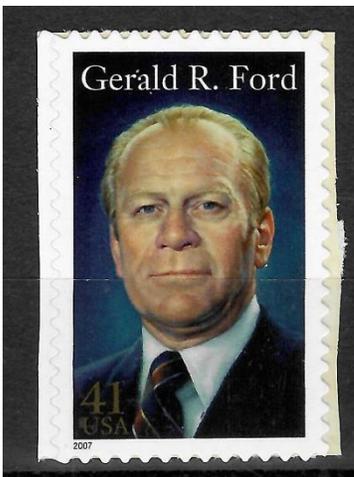
President John F. Kennedy, was assassinated on November 22, 1963. He was born on May 29, 1917. The stamp commemorating him was issued on May 29, 1964, Scott # 1246.



President Lyndon Johnson, was born on August 27, 1908, and died on January 22, 1973. He is commemorated on a stamp issued on August 27, 1973, Scott 1503.



President Richard Nixon, was born on January 9, 1913, and died on April 22, 1994. The stamp commemorating him was issued on April 26, 1995, Scott 2955.

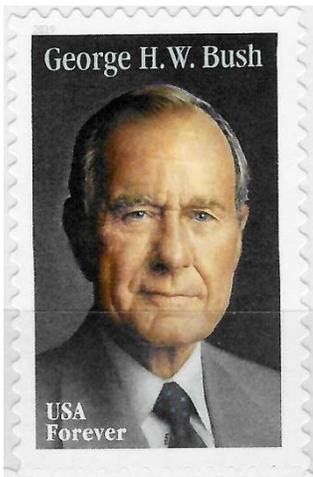


President Gerald Ford was born on July 14, 1913, and died on December 26, 2006. The stamp commemorating him was issued on August 31, 2007, Scott # 4199.

As of this writing, President Jimmy Carter is still living, and according to custom will not be commemorated on a U.S. stamp until after his death. However, his successor, President Ronald Reagan died on June 5, 2004. He was born on February 6, 1911.



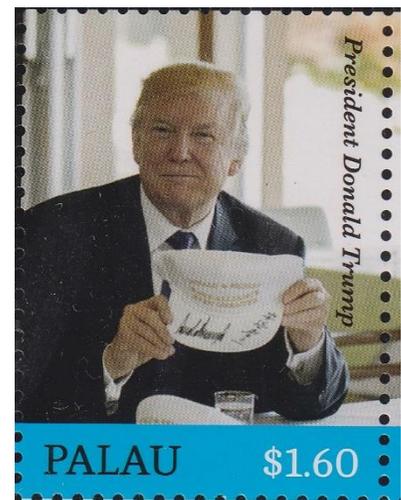
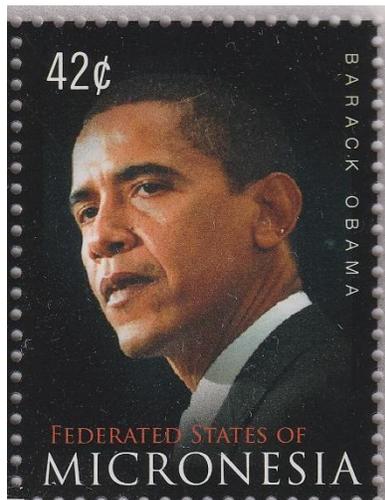
The stamp commemorating President Ronald Reagan was issued on February 9, 2005, Scott 3897. (Left.) It was denominated 37¢, the cost of a one ounce first class letter. However, shortly thereafter the rate increased 2¢ to 39¢. The USPS decided to issue the exact same stamp, but denominated 39¢ on June 14, 2006, Scott 4078. (Right.)



President George H.W. Bush, was born on June 12, 1924, and died on November 30, 2018. The stamp commemorating him was issued on June 12, 2019, Scott 5393.

All other past Presidents are still living: Jimmy Carter, Bill Clinton, George W. Bush, Barack Obama, and Donald Trump. Many foreign countries commemorate individuals while they are still living, so the current living Past Presidents are found commemorated on many foreign stamps.

Below are stamps from foreign countries featuring three of our living Past Presidents.



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