

The PhilateliKid

The newsletter for Stamp Collecting Clubs for Kids (SCCFK)

Collect Stamps (The Most Educational Hobby)

www.stampcollectingclubsforkids.org

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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,” “RY,” “-P,” “UX,” “SPCVP,” “U,” “UY,” and “UC.” This month we will look at “R.”

Stamps Beginning with the prefix “R.” (Part 1)

Stamps that begin with “R” are designated “Revenue” stamps. The term “revenue” is difficult for beginner stamp collectors to understand because ALL stamps issued by a government office can be considered “revenue” stamps, including all postage stamps. The stamps that are designated “R” however, are NOT valid for postage, and thus cannot be used to mail anything. The purpose of revenue stamps is to collect a tax (“fee”) on a whole variety of different items, from documents to telegrams to playing cards and wills. All the stamps we have looked at heretofore have been some kind of revenue stamp, including many that were valid to pay postage.

The *Scott Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps & Covers* (“Scott”) has a very large section devoted to Revenue stamps, and specialists can have a lot of fun with different types. For example, the first 101 stamps are listed with four different types: a. Imperforate b. Partial Perforations c. Old Paper and d. Silk Paper. By my count, only 21 are known in all of these types. At left are 3 types of the first Revenue stamp, R1.



Imperf. Part Perf. Perforated

The colors used for the early Revenue stamps were monochromatic (one color). The colors used were a dark red, blue, orange, green, brown and purple. The portrait of George Washington is a familiar one – based on the unfinished painting of Washington by Gilbert Stuart that is located at the Boston Athenaeum, in Boston Massachusetts.



Note that the 1¢ and 2¢ stamps are slightly smaller than the 3¢, 4¢, and 5¢ stamps. Also note that most of the cancellations were handwritten, but if you look carefully at the 4¢ stamp above, and the 20¢ stamp (next page) you will see that they have hand stamped cancellations, which are harder to find.



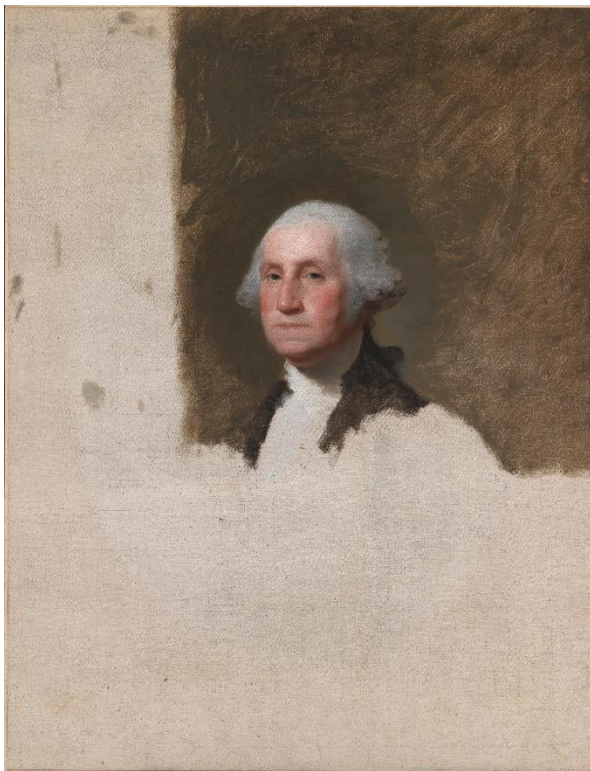
Beginning with the 25¢ denomination, the stamps are larger, have the numeric denomination only twice, and have a lot of fancy engraving making them a very attractive stamp to collect.



The **Athenaeum Portrait**, also known as **The Athenaeum**, is an unfinished painting by Gilbert Stuart of George Washington. Created in 1796, it is Stuart's most notable work. The painting depicts Washington at age 64, about three years before his death on December 14, 1799. It served as the model for the engraving that would be used for Washington's portrait on the U.S. \$1 bill. The **Boston Athenaeum** is one of the oldest independent libraries in the United States. It is also one of a number of membership libraries, for which patrons pay a yearly subscription fee (\$480.00) to use Athenaeum services. The institution was founded in 1807 by the Anthology Club of Boston, Massachusetts. Members are limited to faculty, students, or alumni of Caltech, or one of its affiliates.



Note that the size becomes larger with the 50¢ stamp



At left is the famous unfinished portrait of George Washington, who led the Army in the U.S. Revolution, and later became the first President of the U.S. The image from this portrait was used to make all the revenue stamps featured in this edition of *The Philatelikid*. You may also recognize it as the picture of George Washington that appears on the obverse of U.S. \$1 bill, with one major change. Note that in the **portrait**, Washington's face is turned to the **left**. However, the **\$1 bill image**, for some reason, unknown by me, the image is reversed, and Washington's face is turned to the **right**!

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