

The PhilateliKid

The newsletter for Stamp Collecting Clubs for Kids (SCCFK)

Collect Stamps (The Most Educational Hobby)

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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,” “BK,” “C,” “CB,” “CE,” “CL,” “CM,” “CO,” “CVP,” “D,” “E,” “F,” “FA,” “J,” “JQ,” “K,” “L,” “LO,” “O,” “-P,” “PN,” “PR,” “PS,” “Q,” “QE,” “QI,” “R” (Part 1), “R” (Part 2), “REA,” “RN-D,” “RV,” “RY,” “SPCVP,” “U,” “UC,” “UX,” “UY,” “WS,” “WX,” and “#X.” This month we will look at “REF.”

Stamps Beginning with the prefix “REF.”

The U.S. federal government has three co-equal branches, namely the Executive Branch (President and Vice President), the Judicial Branch (Judges and Justices), and the Legislative Branch. The Legislative Branch has two separate branches: The Senate, and the House of Representatives, which both hold their meetings in the U.S. Capitol building. The House of Representatives is also called the “Congress.”

There are two types of Committees in Congress. Committees which continue year after year are termed “standing committees. The other type of committee is called an *ad hoc* committee, which is established for a specific purpose, and when that purpose has been accomplished, the committee ceases to exist. Congress has 435 members and 20 standing committees. Committees hold meetings on various subjects and report to the entire House of Representatives with their recommendations.

One of those committees is the Judiciary Committee. It is very large (44 members) and very powerful. Every committee has a leader of that committee, who is designated the **Chairman** of the committee. The Chairman of such a powerful committee is a very powerful person.

Congress selects one of its members to be the Speaker of the House (often just called the



Henry Clay ^^^

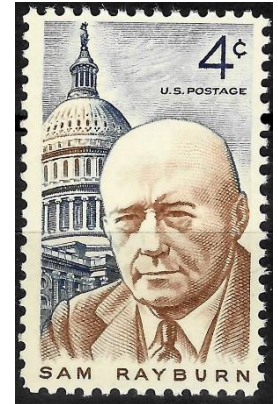
“Speaker.” The Speaker of the House is the most powerful person in the entire Congress, and according to the Constitution of the U.S., the Speaker of the House is third in line to the Presidency. That means that if the President and Vice President are both dead or incapacitated, the Speaker becomes the President. That has never happened.

There have been only 56 different people who have served as Speaker. Only three Speakers have been commemorated on U.S. stamps: Henry Clay (previous page), James K Polk (who later was elected President), and Sam Rayburn.



<< James K. Polk

Sam Rayburn>>



In 1919, the then Speaker of the House, Frederick H. Gillett, chose Representative Andrew Volstead to be the Chairman of the powerful House Judiciary Committee. In 1919 the Judiciary committee, under the leadership of Volstead, proposed, and saw passed an Act which became the 18th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, commonly called the “Volstead Act,” which prohibited the manufacture, transportation, and sale of alcoholic beverages (liquor, wine, and beer.) The 18th Amendment went into effect on January 17, 1920, and was repealed by the 19th Amendment, which went into effect on December 5, 1933.

In May, 1933, Congress redefined intoxicating beverages, and thus Fermented Fruit Juice became legal again. (Fermented means contains alcohol.) Nine different stamps were issued, for different size bottles, from 4 ounces to 32 ounces. Eight of those nine stamps have a catalog value of over \$150.00. The one shown here is the least expensive, with a catalog value of \$11.00 in used condition. There is listed a 10th stamp, which is an overprint on a beer stamp for ¼ barrel. It is rare, and has a catalog value (in *italics*, meaning it is rarely sold and value is difficult to determine) of \$40,000.00. The use of these stamps was discontinued when the Volstead Act was repealed on December 5, 1933. Hence, these Fermented Fruit Juice stamps were in use for less than one year. Note that in the corners of this stamp are the letters USIR, which stand for United States Internal Revenue.



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