

The PhilateliKid

The newsletter for Stamp Collecting Clubs for Kids (SCCFK)

Collect Stamps (The Most Educational Hobby)

www.stampcollectingclubsforkids.org

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Stamp of the Month



The stamp of the month this month is United States Scott 1035, issued on June 24, 1954. It replaced the “Prexie” Thomas Jefferson 3¢ stamp, Scott 807, which was issued on June 16, 1938. Described in Scott as deep violet in color, billions were produced and used until this series, known as the Liberty Series, was replaced gradually by the issuance of the Prominent Americans Series in the mid-1960s.

This very common stamp is shown in used condition with a short perf, a small thin, and off-center. Even in this condition it is **very desirable** to school-age children, most of whom (except those in the NYC area) have never seen the Statue of Liberty. This image was made in many different collectible formats, including tagged and untagged, booklet, sheet, and coil. It was widely precanceled. 366 plate numbers were used, including 128 plates for the coil version, so collecting plate number blocks or plate number singles is a lot of fun. Due to some post-printing errors in perforating, imperforate copies exist. There exist different types of printing, known as “dry printing” and “wet printing.” Covers exist to and from famous people and to and from interesting destinations. A more advanced collector can have a lot of fun with just this one stamp. If you want more information about plate numbers a brand new version of the Durland Standard Plate Number Catalog (2016) was unveiled at NY2016 and is available for sale at the United States Stamp Society’s website www.usstamps.org/store/ for only \$30.00

Damage to stamps, or When is Damage Good?

This is part of Chapter 5 of the unpublished book by Robert W. Martin titled Collecting Stamps?.

Stage 1 (of types of damage). Stamps damaged during the printing process. Stamps damaged during the printing process are termed Errors, Freaks, and Oddities.

During the printing process stamps can be damaged by damage to the plate, the paper, the ink, or by foreign objects that are embedded in the press, or the ink. Damage to the plate commonly results in a crack in the plate, which shows up as a line in the finished print. As the printing procedure progresses the crack may grow larger. The crack will then have different versions as it grows during printing of each subsequent sheet. Sometimes multiple cracks occur. On a single sheet, the crack may extend through more than one stamp, with many other stamps completely unaffected.

Another variety of plate damage is a piece of the plate breaking off. Depending on the type of printing, the missing piece of plate will show up on the final stamp as a colored spot or blotch, or an area where color is completely missing.

Another type of plate damage occurs when a foreign object becomes embedded in the plate. This can be an insect, a paper clip, a piece of paper, or virtually anything else. Once the problem is detected, the printer will remove the foreign object, or if impossible to remove, retire the plate from service. Already printed sheets are supposed to be disposed.

A seldom seen type of damage occurs when the sheet of stamps is printed on the wrong side of the paper which already had the gum applied, or when the sheet has already been printed on ungummed paper, and the gum afterward is applied on the wrong side, or both sides. When a sheet is printed on paper that has been gummed on both sides, the error is not really in the printing, but in the PAPER, which was not right. When an already printed sheet of stamps later has gum applied to the wrong side, the error occurs post-printing.

During the printing the paper may be folded in such a way that a portion of the paper receives no ink. A stamp affected by this type of damage appears to have a white space in the middle of the design, when the fold is expanded. Also the shape of the stamp is affected by the fold, when unfolded.

Occasionally a sheet is missing some of the required space, perhaps due from a tear in the sheet. The tear can be caused at any stage of the preparation for printing. Copies exist where the damage to the paper was repaired prior to printing, resulting in a normally appearing stamp, from the front, but on the reverse side is evidence of the repair. A careful examination of the front will also show evidence of the repair.

Damage can occur in the printing process where a stamp is supposed to have two, or more, colors, yet one or more of the colors is completely missing.

One spectacular form of damage is not considered damage at all. It occurs when the stamp is partially printed, and then is printed again with a different color, but the paper has been rotated 180 degrees, so that the second color is inverted. Although the design may be other than the center of the stamp, these types of misprinted stamps are called "inverted centers."

When it comes to damaged stamps that have reached the public, many stamp collectors do not want them, preferring to collect only undamaged stamps. It is interesting to note, however, that stamps that have been damaged in the printing process are usually worth considerably more than an undamaged stamp.

Comments? Write Robert W. Martin, P.O. Box 1809, Kihei, HI 96753-1809.

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