

# Lebanon Stamp Collectors Club

**June, 2020**

The June meeting of the Lebanon Stamp Collectors Club is cancelled, due to the ongoing public health emergency. But I hope you are encouraged by the progress that we have made together by “staying home and staying safe”, and hopefully we’ll have the opportunity to meet together at the library once again to talk stamps with each other soon.

## A Tale of Two Stamps

By Dick Colberg

I have long been fascinated by the stamps of Hawaii. If we neglect the Missionaries and Numerals, my collection is missing very little. Especially interesting to me are the imperforate King Kamehameha III and King Kamehameha IV issues of 1853 and 1861. They are a bit hard to keep track of because after they were issued, they were re-issued and issued with a variety of overprints: CANCELLED, SPECIMEN, and REPRINT. For our purposes here, I will deal with the 13-cent red King Kamehameha III stamp and the 2-cent red King Kamehameha IV stamp.



Scott #6

The 13-cent King Kamehameha III stamp (Scott #6) was engraved and printed in Boston on thick, hard paper and put on sale in Hawaii in May 1853. However, due to a postage rate change in the U.S. in 1855, the 13-cent stamp became needless. (5-cents Hawaii to the U.S. and 8-cents across the U.S. = 13-cents. The new rate was 5-cents Hawaii to the U.S and 12-cents across the U.S. = 17-cents.)

Apparently, due to demand from collectors and other governments for the obsolete 1853 stamps, the Hawaii postmaster ordered an additional, unknown, quantity of the 1853 stamps printed from the original dies. The paper was an ordinary white paper and the color was changed from dark red to dull rose – very hard to distinguish. These were sold at face value from the Honolulu post office in 1868. (Scott #11) Later in 1868 the remaining quantity of these re-issued stamps was overprinted SPECIMEN to prevent their use for postage. There were two different settings of the SPECIMEN type: low broad letters Scott 11S(A), shown here, and tall thin letters (Scott #11S(B)). After this printing, the dies were sent back to Hawaii from Boston, defaced, and scrapped.



Scott #11



Scott #11S(A)

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The Hawaii post office must have liked the additional revenue from selling obsolete stamps because in late 1887 the Hawaii postmaster general resurrected the 1853 dies and sent them, along with a couple of sheets of the stamps, to the American Bank Note Company in New York with an order to refurbish the dies and print 10,000 of each of the stamps.



Scott #11R

These new stamps, now called reprints, were on sale in 1889. (Scott #11R) There are a couple of distinguishing marks that make identification of the reprints easy. In 1892 the remainders of this printing were overprinted SPECIMEN. (Scott 11RS) Total quantity sold of 11R and 11RS was 1,696.

There exists a 13-cent stamp from this issue with a manuscript 5 in black ink. This was a provisional use owing to the lack of 5-cent stamps and the 13-cent stamp being obsolete and in excess. Its valid existence is in doubt; and it is pricey!



Scott #28

The 2-cent red King Kamehameha IV stamp was issued in 1861. The first, lithographed, version of this stamp was printed on horizontally laid paper and issued in 1861. These stamps were also printed in Boston. (Scott #27) At the same time, this stamp was also printed on vertically laid paper. (Scott #28) These two stamps are seen in two different colors: pale rose (1861) and carmine rose (1863).

Again, for revenue purposes, it was desired to have more stamps to sell to collectors. However, the lithographic stone had been cleared of its design, so an engraving plate was prepared. These stamps were printed on thin wove paper in 1869 and are called re-issues. (Scott #29) As there was already a 2-cent perforated stamp available for postage purposes, this stamp was not sold for postage. Sometime after these stamps went on sale, in 1869, the unused stock was overprinted CANCELLED. (Scott #29S)



Scott #29



Scott #29S

In 1885, again needing more 2-cent stamps for collectors, the postmaster general wanted to order more stamps. But, neither the lithographic stone for the 1861 stamps nor the engraving plate for the 1869

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stamps could be found. So the postmaster general sent a single 2-cent stamp and these instructions to the American Bank Note Company in New York: “The engraving, paper, colour of ink, printing and gumming to be as perfect an imitation of the original issue as it is possible to make it”. The order was for 10,000 stamps; 5,000 of which were to be overprinted SPECIMEN. (Scott #50 and #50S)



Scott #50



Scott #50S

In 1887, the Hawaii postmaster found the original litho stone for the 1861/63 stamps and the engraving plate for the 1869 issue. He sent the engraving plate back to the American Bank Note Company with instructions to “restore” it and make a new plate from it. 37,500 stamps were printed from this “new” plate. 7,500 in 1889 and 30,000 a year later in 1890. (Scott #51)



Scott #51



Scott #51S

In 1892, under yet another new postmaster, the remaining stock of these stamps was overprinted REPRINT. (Scott #51S) On January

28, 1897 all remaining stock was burned.

So, I guess I bought into the Hawaii postmaster’s scheme to get collectors to buy Hawaii’s stamps! Say Good Night, Gracie!

## Everyone wants to be #1

And everyone wants to have the #1 of their favorite country in their collection. This blog post from Delcampe, which was also shared by Dick, talks about some famous first stamps . . .

## Do you know the first stamps of these 10 Countries?

Written By Heloise

March 27, 2020

It is likely that many of our readers who are lovers of classical philately can answer this question without the slightest doubt, but a little revision can always be useful. So let's rediscover the N°1 of these countries according to the Yvert and Tellier catalogue.



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The first stamp of France, which is Republic since 1789, bears the face of the goddess Ceres although the official name of the stamp is "Republic". The stamp n°1 of the Yvert et Tellier catalogue is the 10c bistre with the effigy of Ceres. It was issued in 1850, which is special because the first stamp issued is listed as N°3. It is the 20c bearing the same face of Ceres.

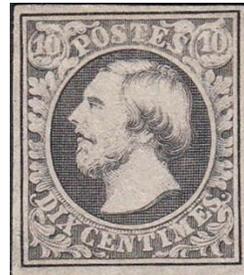


Spain: The first Spanish stamp dates back to 1850, it depicts Queen Isabella II in profile in white on a black background. This stamp has a face value of 6c and is part of a series of 5 stamps (other values : 12c lilac, 5r red-brown, 6r blue, 10r light green).



Great Britain: Not knowing about the One Penny black of

Great Britain issued in 1840 is unforgivable as it is simply the first stamp issued in the world. Bearing the face of Queen Victoria in white on a black background, it is by its small crown watermark which differentiates it from the 1864 reprints. The 2p blue was issued at the same time.



In Luxembourg, the first stamp issued is in the effigy of William III in profile in medallion on a brown-black background. It dates from 1852 and is part of a series of 2 stamps (the other value is 1s brown-red). In order to differentiate these first stamps from the following print, the watermark of the first issue is a W.



The first Swiss stamp comes from the canton of Geneva. It is a double 2\*5c stamp printed in black on a green background with the inscription "Port Cantonal" on the top. It bears the coat of arms of the Canton of Geneva. However, it was not until 1850 that the first stamp valid for the whole of Switzerland was issued.

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The first stamp of the former Italian States before unification was a series of 5 stamps of Lombardy-Venetia issued in 1850. When Italy became recognisable an independent nation in 1861, 4 stamps of the 4th issue of the Kingdom of Sardinia were first used, perforating them. It was not until 1863 that the first stamp bearing the word "Italian" appeared, a 15c stamp with the effigy of Victor-Emmanuel II.



The first Belgian stamp is bearing the effigy of Leopold I. It is the Epauettes issue which includes a set of two stamps, the 10c brown and the 20c blue. The first one is the 10c stamp issued in 1849. There are many different shades of this stamp.



As for Switzerland, the first German stamps were local

stamps. The first Empire stamp dates from 1872. With a face value of ¼ groschen it bears an embossed eagle in a medallion which is printed in purple.



The first stamps of the United States were first of all local stamps including the famous Blue Boy of Alexandria. We have to wait until 1847 for the first general issue: the first stamp of 5c with the effigy of Benjamin Franklin. It is part of a series of two stamps, the other bearing the face of George Washington and with a face value of 10c.



In the Netherlands, the first stamp issued is in the effigy of William III in profile, as a medallion on a blue background. Its face value is 5c. It dates from 1852 and is part of a set of three stamps (the other values : 10c carmine rose, 15c orange).

You don't have all these numbers 1 yet? Get these stamps on Delcampe!

<https://blog.delcampe.net/en/do-you-know-the-first-stamps-of-these-10->

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[countries/?utm\\_source=newsletter\\_auto&utm\\_medium=email](#)

## Do You Miss Baseball?

If you do, I'm sure you were delighted when you opened your mailbox and found your June issue of the *American Philatelist*. Baseball is the theme this month, and while owners and players are still negotiating a way to salvage a shortened season, we're compelled to entertain ourselves by remembering past diamond glories. Our hobby provides one way that we can do that.

In the article featuring the librarian at the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, who is also a stamp collector, he mentioned a former major leaguer named Forrest "Spook" Jacobs, whose personal stamp collection, which he titled "Mail it Home", was displayed at the hall in Cooperstown in 2008. I looked up Mr. Jacobs, and found out that he was a resident of Delaware. He passed away in 2011 in Milford, which is where my family and I are accustomed to stopping for lunch at Grotto Pizza on our way down to the seashore. While his time in the majors was short, you can find him on a Topps baseball card every year from 1954 – 1956 (the design each year was different, but they used the same picture of him for each card, which was typical for the time).

I know of one other former major leaguer who is a big stamp

collector. His name is Hy Cohen, and he was a young man from Brooklyn who had a "cup of coffee" in the big leagues, pitching 17 innings for the Chicago Cubs in the spring of 1955. I have a "government post card" he signed in my collection. While he wasn't in the big leagues long enough to be on his own bubble gum card, you can pick up a modern card for Mr. Cohen from the popular Jewish Major Leaguers set, which was issued by the American Jewish Historical Society in 2003.



## Creating Postal Souvenirs

I once mailed a letter from Rehoboth Beach just to see what postmark it would have on it when it got back to my mailbox, but I generally haven't been a collector of my own covers. As I was mowing the lawn the Sunday before Memorial Day weekend, I was thinking about the operating problems that the postal service is currently facing, which their employees must endure on top of the scary health situation that we have all

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been dealing with. I came up with an idea that will add period pieces to my collection, but I also hope my mail carrier will see some of them, and it will put a smile on his or her face.

I took some left-over “invitation style” envelopes, which I have had for many years due to their impractical size, and some address labels that have accumulated from the various charities that send them to me as tokens of appreciation, and created an envelope with a handwritten slogan such as “We Support the USPS” or “Thank You Letter Carriers” (I also opened up Wikipedia and added a significant moment from the history of the United States Post Office on others). I put a forever stamp on the envelope, and mailed it. When it returned, I finished the cover with some other mint stamps from my postage box (I put the stamps on after mailing, since, as most of us have learned, old postage tends to get ripped to shreds in modern processing equipment).

This project has allowed me to discover what many collectors have found out over the years: that it’s fun to create a special cover. In the cases where I put an encouraging slogan on the envelope, I also have the hope that someone will happen to read it, and it will make their day at work a little more pleasant. And while I know that my forever stamp and the other unused postage I am permanently taking out of circulation with this

project are just grains of sand on the beach of the USPS’ current financial woes, it’s satisfying to be adding these postally used but philatelically created items to my collection, which have been created with the purpose of keeping the postal service, and the great work that they do for all Americans, in mind.

By making their journey from my stamp table to a mailbox and back to my home again, they become something that I can look back on to remember these unusual times by.



What have you been up to the past few months? Let me know by sending me an email [stnst2@aol.com](mailto:stnst2@aol.com) and I will share your news with everyone!