

The PhilateliKid

The newsletter for Stamp Collecting Clubs for Kids (SCCFK)

Collect Stamps (The Most Educational Hobby)

www.stampcollectingclubsforkids.org

February 1, 2017

February is Black History Month

Stamp of the Month



February is Black History Month. Beginning in 1978 with a stamp featuring Harriet Tubman, The USPS has issued a new stamp every year featuring a famous African American. The individuals that have appeared on stamps so far have included Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., (1979), Benjamin Bannacker (1980), Whitney Young (1981) Jackie Robinson (1982), Scott Joplin (1983), Mary McLeod Bethune (1984), Sojourner Truth (1985), and dozens more. This month's stamp of the month was issued by the USPS on September 17, 1999. It was not part of the Black Heritage series, but was part of the souvenir sheet Celebrate the Century 1960's, Scott

3188a. Although easily found in mint condition as part of the souvenir sheet which contains 15 stamps featuring various different important events and people during the 1960's, this stamp is surprisingly hard to find in postally used condition.

Damaged Stamps Part 2 (from the unpublished book Collecting Stamps?)

This is a continuation of Chapter 5 from the unpublished book Collect Stamps? Part 1 of this was in the May 31, 2016 issue of the Philatelikid, which you can read at our website www.stampcollectingclubsforkids.org – click on “Newsletters” then go to June 2016.

Stage 1. 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, the paper, 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.

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."

More of this article will appear in future editions of *The Philatelikid*.

Visit our website at www.stampcollectingclubsforkids.org or www.yummystampcollecting.org

Stamp Collecting Clubs for Kids is a 501 C (3) organization. All donations of \$10 or more are provided written receipts.

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(A full color version of this newsletter is on our website.)