

# The PhilateliKid

***The newsletter for Stamp Collecting Clubs for Kids (SCCFK)***

**Collect Stamps (The Most Educational Hobby)**

[www.stampcollectingclubsforkids.org](http://www.stampcollectingclubsforkids.org) June 1, 2022

## **Catalogs, Part 2**

Last month, May 2022, we began brief descriptions of various “Back of the Book” (“BOB”) listings in the Scott Catalogues. We looked at stamps identified as “Semi-postals,” which begin with the letter “B” before each number and are listed in Scott Catalogues behind regular definitive and commemorative stamps, which do not have a letter prefix. This month we will look at listings for stamps issued for airmail service. In Scott Catalogues these stamps are listed behind Semi-postal stamps, and begin with the letter “C” followed by each number.

It should be noted that when Scott Catalogues list a stamp that is a variant of the regularly issued stamp, such as a stamp that has a portion of the image upside down, Scott often will list the variant as a “sub” number by using a lower-case letter. A well-known example is Scott United States number C3a, which features an airplane upside down compared to the rest of the image of the stamp.

## **Stamps beginning with the prefix “C.”**

Postage stamps as we know them began being issued in 1840 in Great Britain. Several other countries began issuing stamps, and by 1847 the United States issued its first postage stamps. Mail was received by the Post Office and delivered in the most expeditious manner to the recipient (also called the “addressee”), or at least that was the general idea. Today that is still the way the Post Office attempts to deliver mail from the senders to recipients.

Naturally, in 1847, mail was not delivered by automobiles because they were not yet invented. Various methods were in use back then, including carrying by hand, horse, horse-drawn trucks and streetcars, and trains. Bicycles had not yet been invented. Airplanes were not invented until 1903 so airmail delivery was not possible until the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Well, not exactly. There were other methods of delivery by air, such as balloons. However, the amount of mail delivered in the United States by any method other than airplane was miniscule. (More about “lighter-than-air” service later.)

By 1918 aircraft had improved to the point where the post office tried for the first time to offer a faster service to its customers – air mail. The first stamp issued to pay for air mail was a two-colored stamp with a face value of 24¢. These were issued by the post office and could be purchased individually, or in panes of 100 stamps, which could be purchased at the Post Office for \$24.00. That was a considerable sum of money at the time, equivalent to about one month’s pay for many workers.



By the end of 1918, the Post Office dropped its cost for an air mail letter of one ounce or less to only 6¢, still a costly amount – three times the expense of a “regular” letter which required only 2¢ postage. The cost of mailing by air was a complex calculation because it depended not only on the weight of the letter but also how far the letter was mailed.

Separate airmail service for mail sent from within the US to destinations within the US was discontinued in 1975. However, much first-class mail is still automatically sent by air to destinations within the US for no extra charge.

Airmail service for **International** mail continued to require a surcharge.

Today there are several organizations that specialize in the study of airmail and the various routes used and costs involved. The American Airmail Society has a wealth of information and can be located at [www.americanairmailssociety.org](http://www.americanairmailssociety.org).

## **Puzzle Solved**

Last month’s *The Philatelikid* posed a question as to why Scott Publishing Co. titles all its catalogs with the spelling “catalogues.” I had no idea why that spelling, a very old-fashioned spelling, is used. The question was passed to Charles Snee, the Senior Editor of all the Scott catalogs, who provided this answer:

Hello, Robert: A friend sent me a copy of the May 1, 2022, issue of *The Philatelikid*, which asks about Scott using the spelling “catalogue” on its catalog titles. This spelling has been in use since John Walter Scott published the first Scott catalog in 1867. Scott was also British, and “catalogue” is the British spelling. I hope this clears up any confusion. Cordially,

**Charles “Chad” Snee**  
**AMOS MEDIA**  
Senior Editor | **Linn’s Stamp News**

Now we know!

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