

The PhilateliKid

The newsletter for Stamp Collecting Clubs for Kids (SCCFK)

Collect Stamps (The Most Educational Hobby)

www.stampcollectingclubsforkids.org August 1, 2022

Celebrating our 20th Year!

Catalogs, Part 4

In the May 2022 issue of *The Philatelikid*, 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.” In the June issue we looked 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. In July we looked at BOB listings beginning with “CE,” “CL,” and “CM.”

Stamps Beginning with the prefix “CB.”

The Scott Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps & Covers does not have any listings that begin with “CB.” Certain foreign countries, such as Cyrenaica, and Egypt, have Scott listings with the “CB” prefix. It designates Semi-postal stamps that are designated Airmail. (If you are interested in what stamp collectors call “dead countries” – i.e. countries that no longer exist as a country issuing its own stamps, check out Cyrenaica, which now is part of Libya.)

Stamps Beginning with the prefix “CO.”

The Scott Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps & Covers does not have any listings that begin with “CO.” Certain foreign countries, such as Canada, Costa Rica, Mexico, and Nicaragua have Scott listings with the “CO” prefix. It designates Official stamps (for “Official government business) that are for Airmail.

Stamps Beginning with the prefix “D.”

The Scott Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps & Covers does not have any listings that begin with “D.” A short survey of foreign countries has not resulted in any Scott listing that begins with “D.” For some reason, Scott apparently just skipped over using ‘D’ and used the next letter, “E.”

Stamps Beginning with the prefix “E.”

Scott Catalogues use the prefix “E” to signify stamps that are Special Delivery stamps. The first Special Delivery stamps featured a messenger who is running and carrying one letter in his left hand. That lasted from 1885 to 1902, when a new Special Delivery stamp was issued.



The new Special Delivery stamps issued in 1902 featured a messenger on a bicycle.

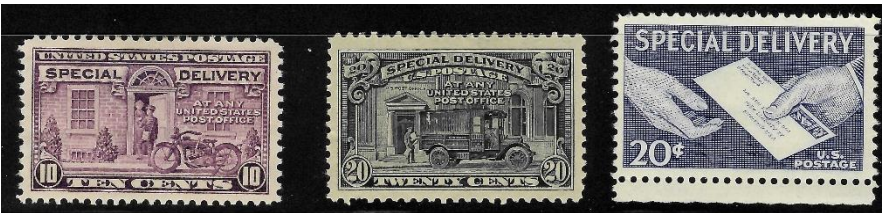
A few years later, in 1908, a green Special Delivery stamp was issued featuring the "Helmut of Mercury." It is a hat (helmet) with wings sprouting from the sides set in a sprig of flowers.



Who was Mercury? For starts, Mercury was not a person at all. Mercury was a Roman god. In Greece the same god was named Hermes. Mercury often is depicted as a person (man) with wings in his feet. I guess the designer of this stamp decided it would look better to have wings on a helmet, with no image of a human-like figure, (who supposedly would be wearing the helmet) included in the design. Mercury is considered a god of commerce and speed. Apparently, this stamp, which had a boxier appearance than a commemorative stamp, was not very popular at the time, and now sells in used condition for over \$10. As far as I know, this is the only US stamp that alludes specifically to a Roman god.



Special Delivery stamps are fun to look at for they continue to feature fast ways of delivering mail, including motorcycles and trucks. In 1954 a new Special Delivery stamp was issued that shows one



bodiless hand, presumably of a letter carrier, handing an envelope to another bodiless hand. The "bodiless hands" Special Delivery stamps have an interesting feature. They picture an envelope with

stamps on the envelope. In other words, a stamp with stamps on it, and the larger of the two stamps on the envelope is the same stamp it appears on! The last Special Delivery stamp was issued in 1971, and just featured a white and a blue arrow, one facing left, the other right. It cost 45¢. Today, the speediest mail service is Express Mail. ("Overnight" mail.) Express Priority Mail (flat rate envelope) today costs \$27.10, but it includes the cost of the first class postage, whereas the Special Delivery stamps were in addition to first class mail postage.



First Express Mail stamp, Scott 1909, issued in 1983 with a face value of \$9.35, which at the time was the highest face value for a U.S. postage stamp.

Cactus Plants

The plural of “cactus” is either “cacti” or “cactuses.” Both are correct, and it is up to you which you choose to use. Cacti are plants in the family of succulents, known as “cactaceae.” All cacti are succulents, but not all succulents are cacti. While many succulents have leaves that are swollen with



Scott 1945

water, cacti have spines. Although there are about 1,750 different species of cacti, today we are going to look at just one specie, the Saguaro, also known as the Giant Saguaro. Saguaros are very slow growing plants. It can take a Saguaro plant 10 years to grow just 1 inch in height! It takes an average of 41 years for a Saguaro to grow to 10 feet high, but many are only 6.5 feet high at 70 years old. That is when they have their first flower! Saguaros usually are 50 to 75 years old when they grow their first arms. There are some living Saguaros that are almost 300 years old, and some have grown to 40 feet high. The most famous giant saguaro, Old Granddaddy, was almost 300 years old when it died in the 1990’s. It was over 40 feet tall and had 52 arms. Saguaros in nature grow only in the Sonoran Desert, which is located in California, Arizona, and Northern Mexico.

Incredible American Woman Athlete – “Babe” Didrikson Zaharias

In the entire history of American female athletes, one person stands out in many ways. Her name at birth was Mildred Ella Didriksen. From an early age, she became known as “Babe.” Later in life she changed the spelling of her last name to Didrikson. After she married the famous wrestler, George Zaharias, as Babe Didrikson Zaharias she became even more well known. Born in Texas in 1911, she was a first generation American, of parents who had immigrated from Norway. Not a great student, she never finished high school, but at a young age became famous as an excellent athlete, as well as a singer with several records, and later in life she acted in several movies.

Babe went to the 1932 Olympics in Los Angeles and came away with two gold medals: hurdles, and javelin throw, and a silver medal (actually tied for gold) in the high jump, thus becoming the only woman ever to receive medals in track and field in three categories: running, throwing, and jumping. In addition to her many accomplishments, she also was an excellent seamstress, making her own costumes. After the Olympics, she became America’s first famous female golf celebrity. She won forty-one (41!) LPGA tournaments, and six more



Scott 1932

golf tournaments off the LPGA circuit, as well as being a great basketball and baseball player. She actually pitched 4 excellent innings in exhibition games for the Philadelphia Athletics, and St. Louis Cardinals against the Brooklyn Dodgers and Boston Red Sox!!

There is a museum in Beaumont, Texas named after her, as well as several golf courses in America named after her. She lived at a time when there was strong discrimination against women. When she and her husband attempted to adopt a child, they were denied. Many unpleasant comments were said and printed about her, calling her “manly” in an insulting way.

Here is an example of the type of ugliness she had to endure:

“It would be much better if she and her ilk stayed at home, got themselves prettied up and waited for the phone to ring.”

— *sportswriter Joe Williams, New York World-Telegram*

Later in life, Babe developed colon cancer and in 1956 died from it at age 45. Prior to her death she became a spokesperson for cancer, at a time when many people would hide the fact that they had cancer, and would talk about it in hushed tones, as if it were a shameful disease.

Zaharias was inducted into the LPGA Hall of Fame in 1951 (now part of the World Golf Hall of Fame). In 1957, she posthumously received the Bob Jones Award, the highest honor given by the United States Golf Association in recognition of distinguished sportsmanship in golf. It was accepted by her husband George, four months after her death. She was one of six initial inductees into the LPGA Hall of Fame at its inception in 1977. She had many awards. She was inducted into the National Women’s Hall of Fame in 1976, and recipient of America’s highest (non-military) honor, the Medal of Freedom in 2021, and many more honors too numerous to list here.

“She is beyond all belief until you see her perform...Then you finally understand that you are looking at the most flawless section of muscle harmony, of complete mental and physical coordination, the world of sport has ever seen.” — *sportswriter Grantland Rice*

Homemade Envelopes



During the Civil War, many states in the Confederacy experienced a shortage of paper. Obtaining an envelope to mail a letter was so difficult in some areas that citizens resorted to making their own homemade envelopes. They would use whatever paper they could find, even if it had already been used, such as a legal document with a blank side. In some cases, the blank side of wallpaper was used. The mail had go through!

<Left corner folded out to see wallpaper.

The Great American Stamp Show

The Great American Stamp Show (GASS) will be held in Sacramento, California this year from August 25 through August 28. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Stamp Collecting Clubs for Kids is a 5 01(c)(3) organization. Donations are greatly appreciated and if \$10 or more you will be sent a written receipt. You also can donate via PayPal on our website - www.stampcollectingclubsforkids.org or www.yummystampcollecting.org which redirects you to the same website.