

The PhilateliKid

The newsletter for Stamp Collecting Clubs for Kids (SCCFK)

Collect Stamps (The Most Educational Hobby)

www.stampcollectingclubsforkids.org

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Catalogs, Part 9

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 which begin with the letter “B,” “C,” “CE,” “CL,” “CM,” “CB,” “CO,” “E,” “D,” “F,” “FA,” “J,” “K,” “O,” “PR,” “PN,” “PS,” “WS,” and “BK.” This month we look at stamps with the prefix “Q,” and “JQ.”

Stamps Beginning with the prefix “Q.” The prefix “Q” is used by Scott to identify Parcel Post stamps. Beginning on January 1, 1913 the Post Office required a special stamp to be used for mailing packages by 4th Class mail, known as Parcel Post. These stamps were valid only on parcel post packages, and NO OTHER stamps could be used to pay for postage on parcel post packages. Twelve different stamps were issued in the following denominations: 1¢, 2¢, 3¢, 4¢, 5¢, 10¢, 15¢, 20¢, 25¢, 30¢, 50¢, 75¢, and \$1.00. These stamps were all the same color - red - and most of the stamps in this series featured a different method of transporting mail, such as by foot (letter carrier), railroad, ship, automobile, and horse-drawn carriage, and even the newly developed air transportation. Other stamps in the series showed various types of industry from a steel mill to dairy farming, growing fruit, and farming (harvesting a crop.) The 1¢ stamp features a post office clerk.



Seven of the twelve stamps have catalog values of \$8 or less in used condition, and the other five each have catalog values of \$45 or less.



Just 6 months after they were first used, the Post Office on July 1, 1913 allowed these parcel post stamps to be used on other mail, and also that regular postage could be used on parcel post packages. The 20¢ stamp (see enlargement above) was the **first** government-issued postage stamp issued by ANY country that featured an airplane. (Spelled “aeroplane” on the stamp.) Note that the first stamp on the top left is a PNS (Plate Number Single.) Note also that the 1¢ stamp in the center top and the 2¢ stamp have right edges that has no perforations. Also, the 75¢ stamp has no perforations on its left side. Stamps that have one side with no perforations are said to have a “straight edge.” These stamps are found only on the edges of panes of stamps, and therefore are scarcer than stamps with perforations on all sides. Interestingly, however, many stamp collectors do not find a stamp with a straight edge to be as aesthetically appealing as a stamp with perforations on all sides, so stamps with straight edges, although scarcer than stamps with perforations all around, can be purchased more cheaply. (Personally, I try to find stamps with straight edges because I find them more interesting, and they cost less.)

Correction: In the January *The Philatelikid* the statement was made that booklets contain a group **between 3 and 20 stamps**. Actually, booklets exist which contain only **one** stamp, and panes exist with **30** stamps. Thank you to our intrepid reader, Dr. Walter Figel, (Colorado) who caught this error and brought it to our attention. He mentioned that Q11 was a booklet of just one Postal Insurance stamp, and that 498f and 499f are booklet panes of 30 stamps. Those booklet panes are very scarce because they were issued to U.S. servicemen stationed in France during WWI. The pane of 30 of 1¢ stamps sells for over \$1,500 in mint never hinged condition. The pane of 30 of the 2¢ stamps, if you can find it, will cost you about \$25,000 to \$30,000. They are so costly because they are very scarce due to the fact that the servicemen did not save entire panes of those stamp booklets, and they were used for a very short period of time.

Stamps Beginning with the prefix “JQ.” The prefix “JQ” is used by Scott to identify Parcel Post



Postage Due stamps. For some reason, unknown to me, the Post Office felt that it was necessary to have postage due stamps for just parcel post. Only five denominations were ever issued: 1¢, 2¢, 5¢, 10¢, and 25¢. Although the designs contain no pictures, there is incredible “lathework” on them. (Presumably to prevent counterfeiting, but who would want to counterfeit a postage DUE stamp?) At left is an enlarged picture of JQ1 showing the intricate “lathework” engraving.

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