

The PhilateliKid

The newsletter for Stamp Collecting Clubs for Kids (SCCFK)

Collect Stamps (The Most Educational Hobby)

www.stampcollectingclubsforkids.org

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In the May 2022 issue of *The Philatelikid*, we began brief descriptions of various “Back of the Book” (“BOB”) listings in the Scott Catalogues. In subsequent issues 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,” “BK,” “Q,” “JQ,” “QE,” “CVP,” “WX,” and “QI.” This month we will look at the prefix “L” prefixes and “LO” prefixes, with numbers before the “L” or “LO.”

Stamps Beginning with the prefix “LO.” (The second letter is a capital “o” not the number “0.”)

The United States began issuing postage stamps in 1847. At that time the delivery was from one Post Office to another Post Office, not from one address to another address. What that meant was that for a letter to be mailed, the sender had to hand carry it to the nearest Post Office, and that the recipient of the letter had to go to the nearest Post Office to where the recipient was located to pick up any mail.

A need existed to provide additional delivery services, namely to pick up mail from a sender and deliver it to the nearby Post Office, and to deliver local mail from the Post Office to the recipient. The US government issued stamps to pay for this service. They are called “Carrier’s” stamps. The first two Carrier stamps were issued under the direct authority of the Postmaster General of the United States, and were valid at any Post Office. The first Carrier stamp, Scott LO1, did not say United States on the stamps, nor was a denomination stated. It cost 1¢. Today, the Scott catalog values that stamp in used condition at \$8,000.00 and in mint condition \$7,000.00. Scott italicizes those values, indicating that they sell so infrequently that the values are difficult to accurately determine. The second Carrier stamp, Scott LO2, (genuine at right) is valued by Scott at \$80.00 used (italicized) and \$50.00 mint. That stamp said “U.S. P.O. Despatch,” and also said “Pre-Paid One Cent.” Note, the spelling of “Despatch” is different from “dispatch.” They mean very close to the same thing, with “despatch” meaning a verb “to send off with speed and energy” and “dispatch” a noun meaning “speed and energy.” To complicate matters, “despatch” is the British spelling of the American word “dispatch.” Got that?



Because Carrier stamps and Local stamps can be very rare, and very expensive, numerous forgeries exist. So many collectors are scared away from a very fun aspect of collecting. What can be done? Collect the forgeries!

Local Stamps are listed with a number then "L" and a number. The beginning number indicates the Local company. Below is a nice collection – all forgeries – I have put together of local stamps. This is a page from my personal collection. See that note written above the entire page? There is nothing wrong about collecting forgeries, but be careful to label them as such so that neither you, nor some future buyer, will forget what they are and think that they are genuine.



Just to give you some idea of what a forgery costs versus the catalog value for a genuine stamp, consider the Robison & Co 1¢ blue stamp in the bottom row, Scott 128L1. A genuine copy has a catalog price of \$4,750.00. This forgery sells for about \$19.00.

Stamp Collecting Clubs for Kids is a 501(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.

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Issue 99