

The PhilateliKid

The newsletter for Stamp Collecting Clubs for Kids (SCCFK)

Collect Stamps (The Most Educational Hobby)

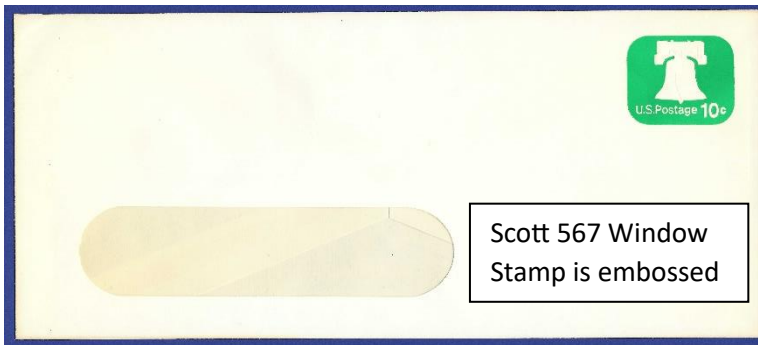
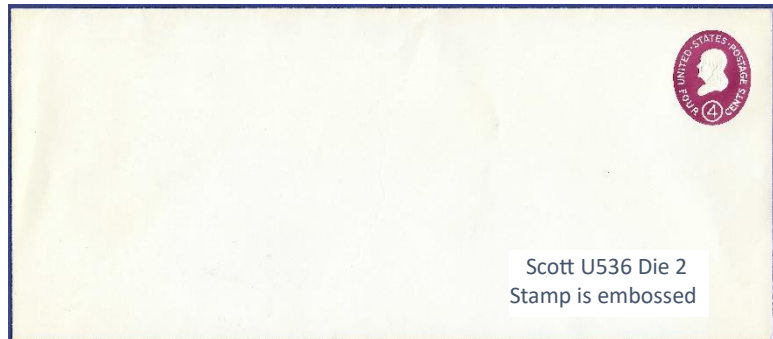
www.stampcollectingclubsforkids.org

February 1, 2024

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,” “L,” “LO,” “O,” “PR,” “PN,” “PS,” “WS,” “BK,” “Q,” “JQ,” “QE,” “CVP,” “WX,” “QI,” “#X,” “REA,” “RV,” “RY,” “-P,” “UX,” and “SPCVP.” This month we will look at “U.”

Stamps Beginning with the prefix “U”

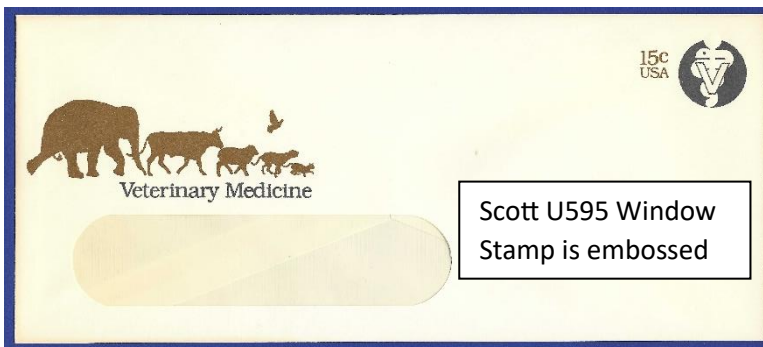
Stamps in the Scott Catalogue with the prefix “U” are not stamps at all. They are stamped envelopes. Stamped envelopes are issued only by the Post Office. They come in various denominations, sizes, color of paper, paper types, watermarks, and with or without windows. In some cases, different dies were used with minor variations. Some



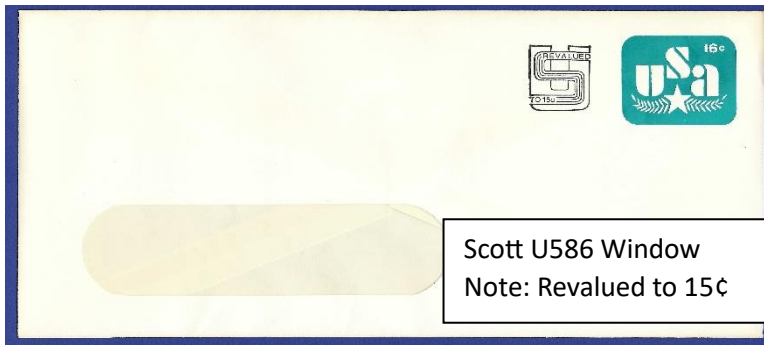
stamped envelopes were issued in precancel format. In some cases, a stamped envelope was overprinted with a different denomination. Stamped envelopes originally were **embossed**. Embossing is a method of printing where some of the printing is raised above the surface of the envelope. This looks similar to a coin, where the

features are raised above the surface of the coin. Occasionally, an embossed area does not receive any ink, resulting in a raised area that is the same color as the envelope.

These are called “albino impressions” or simply “albinos.” Beginning in 1977, stamped envelopes were no longer embossed (with exceptions), and the printing is flat with the rest of the surface of the envelope.

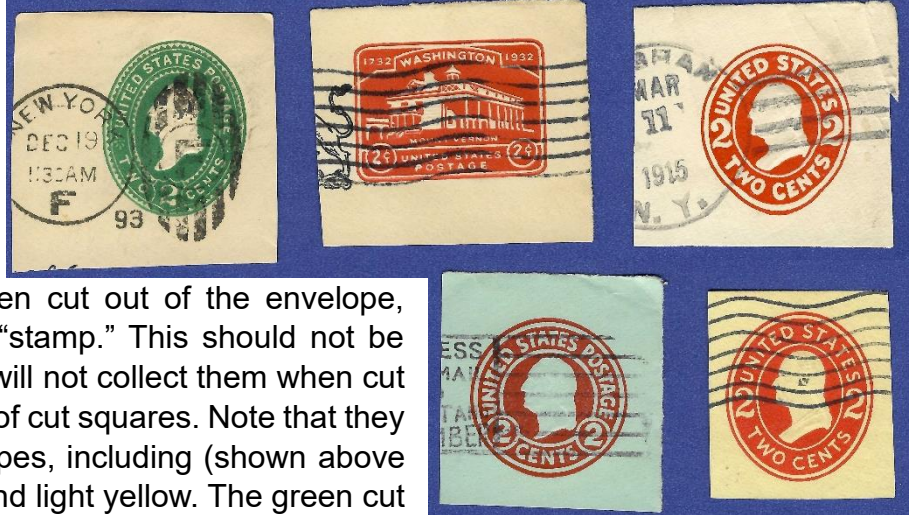


<<< Note: Animals at left are preprinted in brown and appear on every U595. Elephant, cow, sheep, dog, cat, and bird



For many decades, albums that contained pages for stamped envelopes were printed for stamp collectors. To save space, many albums left space only for the corner of the stamped envelope that contained the impression (“stamp”). These are called **“cut squares”** because they are cut away from most of the envelope, which is then thrown

away. Collectors want the cut squares to be cut so that the margins around the “stamp” are a minimum of ¼ inch on each side, although frequently much larger margins are collected. In some cases, a round or oval “stamp” has been cut out of the envelope, following the curvature of the “stamp.” This should not be done because most collectors will not collect them when cut that way. At right are examples of cut squares. Note that they are on different colored envelopes, including (shown above and at right) white, light blue, and light yellow. The green cut square above has a postmark dated Dec 19, 1893, and the time, 1:30 a.m. It also has a large “F.” I am not sure what that signifies. Does any of our readers know?



A “full corner cut square” is cut so that the back portion of the envelope is also included. That means that both the back and side flaps are included. There also are many collectors who collect only the whole envelope, which by collectors are called “entires,” which is short for the entire envelope. Many collectors collect First Day of Issue cancellations. Because stamped envelopes are not provided prior to the first day of issue, all cachets (that are not part of the original printing of the envelope and stamp) are added after the first day of issue.

Stamped envelopes are sold by the Post Office for a slight premium above the face value of the “stamp” to cover the cost of manufacturing the envelope.

The very first stamped envelopes were sold by the Post Office in 1853, before the Civil War. In those days it was common, to reduce weight, to not use an envelope at all, but to write a letter, fold it and seal it on the reverse side with a wax seal, leaving space on the obverse (“front”) for affixing a stamp, and writing the address and return address. Those are called “folded letters.” However, envelopes allowed a sender to enclose other items in addition to (or in place of) a letter, such as photographs, tickets, and mint stamps, and the gummed flap eliminated the need for a wax seal.

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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