

# “The Importance of the 2¢ Black Jack”

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Never before and perhaps not seen since has a stamp generated so much intrigue and been universally known as the 2¢ Andrew Jackson Black Jack has. Often confused as a memorial stamp, this iconic stamp with the “Big Head” full facial portrait of Andrew Jackson was first introduced in 1863 to support a recent Act of Congress to abolish carrier fees and establish a prepaid rate of 2¢ for drop letters. This was the first US 2¢ stamp. Another very important provision of this Act was creating weight only criteria for domestic mail, 3¢ for all domestic letters per ½ ounce, and subsequently 3¢ more for each additional ½ ounce.

“Why Jackson?” one may ask. Andrew Jackson was a man of the people, tough, victim of an assassination attempt, enlisted into the Continental Army at age twelve and served as a courier in the Revolutionary War, running important packages and battle orders across the front. While he performed his job admirably, he was eventually captured and taken prisoner by the Brits, making him the only U.S. President in history to ever have been a Prisoner of War. He was a popular President in both the North and South.

The objective of this exhibit is to demonstrate the many aspects of the Black Jack stamp. The exhibit consists of 6 frames. We’ll briefly look at the question Why Jackson? Next will be a study of the Design of the stamp: Rejected designs and where they came from, experimental paper essays and color trials, and Proofs representing the different Die Types. After that, the exhibit examines the production of the blackjack: Plate layout, plate numbers, errors, freaks and oddities, specimens and the grills. Lastly, we will demonstrate the different uses on the 2¢ Black Jack. Domestic usage will look Drop Rate & Local Rate, Carrier, Third Class, First Class, Bisect usages, Illegal usages, Registered Mail and Revenue usages. The exhibit will conclude with a demonstration of Foreign usages.

While reviewing this exhibit, keep in mind that there were over 350,000,000 Black Jack stamps produced. Review and appreciate some of the rarities presented here today: Unique. 1 of 2. 1 of 5. Less than 10. 1 of 27. 1 of 41.



1. Items bordered in **Red** are considered rare
2. Items **double bordered** in **Red** are choice and scarce items, potentially unique
3. Items with a double **\*\*** indicate certificate exists and is on the backside of the page