Touch of first class

Cliff Smith  Times-Union, October 28, 1981

When the new 20-cent postal rate goes into effect Sunday, you'll still be able to mail envelopes or small packages weighing up to four ounces first class for the same price as third class.

Equal rates for the first four ounces of either class were introduced when the first-class rate for the first ounce was increased to 18 cents.

But it won't be widely publicized and most people didn't learn about it until they were told by a post office clerk, Postal Service officials in the Rochester area concede.

If you mark an envelope weighing four ounces or less "third class," don't expect a post office clerk to change the designation to "first class."

"It will be sent out the way you mark it," a post office spokesman says.

First-class mail, usually used for letters or other personal messages, is supposed to receive top priority. The delivery time could be two or three days faster than third-class mail, which generally is used for pamphlets and merchandise.

The Postal Service also is permitted to open third-class mail periodically for spot checks. (Second-class mail generally consists of newspapers and magazines.)

Starting Sunday, first-class (and third-class) rates will be 20 cents for the first ounce; 37 cents for just over an ounce to two ounces; 54 cents for just over two ounces to three ounces, and 71 cents for just over three ounces to four ounces.

Then begins the price divergence between first-class and third-class mail. For first class, you'll pay 85 cents for just over four ounces to five ounces; $1.05 for just over five ounces to six ounces, etc. For third class, you'll pay 85 cents for just over four ounces to six ounces; 95 cents for just over six ounces to eight ounces, etc.

Canada Post reports proposed postage increases

Canadian postage rates could nearly double as Canada's postal service works to become reasonably self-sufficient next year.

Under the proposed rate schedule announced by Canada Post and Postmaster General Andre Ouellet in late September, domestic first-class mail rates in Canada will jump from 17 cents to 30¢, the basic letter rate to the United States will go from 17¢ to 35¢, and other rates would experience similar increases.

The rate proposal coincides with the Oct. 16 change from Canada Post, a government operation, to Canada Post Corp., a predominantly independent postal authority mandated to pay its own expenses and effectively charge customers the full cost of the services provided.

By reducing or eliminating the government subsidy, Canada postal customers are likely to see costs rise to more realistic levels. The U.S. Postal Service was established in 1971 for similar reasons, but the reduction in federal subsidies has been gradual, with certain subsidies still in effect.

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Your show is on its way to becoming more special for us all. We are trying to make this show not only great philatelically for Rochester but also great personally for all APA club members. If you have a suggestion, tell us. If you want to help, we have lots of ways for you to become involved. We need your participation and ideas!

To catch you up on what has already been prepared... ROPEX-82 will be held at the Americana on March 26, 27, and 28, 1982. Please see Audrey Pankratz to sign up for a time and a job at the set-up and take-down activities.

We will be honoring Robert Fulton's successful trips with the Clermont (175 years ago) and the Great Seal of the United States (approved 200 years ago).

The Empire State Postal History Society is sponsoring five levels of awards for ESPHS members. There will also be a JHS award for the best one frame exhibit, along with the JHK award for the most popular exhibit, and several other society sponsored awards. If you want to try your hand at exhibiting, or know of someone who does, please pick up a prospectus from Jim Trenton.

Like anything else, the more you add to this show, the more you will get from it. Please get all you can by giving all the time and effort you can to support your club's show—and have a good time in the process!

The rust-brown "C" stamps and envelopes (indicia shown on top) will debut Oct. 11 in Memphis, Tenn., along with an unreviewed and non-denominated Robert Morris postal card. The designs are graphic creations (from modified "B" items) and should be considered preliminary.

The 13c Flag Over Independence Hall sheet definitive has undergone a new printing for the post card rate, and may differ in both perforation gauge and marginal markings.

Oct. 11, non-denominated items. "C" stamps (sheet and coil formats, and booklets with two panes of 10 stamps per pane), "C" embossed envelopes (both standard sizes, with and without windows) and "Domestic Rate" Robert Morris postal card (single and double reply formats). Memphis, Tenn. 38101. First day ordering deadline Nov. 23.


Oct. 28, Christmas. Two separate non-denominated (30c) Christmas stamp issues: contemporary Teddy Bear design (standard commemorative size, horizontal format, 50 per pane) Christmas Valley, Ore. 97738; Botticelli Madonna and Child Art Masterpiece design (standard definitive size, vertical format, 100 per pane) Chicago, Ill. 60607.

Nov. 5, John Hanson. Single 30c commemorative for the first president of the Continental Congress. Standard size, vertical format, 50 per pane. Frederick, Md. 21701.

Nov. 16, Christmas. Three different Christmas tree scenes in honor of the bicentennial of the first illuminated Christmas tree in Canada. Values may include 15c, 17c, and/or 35c.

Nov. 24, Aircraft. Two additional se-tenant pairs in the Aircraft series, noting training and transport airplanes: two at domestic rate (DHIC Tiger Moth and Canadian Tutor), and two at foreign rate (Dash-7 and Avro Canada Jetliner).

Dec. 7, Desert Plants. Block of four 20c stamps depicting: beavertail cactus; saguaro cactus, non-standard size, horizontal and vertical formats (two each).


Dec. 15 — 3c coil stamp in Transportation series featuring a Mail Wagon for bulk rate, ordering deadline Jan. 14, Postmaster, Shrewsbury, La. 70752 (customers affixing stamps must include sufficient postage for full rate; postal personnel will add 10c postage at a cost of 2c per cover). 

Dec. 17 — 2c Flag Over Supreme Court stamps (same design for sheet, coil and booklet panes) will include six stamps and only full pages will be affixed by postal personnel, and orders should specify formats desired), ordering deadline Jan. 16, Postmaster, Washington, D.C. 20013.

Jan. 6 — 3c Dr. Ralph Bunche definitive in Great Americans sheet format (Dr. Bunche was a founding U.S. diplomat and became the first black man to win the Nobel Peace Prize in 1950; ordering deadline Feb. 5, Postmaster, New York, N.Y. 10001) (first day ceremony tentatively set for the United Nations).

Please turn to page 3
From The President

Since our last Newsletter, RFA has had four club meetings while we have had three speakers and one auction, to say the least the attendance has been poor. The officers are trying to bring you topics that some - not all - have shown an interest. Specifics on the next four programs reaching to Jan. 28, 1982 are shown elsewhere.

Please look over the subject matter and, if you can not attend all meetings, mark your calendars. We would like to see you take an interest in your club.

ROPEX-82 has ended and a fair amount of money ($720) has been turned over to the club. ROPEX-82 is getting into gear. Nancy Zielinski is the Chairperson and she would appreciate your help. You can volunteer your services by calling her at 647-3391.

A one frame exhibit will be held at the Feb. 11, 1982 meeting. The subject matter concerned a theme related to postmarks on covers, please be thinking about same and be ready to ask questions at the upcoming meetings on content and format. A plaque will be given to 1st, 2nd & 3rd winners. We hope this will be a lead in to future exhibits and your eventual entry into a ROPEX show.

The Board of Governors is working through an attorney to obtain a federal tax number. The papers have been sent to the concerned federal agency. Upon receipt of the agency's approval and the establishing of a banking account, a financial statement will be prepared and published in the R & T. Also, as soon as the agency's approval of the constitutional additions are made, further amendments will be proposed and sent to the membership for review and approval.

Larry Moriarty

USA

The Crazy Horse definitive in the Great Americans series will be issued sometime in January at the 30c post card rate.

TENTATIVE RFA PROGRAM

BALANCE OF YEAR

Jan. 14 Auction - 5 lots per member - remember you have one bid for each lot you enter. Also DONATION lots are welcomed.

Jan. 28 1851-57 Covers - Talk and Slides by John Wye

FEB. 11 Mini Exhibit - one frame topic to be announced

FEB. 25 Match & Medicine stamps talk & slides - Bert Kelner

MARCH 10 Stamp Inventory - Chip Haslum

25 ROPEX-82 - Set up night at the American

26 ROPEX-82 - Take down night at the American

APRIL 8 1981 Award Night Nominating Committee Report ROPEX-82 Critique

22 Flea Market/Silent Auction Floor Nominations

MAY 13 Postal History - Talk & Slides - Emma Kohberg

27 Dr. Peter Geason - Talk & Slides on Pataon Election of Officers

JUNE 10 Slide Show from APS/SPA/ATA (Topic not selected) - Also information on joining National Society, Strawberry Night

24 Dinner/Auction Bd. of Governors and Treasurers Report

The above is subject to change depending on circumstances - 2/23/82 not confirmed.

From page 2

Jan. 8 - 20c Bighorn Sheep stamp booklet contains two pairs of 10 stamps each, stamp design same as version in Wildlife booklet but retailed 10 times per pane, postal personnel will affix only full pane), ordering deadline Feb. 7, Postmaster, Bighorn, Mont., 59010 (first day ceremony planned).

Jan. 12 - 37c (two ounces first-class rate) Robert Malikan definitive in Great American series (Malikan was a noted atomic physicist who won the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1975), ordering deadline Feb. 11, Postmaster, Pasadena, Calif. 91109 (first day ceremony planned).

Jan. 19 (mid-month, exact date not set) - 3c (post card rate) Crazy Horses definitive in Great American series (customers must allow for additional 7c when used on an envelope), ordering deadline 1st month post issue date, Postmaster, Casa Grande, S.D. 57319 (first day ceremony pl. noted).

Date unverified - stamp and envelope items for the unprofitable date will be issued next year, with details not yet available.

ad size →

ad size →

The new postal rate will be 13 cents for the new embossed (first-class) envelope rate 24 cents (20 cents for the stamp, 4 cents for the envelope). All local postal facilities are supposed to be stocked with a sufficient supply of 2 cent stamps for anyone left with 18 stamps after the rate change.
The Canadian change may be more dramatic, as Canada Post Corp. appears headed toward economic self-sufficiency on a tighter schedule.

The increase in Canadian rates will also eliminate one of the major points of criticism leveled against "high" U.S. postal rates. Most critics pointing to Canada as a shining example of low rates, however, may not mention the huge government subsidies, which will soon become a thing of the past.

As postal rate experts predicted, the virtual elimination of Canadian government subsidies is expected to force Canada's rates beyond those of the United States, even when accounting for the monetary exchange rate.

At the exchange rates of early October, the upcoming U.S. 20¢ first-class rate would figure out to less than 24¢ Canadian. The proposed 30¢ Canadian rate would be over 25¢ in U.S. currency.

Thus, if the proposed rates are allowed to take effect as planned Jan. 1, 1982, in Canada, postal customers in that country will be paying more than 25¢ U.S. for domestic mail, and nearly 30¢ U.S. (35¢ Canadian) for mail destined for the United States.

This represents a change in recent policy for Canada, since mail bound for the United States was charged the same as domestic mail (at least in first-class mail). The higher rate to the United States would break that tradition, and may also create a convenient method for justifying the release of commemorative issues in more than one denomination.

No duplication of commemorative at separate rates is expected, but those issues for which Canada used to include two values (domestic and foreign) could see the added choice of an additional rate to the United States. Under the proposed rates, domestic mail would be priced at 30¢, mail to the United States at 50¢, and other foreign mail (including aerograms) at 60¢ (up from 35¢).

Canada Post customers should bear in mind that these are merely proposed rates; and are subject to revision after two months of public comment (October and November) and legislative action and/or government decision expected in December.

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