25-cent stamp is on its way
3-penny increase tops list of rate proposals

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Mailing a letter will cost 3 cents more under the sweeping series of changes recommended yesterday by the independent Postal Rate Commission.

It means a stamp for a letter to Aunt Maude will go from 22 cents to 25 cents, which takes about the same bite from the average wallet as it did in 1932.

Adjusted for inflation, the 3-cent postage rate introduced in 1932 would amount to 25.5 cents today.

A special, non-denominated “E” stamp featuring a space-based image of Earth has been prepared for use when the new rates take effect.

The complex series of rate proposals now goes to the board of governors of the Postal Service, which requested rate hikes.

TURN TO PAGE 2
10 months ago. The new rates could be ordered into effect within 10 days to two weeks, with the governors likely to consider the matter next week.

Overall, first-class rates would increase 14.7 percent, while third-class rates for mail that is mostly advertising and is widely termed “junk mail” would increase 25 percent.

The agency also suggested:
- A “courtesy mail discount” using special envelopes and available to consumers who don’t ordinarily get a break on bulk mail.
- A 2-cent cut in the current 1-cent minimum cost for prepaid business reply envelopes.
- A penny increase — one penny less than requested — in the price of a post card — from 14 cents to 15 cents.

A major discovery has been made on an apparently new printing of the United States service-inscribed 18¢ Washington coil stamp.

The new printing is on a diagonally ribbed dry gum paper and is tagged.

The original printings of the service-inscribed stamp had shiny gum and were not tagged.

At first glance, the paper of the new variety somewhat resembles the so-called type I intaglio paper used for many of the early Transportation issues.

However, the Washington stamp was printed on gravure rather than intaglio paper.

While examining a copy of this stamp, a Linn’s staffer discovered that although service-inscribed (precanceled), these stamps are lightly block-tagged, a situation that should not exist.

The discovery of this double variety places it as the first tagged, precanceled coil stamp produced by the U.S. government.

There were two tagged, precanceled sheet stamps that were produced during the 1970s.

They are the 8¢ Eisenhower and 13¢ Eagle and Shield stamps, and they exist for several cities.

This new double variety of the Washington stamp is found on stamps from cylinder No. 33333.

The first four cylinder numbers represent the four colors used to print the stamps and the fifth represents the plate used to print the service inscription.

In a recent discovery, the 18¢ Washington service-inscribed coil was found tagged, with dry gum. Tagging on a service-inscribed coil stamp has never occurred.

In the past, coil stamps printed on the Cottrell press were by nature either tagged or precanceled. Because the machine had to be changed for each marking, a tagged precanceled stamp simply couldn’t exist.

The 18¢ Washington and Monument stamp was printed on the Bureau of Engraving and Printing’s Andreatti press. Because there is apparently a new printing from this cylinder, the colors vary slightly from the first printings.

In addition, the surface has more snowflaking than past printings.

Linn’s will continue to report information concerning this discovery as it is received.

AFDCS offers cachet directory

The 1988 directory of currently produced cachets for first-day covers has been released by the American First Day Cover Society and is available to interested collectors.

The directory lists cachet names alphabetically and includes the producer’s name, mailing address, and additional information about methods and frequency of production.

The directory features more than 200 individuals or companies currently offering cacheted covers.

Cachets in the listing are made by various methods including engraved, printed, silk screen, hand-drawn, hand-painted, woodcut, computer generated, single and multicolored.

For a free copy of the 1988 directory, send a No. 10 stamped, addressed envelope to Bernard Kroll, AFDCS Cachet Information Chairman, Box 52, Kensington, Md. 20895.
International Reply Coupons
inexpensive but challenging

A highly ignored, but interesting facet of philately is the collecting of International Reply Coupons.

An IRC is a piece of paper that acts as a coupon, exchangeable for postage stamps in any Universal Postal Union member country. They first were introduced in 1907 as a means of prepayment of postage on a single-rate return letter from any member country of the UPU.

Although the rates and some of the redemption details have changed over the years, IRCs have remained basically unchanged.

Although not all post offices currently stock IRCs, they can be requisitioned much like stamps, and currently cost 80¢ each in the United States.

These coupons can then be enclosed in an international letter, and the recipient can exchange the coupon for face-value postage. Philately aside, this is a highly convenient service.

The coupons themselves are printed on UPU watermarked paper and were first issued printed in slate green and gray green. Since 1955, all IRCs have been printed in blue and yellow.

All IRCs have the name of the country of origin printed on the front, and any coupon from another country, regardless what country, is exchangeable at the rate of 37¢ each.

When the coupon is purchased, the selling post office is supposed to cancel the circle of origin, which in this case is the upper circle. The redeeming post office is supposed to cancel the exchanging circle, or in this case the lower circle. However, as the illustrated IRC shows small post offices often did not know how to handle the sale of these items and simply sold them without postmarks.

Although I don’t know if there is any premium value for this, I’m sure it has caused more than a small amount of confusion at receiving post offices.

To date, there have only been four different styles of IRC designs, and a total number of 24 different issued in the United States.

Since none of these items have a catalog value of more than $12, they present a very achievable and relatively inexpensive collecting area.

A complete collection can be assembled without major cost.

However, and this is where the fun begins, try finding all the different IRCs available. Since these items are redeemed and destroyed, used IRCs do not exist to my knowledge.

Also, since they were created primarily for business purposes and have never been highly publicized, few collectors or dealers have ever laid much of a stock aside.

IRCs are the perfect example of not having to forfeit the thrill of the chase for the lower price tag. Some IRCs are downright difficult to locate.

Once you have completed your basic collection of IRCs, then it is time to study the postmarks on them. I’m sure there are some fascinating varieties available for the specialist.

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Boy Scouts cover

The Schenectady County Council of the Boy Scouts of America commemorated its 25th annual Klondike Derby/Deep Freeze at Camp Boyhaven, Middle Grove, N.Y., on a cacheted cover Jan. 30-31.

The cover was serviced at the Middle Grove post office and attired the 17¢ Dog Sled coll (Scott 2135) and a 5¢ stamp.

The covers are available for a donation of $1 with a stamped, addressed envelope from Herb Roes, 1127 Lexington Ave., Schenectady, N.Y. 12308.

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RPA Meetings

APRIL 14 "Stamps & Computers", Part 2. This the second part of the Feb. program. Silent Auction, 5 lot per member, CASH ONLY! Starts 8:00pm.

APRIL 28 "TBA" and Silent Auction. Starts at 8:00pm.
**1988 U.S. Stamp Program**

Jan. 6, Georgia Statehood, 22¢ commemoratives, panes of 50, vertical format, one group of five cylinder numbers. Atlanta, Ga. (Linn’s Dec. 7, page 1, and Jan. 4, page 3) Scott 2339, USPS order No. 2453.

Jan. 9, Connecticut Statehood, 22¢ commemoratives, panels of 50, vertical format, one group of five cylinder numbers, one group on selvage of adjacent stamp. Hartford, Conn. (Linn’s Jan. 12, page 1) Scott 2340, USPS order No. 2452.


Feb. 4, Massachusetts Statehood. 22¢ commemoratives, panels of 50, vertical format, One group of five cylinder numbers, Boston, Mass. 02115. First-day cancellation deadline March 7. (Linn’s Jan. 4, page 11) Scott 2341, USPS order No. 9435.

Feb. 15, Maryland Statehood. 22¢ commemoratives, panels of 50, vertical format, One group of five cylinder numbers, one single-digit intaglio number on selvage of adjacent stamp. Annapolis, Md. 21401. First-day cancellation deadline March 17. (Linn’s Jan. 11, page 1) Scott 2342.

Feb. 28, Conestoga Wagon. 3¢ Transportation series, coils of 100, 500 and 3,000, one single digit every 52nd stamp. Conestoga, Pa. 17516. First-day cancellation deadline April 30. (Linn’s Jan. 18, page 1) Scott 2343.

Mar. 1, Kansas Route. 3¢ commemoratives, panels of 50, vertical format, one group of five cylinder numbers, one single-digit intaglio number on selvage of adjacent stamp. Topeka, Kan. 66609. First-day cancellation deadline March 4. (Linn’s Mar. 5, page 1) Scott 2344.


July 15, Northwest Territory. Postal card, Marietta, Ohio 45750. First-day cancellation deadline July 16. (Linn’s July 12, page 1) Scott 2346, USPS order No. 8435.


Oct. 1, Carousel Animals. Block of four commemoratives, Sandusky, Ohio 44870.


1991. The USPS affix the stamp to the submitted addressed envelopes or will provide the postal stationery upon request and receipt of remittance to cover cost of items. Send requests to (Name of issue), Postmaster, (Name of City and State) and ZIP Code.

1992. The deadline for submitting envelopes for first-day cancellations is 60 days after the date of issue.

Mail orders for mint stamps, plate number, Mr. ZIP and Consecutive blocks, Specialty, and all postal stationery items should be sent to Philatelic Sales Division, Washington, D.C. 20250. The USPS imposes a $10 minimum and $5 service charge on all mail orders.

Full details of each issue listed in this catalog are in the latest news in Linn's Reference to the date and page of each such story is given at the end of each entry. Tentative Scott, Minkus and United Postal Stationery Catalog numbers are listed as received.

Plate numbers. All sheet stamps have corner plate numbers, requiring a block of four, unless otherwise stated. Coil numbers should be collected in the center of strips of three or five stamps.

Bulk mail coil stamps. Since late 1985, bulk mail coil stamps have been issued in two versions, untagged, service-inscribed versions for bulk mailers and tagged, unsegmented versions for collectors. The Postal Service calls the service-inscribed stamps pencillmarked.

If you collect U.S. new issues, you should own Linn's U.S. stamp yearbooks. These books, 1963, 1984, and 1988 yearbooks are available individually at $14.95 per yearbook. Order all four yearbooks for $56. Send order and remittance to Linn's U.S. Stamp Yearbook, Box 29, Sidney, Ohio 45365. Ohio residents please add 5.30 percent sales tax.

**Linn's guide to philatelic symbols & abbreviations**

To help the philatelic newcomer, Linn's presents this list of frequently used symbols and abbreviations:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symbol</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>* or *</td>
<td>Mint.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>©</td>
<td>Used</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐</td>
<td>Pie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐</td>
<td>Cover</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐</td>
<td>Block</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABNC</td>
<td>American Bank Note Co.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APO</td>
<td>Army Postal Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AAPA</td>
<td>American Philatelic Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASDA</td>
<td>American Stamp Dealers' Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Av or Av.</td>
<td>Average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BEP</td>
<td>Bureau of Engraving and Printing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BNA</td>
<td>British North America</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOB</td>
<td>Ba</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BPO</td>
<td>B.P.O. Post Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cnc. or Cdl.</td>
<td>Cancelled</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**U.N. stamp program**

1988 program

Jan. 29, International Foundation for Agricultural Development — For A World Without Hunger. Six stamps (22¢, 34¢, 35 cents, 1.30 franc, 4 schilling, 6¢) Scott New York 519-523; Geneva 163-165; Vienna 76-78, (Linn’s, Jan. 1, page 12).


March 10, Arrival of the Forests. Six stamps (25¢, 44¢, 50¢, 1.10fr, 4s, 5s) in sheets of 12. (Linn’s, Feb. 8, page 7).

April 28, International Volunteer Day. Six stamps (6¢, 35¢, 50¢, 6¢, 7.50¢) and a souvenir card.

June 10, World Health Day. Six stamps (25¢, 38¢, 50¢, 1.10fr, 6s, 8s) and a souvenir card.

June 18, Definitives. Three stamps (16¢, 38¢, 50¢), Sept. 18, Flags, Six stamps (25¢ each).

Dec. 5, Human Rights Day. Three stamps (25¢, 80¢, 50¢) and three souvenir sheets (50¢, 7fr, 11¢).
Souvenir Cards Guide

Souvenir card issues of the United States Postal Service and the Bureau of Engraving and Printing often are available to collectors for a number of months following the event being commemorated in post.

The following is a listing of cards currently available; the list is presented approximately once a month. Listings will be omitted when cards are sold out or withdrawn from sale; cards marked with a † will be withdrawn from sale in the near future, and will be listed here for the last time.

U.S. Postal Service

Oct. 1, 1984, National Stamping Collecting Month, Oct. 1-31. Card reproduces a 2½¢ Family Unity commemorative. Cards are $2 each mint (USPS order No. 0512), or $2.50 with 2½¢ Family Unity stamp and National Stamping Collecting Month pictorial cancel (USPS order No. 512).


Oct. 16, 1987, HAFNIA 87, Copenhagen, Denmark, Oct. 16-23. Card reproduces the 10¢ Pan American stamp with overprinted 1970 Danish semi-postal stamp (Scott 827b). The card is $2 mint (USPS order No. 0508) and $2.25 for the cancelled version (USPS order No. 508C). The cancelled card bears a 2¢ Flag With Fireworks stamp and is cancelled with the HAFNIA 87 imprint.

Nov. 19, 1987, MONTE CARLO, Exposition Philatélique, Monaco, Nov. 19-25. Card reproduces U.S. 1987 Monarch butterfly and 2300 Tiger Swallowtail with denominations. Also reproduced is a 3¢-franc stamp with an inscription of a verse of a 1919 $5 Silver Certificate. By mail, cards are $5.50 (BEPS order No. 950). Cancelled cards are $3.75 (BEPS order No. 955), $2.75 (BEPS order No. 959). TO ORDER FROM THE USPS

Cards typically are withdrawn from sale within a year of issuance, unless stocks are depleted sooner. Orders should specify cancelled or/and mint cards. There is a service charge of $5 per order (minimum $10), plus a $10 minimum requirement, for mail orders. Check or money order must be made payable to: Philatelic Sales Division, U.S. Postal Service, Washington, D.C. 20238.

TO ORDER FROM THE BEP

Cards available by mail or in person at the BEP Visitors Center while available. Check or money order remittance must be made payable to: United States Government. Bureau of Engraving and Printing, Washington, D.C. 20228.


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BEP changes in presses responsible for lack of 22¢ Transportation series coil

By Robert Rabinowitz

When the 18¢ first-class rate was current, the United States Postal Service issued both a Flag coil (Scott 1891) and a Transportation coil, the 18¢ Surrey. When the rate was increased to 20¢, again a Transportation issue, the 20¢ Fire Pumper, accompanied the traditional Flag coil (1889).

The 22¢ rate has been in effect for three years now and there's not been a Transportation series counterpart to the 22¢ Flag coil (2115). And with higher rates in prospect, it's unlikely there will be.

With such great interest in Transportation coils and the precedent of the immediate past, the reason for the absence of a 22¢ Transportation stamp wasn't all obvious.

I asked Don McDowell, director of the Stamps Division of the U.S. Postal Service, to clarify the situation.

The basic reason, he said, is that large-volume mailers who use 22¢ coil stamps almost always prefer the U.S. Flag. No one is ever offended by an envelope bearing the Stars and Stripes. Almost any other design has bothered someone at sometime. (The 3¢ School Bus stamp especially caused problems.)

When the 18¢ and 20¢ rates were current, the manufacturing capability at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing was such that production of Flag coils had to be supplemented on the Cottrell presses, with additional stamps. This was the genesis of the 18¢ Surrey and 20¢ Pumper coils.

When the BEP increased its multicolor B and C press capabilities, the entire requirement for first-class coil stamps could be met with Flags. Thus, there was no need to print a monocolor 22¢ value in the Transportation series.

Actually, McDowell points out, there are economies in printing only one type of 22¢ coil. Engraving, inventory and distribution savings can readily be quantified.

McDowell is certainly well tuned into the philatelic pulse. Many Linn's readers know that he is the man who is responsible for plate number coil number stamps. He has taken a great interest in the growth of these stamps as a collecting specialty.

Furthermore, the entire Transportation coil concept originated and was implemented during his reign at the Stamps Division. He is certainly very pleased with the tremendous interest collectors have shown towards the Transportation series.

We'll certainly be seeing more stamps in the series when forthcoming rate increases create the need for new values.

THE QUESTION OF NEW FRAMES

At the first February RPA Meeting, the proposed vote on vote - to authorize the RPA Board to disperse $7000. $7000.00 for the purpose of purchasing new exhibit frames, was withdrawn at that time. New information on the availability of a second design at a reduced cost per unit was presented. The feeling of the membership present at that meeting wanted more price information and suggested that the RPA Board purchase one of the AMERIPEX easel style frames at a cost of $133.00 + shipping. At the second February RPA Meeting, members viewed the AMERIPEX easel frame and compared its design to the original Rochester pole frame design (Illustrated in the last H&T issue). The membership present did not express preferences for one design over the other. A competing bid from the Rochester pole frame manufacturer was suggested.

When a finalized price per unit has been confirmed and a frame design picked, the membership at large will have the opportunity to vote on an authorization of disbursement of RPA funds to purchase NEW EXHIBIT FRAMES in time for ROPEX'89.
Revised ‘Nassau Street’ published by Linn’s

A newly revised edition of Nassau Street by Herman “Pat” Herst Jr. has just been published by Linn’s.

This, the seventh edition of Nassau Street, has been newly annotated by the author. This is the first revised edition of the book, which originally was published in 1960. Nassau Street is one of the stamp hobby’s all-time best sellers, says Laurence. Fifty thousand copies, in six editions, have been sold since initial publication. Until the publication of this newly revised, the book had been out of print.

Author Herst has updated the 320-page book with footnotes and has provided a new preface, introduction and conclusion. Collectors familiar with the original work may be surprised to learn the true identities of many of those involved in the stories Herst tells. Herst reveals the true names of many individuals who were given pseudonyms in earlier editions.

Nassau Street was the center of stamp dealing in the United States until the 1960s when the dealers closed their shops and found more economically suitable locations.

Herst is one of stamp collecting’s most prolific writers. His articles appear regularly in the philatelic press — including his monthly Point of View column in Linn’s. His books include Nassau Street, Fun and Profit in Stamp Collecting, Stories to Collect Stamps By, More Stories to Collect Stamps By, Please Tell Me, Mr. Herst and Forensic Philately.

In 1987, Linn’s acquired the rights to these books — plus other material — written by Herst. Nassau Street is the first revised reprint of these works. Others will follow.

Nassau Street is available in either of two editions: a softcover version for $9.95 or a limited-edition hardcover version for $20. All orders postpaid from Linn’s Stamp News, Box 29, Sidney, Ohio 45365.

Shown here is the dramatic contrast between the generic Eagle design of the past (upper right) and the colorful “E/Earth” design of the new non-denominated contingency stamp (upper left). The booklet cover for the E stamps explains a bit about this issue.

DANSVILLE 28th ANNUAL COIN & STAMP SHOW

SUNDAY APRIL 24th, 10-5pm.
Ellis B. Hyde Elementary School
Main Street, Rt.63, Dansville, NY
40 Coin & Stamp Dealers
FREE ADMISSION

SPECIAL 75th BIRTHDAY CACHETED COVER

In honor of the RPA’s 75th Birthday, every RPA member in good standing will receive one special RPA cover as a gift! A special U.S.P.S. cancel has also been designed using March 12, 1988. The design of the cover incorporates all the stamps that have been issued in the Greater Rochester area and shows the RPA logo with the founding date: March 12, 1913. If members would like more special RPA Birthday covers they are priced at $1.00 plus a S.A.S.E. If they are to be returned by mail or see Rick Kase at any of the RPA meetings and or ROPEX’88. You can also purchase 5 unserviced envelopes for $1.00..............

POSTAGE RATE CHANGES

As recommended by Postal Rate Commission, and expected to take effect in about 2 weeks, subject to approval by board of governors.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>WAS</th>
<th>WILL BE</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First class letter (first oz.)</td>
<td>22c</td>
<td>25c</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(additional ozs.)</td>
<td>17c</td>
<td>20c</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postcard</td>
<td>14c</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second class (item rate)</td>
<td>4.9c</td>
<td>5.2c</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pound rate</td>
<td>9.1c</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Third class (min. bulk rate)</td>
<td>12.5c</td>
<td>16.7c</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pound rate</td>
<td>12c</td>
<td>16c</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-profit rate</td>
<td>8.5c</td>
<td>8.7c</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business reply (mininum)</td>
<td>7c</td>
<td>5c</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Express mail (2 lb. overnight)</td>
<td>$10.75</td>
<td>$8.75</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A First for the National Park Service

By JOHN F. DUNN

Six paintings in one of the richest art competitions in United States history appear on the first National Park Service stamps. The stamps will be used to validate the $25 Golden Eagle Pass that entitles holders to free access for one year to all areas of the National Park System and National Wildlife Refuges.

Although issued with considerable fanfare last December, the stamps have not yet received much philatelic attention. As such, they may turn out to be "sleepers" that will be difficult to obtain later this year. This would be similar to the first Hunting Permit stamps that were issued by the Department of Agriculture in the early 1930s. The new park stamps were inspired by the successful 50-year history of duck stamps, which are now issued by the Department of the Interior.

The "Arts for the Parks" program was created by the National Park Academy of the Arts in cooperation with the National Park Foundation. Its purpose was to search for the 100 artists whose paintings best captured the essence of the 300 units of the National Park System. The competition featured a $100,000 cash prize to the winning artist, Richard Schmid of Evanston, Ill. His "Mountain Stream" depiction of Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado is featured in the lower right of the Golden Eagle Pass. Scenes painted by other artists show Cape Hatteras National Seashore in North Carolina, Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming, the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., Canyon de Chelly National Monument in Arizona and Glacier National Park in Montana.

Golden Eagle Passes may be purchased in person or by mail for $25 from the National Park Service, United States Forest Service or United States Fish and Wildlife Service headquarters in Washington, D.C. and any of their regional offices, park units or refuge areas that charge entrance fees. The headquarters address is United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Box 37127, Washington, D.C. 20013-7127.