

Hamilton Township Philatelic Society

U.S. Special Handling 1925 - 2011



Tuesday, March 15, 2011

**Robert G. Rufe, President
Brandywine Valley Stamp Club**

A Salute to Chicks!!!

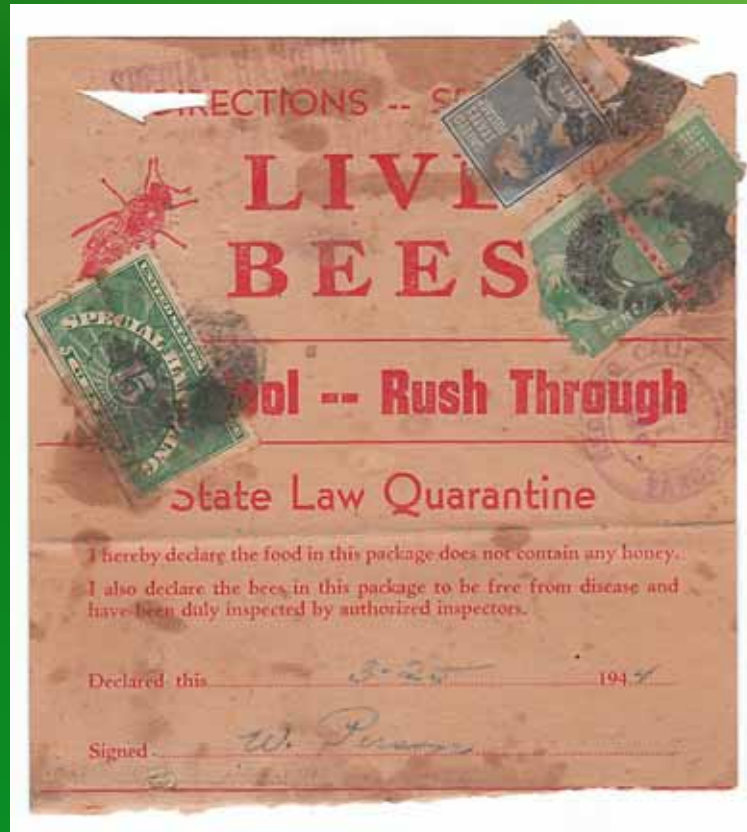


Bringing Orders for Butter and Eggs



Don't even think about trying the website: www.LiveChicks.com!

The Regs were written for “Live Chicks!” ... And Bees!

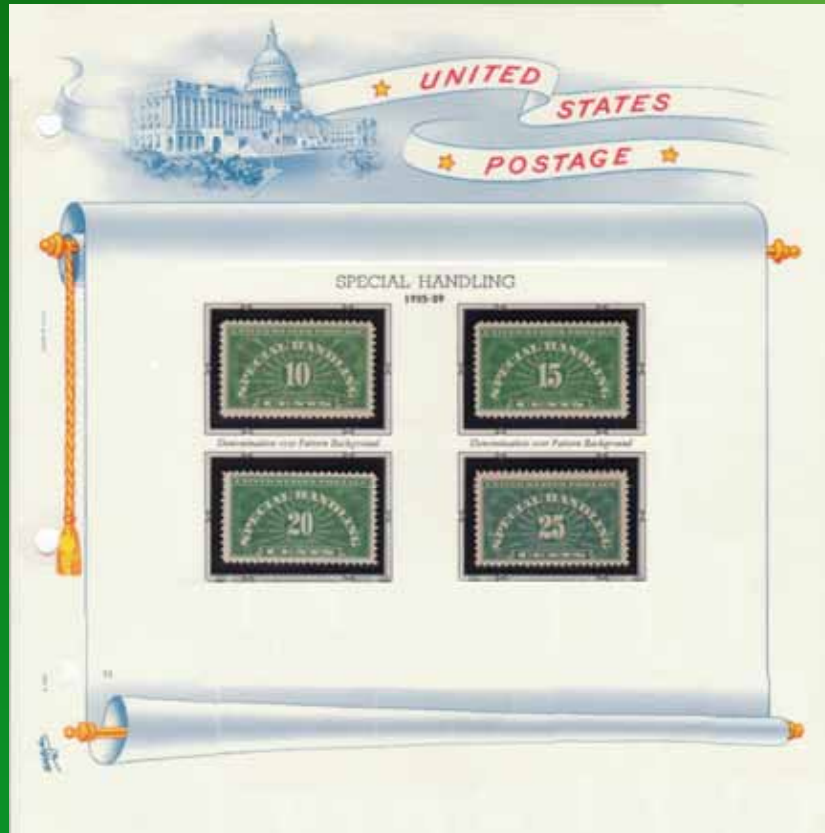


Does there exist a 25¢ example featuring one of these three critters?

Alternate Title...

That's Like What? Four Stamps??

**A
Typical
Album
Page**



Kitschy Exhibit Phrase...

“What an Album Page Should Look Like!”

How
About
15?
(or 16?)



Quick Chronology...

1925 – Service Introduced - 25¢

1928 – 2nd Printing 25¢ (January)

1928 – Rates Reduced (July)

1928 – 25¢ Recalled (August)

1940 – 2nd Printing 10, 15, 20¢

1955 – Experimental Dry Printing

1959 – Final Recall from Philatelic Sales

Rates now exceed highest denomination

2011 – Service Still Alive and Well!

Proofs

13 Trial Colors



Carmine Lake



Large Die Proof



Deep Green

One Set – Held Privately

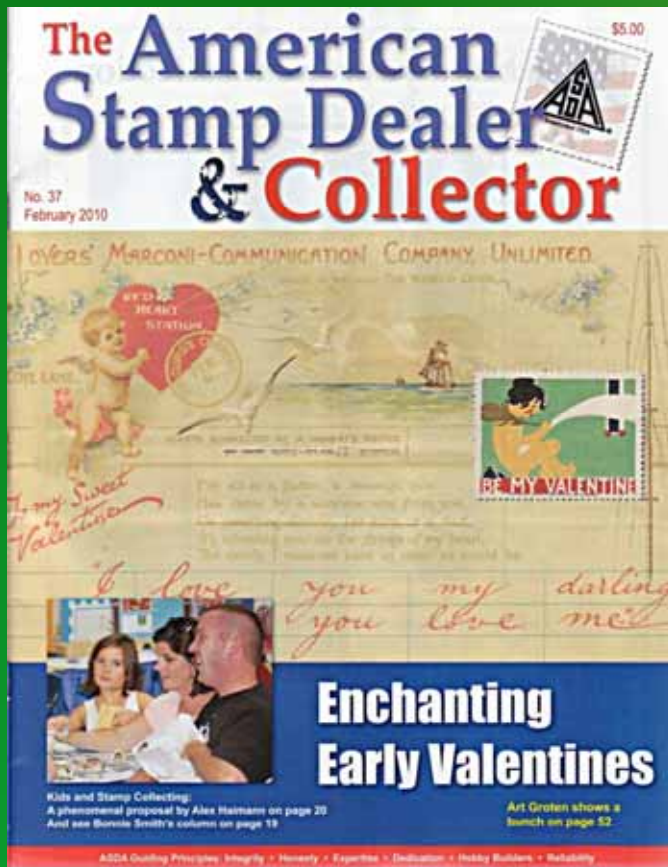
Five Sets

Plate Proof from National Postal Museum

- ❖ **200 Subject**
- ❖ **Flat Plate**
- ❖ **Unwatermarked**
- ❖ **Perf. 11 Only**



Hot off the press...



Page 11



First Day of Issue – April 11, 1925

QE4 Single



\$ 225

Mint, NH (2011 CV)

QE4 Combo with E13



\$ 1,300

First Day of Issue – Plate Blocks

QE4 Single



QE4 Combo with E13



Mint, NH

\$??? (???)

\$ 3,575 (2005)

First Day of Issue – Third's a Charm

Worden Cover with QE4 PB and 551 Plate Strip



\$ 1,093
Nov. 2008

First Printings – 25¢ Stamps

1925 Deep – Green



\$37.50

1928 Yellow - Green



\$ 32.50

Mint, NH (2011)

Two “Major” Plate Varieties (Catalog-Listed)

Normal Stamp

“A-T” in STATES

“T-A” in POSTAGE



Mint, NH (2011 CV)

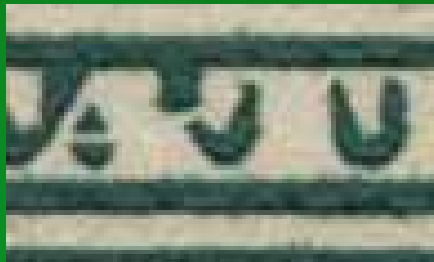
\$37.50

\$120

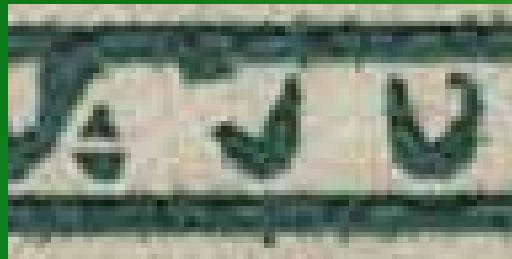
\$190

Several “Minor” Plate Varieties (Not Catalog-Listed)

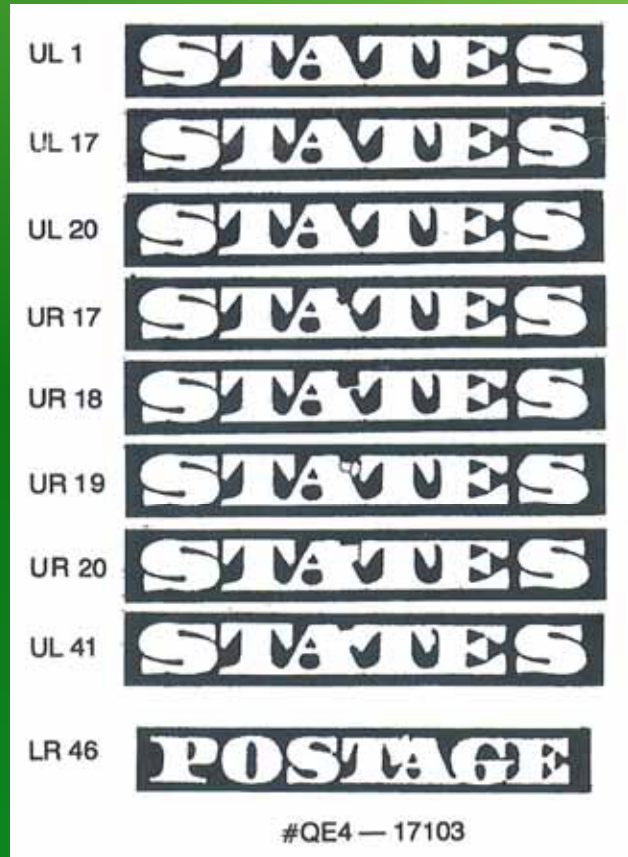
“A-T” Reaching



Broken “T”



“Cloudy” French Summary

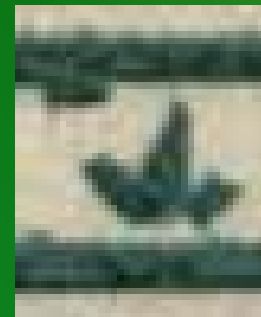


New Plate Variety! Discovered in 2008

Normal "A-T" Break



New Discovery: "Dot on the T"



1928 Yellow-Green 25¢ Printing



Used Examples are Scarce... "Unknown on Cover!"
(except for a few modern contrived pieces!)

“Unknown on Cover...” “til last month!



THIS LETTER HAS BEEN DELAYED FOR ONE YEAR
BECAUSE OF DIFFICULTIES IN TRANSPORTATION
AT LITTLE AMERICA, ANTARCTICA.

New EDU for stamp:

May 1928



1928 Printing – Why so rare?

July 10, 1928 Withdrawal & Redemption Notice:



THIRD ASSISTANT POSTMASTER GENERAL,
Washington, July 9, 1928.

In conformance to the new rates, effective July 1, 1928, postmasters at all post offices are directed to withdraw from sale all unsold 25-cent special-handling stamps now on hand and hold same for redemption. Postmasters at direct and central-accounting post offices will forward their unsold 25-cent special-handling stamps, together with any unsold 25-cent special-handling stamps redeemed from patrons as herein authorized, to the department as promptly as possible after August 1, accompanied with the usual letter of transmittal. Loose stamps must be attached to sheets of paper containing 50 stamps each.

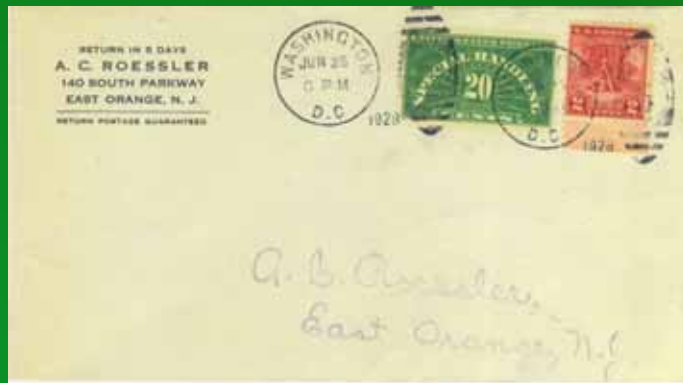
Postmasters at district post offices having unsold or redeemed 25-cent special-handling stamps on hand will report the quantity to their central-accounting postmaster and hold the stock for instructions.

Since a special-handling stamp of the 25-cent denomination is no longer required, postmasters are authorized, until further notice, to accept at full value unused 25-cent special-handling stamps when presented by the original purchaser, in exchange for other stamp supplies. Postmasters will be expected to take proper action when such applications are received as may be required to prevent unlawful or unauthorized exchanges.

R. S. REGAR,
Third Assistant Postmaster General.

New (Lower) Rates Introduced FDC - June 25, 1928

Uncached



\$ 45

Combo – QE1, QE2 & QE3



\$ 350

Catalog Value (2011)

FDCs with Cachets...

Cacheted



\$ 200

Combo – QE1, QE2 & QE3



\$???

Catalog Value (2011)

My Favorite FDCs...

By Hugh M. Southgate

The New Rates Didn't Take Effect Until July 1, 1928



And of course, they rate out perfectly!

History of Printing... 1 2

... As learned through “socked on the nose” cancels:



**Certified
EDU!**

1955 Experimental Printing

“Wet” vs. “Dry” Paper



1928

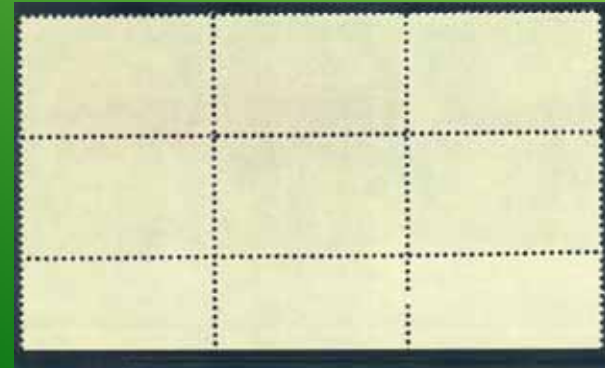
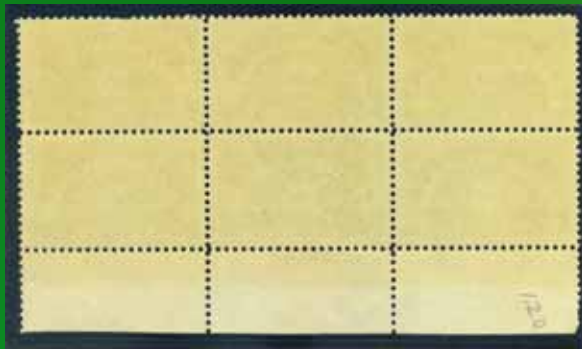
≥1941



1955

1955 Experimental Printing

“Wet” vs. “Dry” Paper



1955 Experimental Printing

Rarity only recently recognized...



American Philatelic Society
Expert Committee Report

Members of the American Philatelic Expertizing Service have examined the item submitted and it is their opinion that it is:

United States, Scott No. QE1 dry print, used 2/26/1958, EDU as of certificate date, genuine in all respects. (Revised Scott No. QE1a 11/12/2007)



W. B. M. T. No. 169823
APES Certified Expert
C. M. S. A. Date: 6/19/2006
(Chairman Signature)

The American Philatelic Expertizing Service
A Service to Philately Since 1903
109 Match Factory Place, Bellefonte, PA 16823 USA
Phone: 814-933-3803 • Fax: 814-933-6128
Website: www.stamps.org

apex
A cooperative service offered by the American Philatelic Society (APS)
and the American Stamp Dealers Association (ASDA).

EDU Above; Six examples known!

1955 Experimental Printing

All used stamps had the same Catalog Value:
(and the nomenclature was backwards)

320 PARCEL POST POSTAGE DUE STAMPS — SPECIAL HANDLING STAMPS — POSTAL INSURANCE STAMPS

2007

SPECIAL HANDLING STAMPS

The Postal Service Act, approved February 28, 1925, provided for a special handling stamp of the 25-cent denomination for use on fourth-class mail matter, which would secure for such mail matter the expeditious handling accorded to mail matter of the first class.



PP13

FLAT PLATE PRINTING

Plates of 200 subjects in four panes of 50

| 1925-55 | Unwmk. | Perf. 11 |
|---------------------------------|--------|----------|
| QE1 PP13 10c yellow green, 1955 | | |
| Never hinged | 2.00 | 1.00 |
| Block of 4 | 3.50 | |
| P# block of 6 | 8.50 | 5.75 |
| Never hinged | 32.50 | |
| a. Wet printing, June 25, 1928 | 47.50 | 1.00 |
| Never hinged | 2.50 | |
| P# block of 6 | 4.25 | |
| | 22.50 | |

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|--------|--------|--|
| Never hinged | 32.50 | | |
| First day cover | 45.00 | | |
| QE2 PP13 15c yellow green, 1955 | 2.10 | .90 | |
| Never hinged | 3.60 | | |
| Block of 4 | 8.75 | 5.75 | |
| P# block of 6 | 42.50 | | |
| Never hinged | 62.50 | | |
| a. Wet printing, June 25, 1928 | 2.75 | .90 | |
| Never hinged | 4.50 | | |
| P# block of 6 | 32.50 | | |
| Never hinged | 47.50 | | |
| QE4 PP13 25c yellow green, 1929 | 18.00 | 7.50 | |
| Never hinged | 32.50 | | |
| Block of 4 | 85.00 | 32.50 | |
| P# block of 6 | 260.00 | | |
| Never hinged | 375.00 | | |
| a. 25c deep green, Apr. 11, 1925 | 30.00 | 5.50 | |
| Never hinged | 50.00 | | |
| First day cover | | 225.00 | |
| Block of 4 | 130.00 | 30.00 | |
| P# block of 6 | 330.00 | | |
| Never hinged | 475.00 | | |

QE3 PP13 20c yellow green, 1955

| | | |
|---------------------------------|-------|--------|
| Never hinged | 3.25 | 1.50 |
| Block of 4 | 5.25 | |
| P# block of 6 | 14.50 | 11.00 |
| Never hinged | 47.50 | |
| a. Wet printing, June 25, 1928 | 70.00 | |
| Never hinged | 4.50 | 1.50 |
| P# block of 6 | 7.75 | |
| Never hinged | 37.50 | |
| First day cover | 55.00 | |
| First day cover, Nos. QE1a-QE3a | | 45.00 |
| | | 350.00 |

1955 Experimental Printing

Catalog numbers changed; used dry-prints not priced.

2008

SPECIAL HANDLING STAMPS — POSTAL INSURANCE STAMPS

333

SPECIAL HANDLING STAMPS

The Postal Service Act, approved February 28, 1925, provided for a special handling stamp of the 25-cent denomination for use on fourth-class mail matter, which would secure for such mail matter the expeditious handling accorded to mail matter of the first class.



PP13

FLAT PLATE PRINTING

Plates of 200 subjects in four panes of 50

| 1925-55 | Unwmk. | Perf. 11 |
|--------------|--|-----------|
| QE1 PP13 10c | yellow green, wet printing, June 25, 1928 | 2.50 1.00 |
| | Never hinged | 4.25 — |
| | Block of 4 | 10.50 — |
| | P# block of 6 | 25.00 — |
| | Never hinged | 40.00 — |
| | First day cover | 45.00 — |
| a. | Dry printing, 1955 | 3.75 — |
| | Never hinged | 6.50 — |
| | Block of 4 | 16.00 — |
| | P# block of 6 | 40.00 — |
| | Never hinged | 65.00 — |
| QE2 PP13 15c | yellow green, wet printing, June 25, 1928 | 3.00 .90 |
| | Never hinged | 5.00 — |
| | Block of 4 | 12.50 — |
| | P# block of 6 | 30.00 — |
| | Never hinged | 47.50 — |

| | | | |
|--------------|--|-------|-------|
| | First day cover | 5.00 | 45.00 |
| a. | Dry printing, 1955 | 8.00 | — |
| | Never hinged | 21.00 | — |
| | Block of 4 | 50.00 | — |
| | P# block of 6 | 75.00 | — |
| | Never hinged | — | — |
| QE3 PP13 20c | yellow green, wet printing, June 25, 1928 | 4.50 | 1.50 |
| | Never hinged | — | — |
| | Block of 4 | — | — |
| | P# block of 6 | — | — |
| | Never hinged | — | — |
| | First day cover | — | — |
| | First day cover, No. QE3 | — | — |

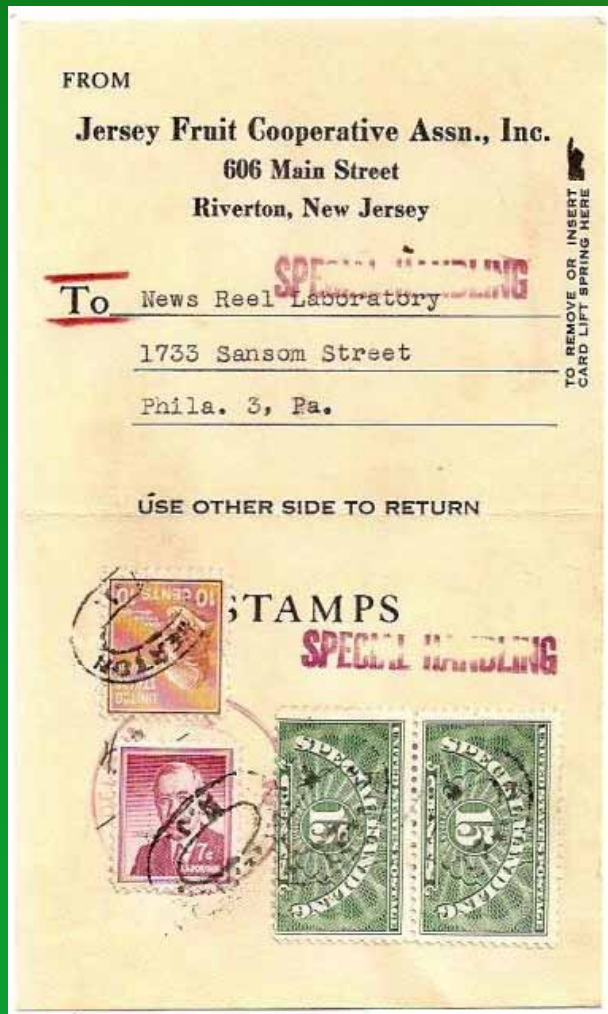


"AT" joined to

| | | | |
|--------------|--|-------|--------|
| | Never hinged | 75.00 | — |
| QE3 PP13 20c | yellow green, wet printing, June 25, 1928 | 4.50 | 1.50 |
| | Never hinged | 7.75 | — |
| | Block of 4 | 19.00 | — |
| | P# block of 6 | 37.50 | — |
| | Never hinged | 60.00 | — |
| | First day cover | — | 45.00 |
| | First day cover, Nos. QE1- QE3 | — | 350.00 |
| a. | Dry printing, 1955 | 7.50 | — |
| | Never hinged | 12.50 | — |
| | Block of 4 | 32.50 | — |
| | P# block of 6 | 57.50 | — |
| | Never hinged | 85.00 | — |

1955 Experimental Printing

Rare used. Not known on cover!



“WANTED – Dead or Alive!”



\$300.00 REWARD!



**FOR ANY QE1a, 2a or 3a SPECIAL HANDLING DRY-PRINT ON THE FIRST COVER SENT TO ME
SHOWING LEGITIMATE USAGE DURING PROPER TIME PERIOD.
FINE-VERY FINE CONDITION, SUBJECT TO PF, PSE OR APEX CERTIFICATION.
DETAILS: RRUFE1@AOL.COM • 302-998-9298**

Special Handling - Rarest Modern Covers?

“Unknown on Cover...” “til last September!



**New EDU for cover:
August 1, 1957**

**Unaddressed
Uncacheted
eBay Story...**

Some Closing Thoughts...

A Common Stamp – Pursued by a “Beginner”

**A Lucky Find – No one had previously looked at
“The Whole Issue”**

Rarities:

There is only one set of Trial Colors

Dry Prints – 10 & 20 ¢ Not Known on Cover

Rare Used – 20 ¢ Not Known

Was the June 1928 Printing on Booklet Paper?

Is there a 25¢ on a Chick or Bee Wrapper?

What is the Future of Special Handling?

Can Special Handling Save the USPS???

A New Revenue Source for 2011!

Today – Special Handling is “Suggested,” but not “Required”

VI 078 699 585 US
United States Postal Service®
INSURED MAIL - DOMESTIC ONLY

NOTE: To file a claim for damage or loss of contents, the article, container, and packaging must be preserved.

U.S. Postal Service®
INSURED MAIL RECEIPT
DOMESTIC ONLY
Over \$200

OFFICIAL USE

| | |
|--|--|
| Postage \$ | <input type="checkbox"/> Fragile <input type="checkbox"/> Perishable |
| Insurance Fee | <input type="checkbox"/> Liquid <input type="checkbox"/> Hazardous |
| Restricted Delivery Fee (endorsement required) | Insurance Coverage: |
| Special Handling Fee | |
| Return Receipt Fee (endorsement required) | |
| Total Postage & Fees \$ | |

Postmark Here

Sent to:
Street, Apt. No.; or PO Box No.
City, State, ZIP+4®

PS Form 3813-P, May 2007 See Reverse

Restricted Delivery Fee (endorsement required)

Special Handling Fee

Return Receipt Fee (endorsement required)

OFFICIAL USE

Fragile Perishable
 Liquid Hazardous

Insurance Coverage:

1309 1040 0000 4167 6042
United States Postal Service®
INSURED MAIL - DOMESTIC ONLY

NOTE: To file a claim for damage or loss of contents, the article, container, and packaging must be preserved.

U.S. Postal Service®
INSURED MAIL RECEIPT
DOMESTIC ONLY
\$200 and under

OFFICIAL USE

| | |
|--|--|
| Postage \$ | <input type="checkbox"/> Fragile <input type="checkbox"/> Perishable |
| Insurance Fee | <input type="checkbox"/> Liquid <input type="checkbox"/> Hazardous |
| Restricted Delivery Fee (endorsement required) | Insurance Coverage: |
| Special Handling Fee | |
| Return Receipt Fee (endorsement required) | |
| Total Postage & Fees \$ | |

Postmark Here

Sent to:
Street, Apt. No.; or PO Box No.
City, State, ZIP+4®

PS Form 3813, May 2007 See Reverse for Instructions

Some Special Pieces...



Postal Inspector's Suggestion in 1935... Needed more distinction!

“I’m not the first with the philatelic gene run amok!”



Special Handling neither authorized nor intended (but “permitted”)

Zeppelin 'Round the World!



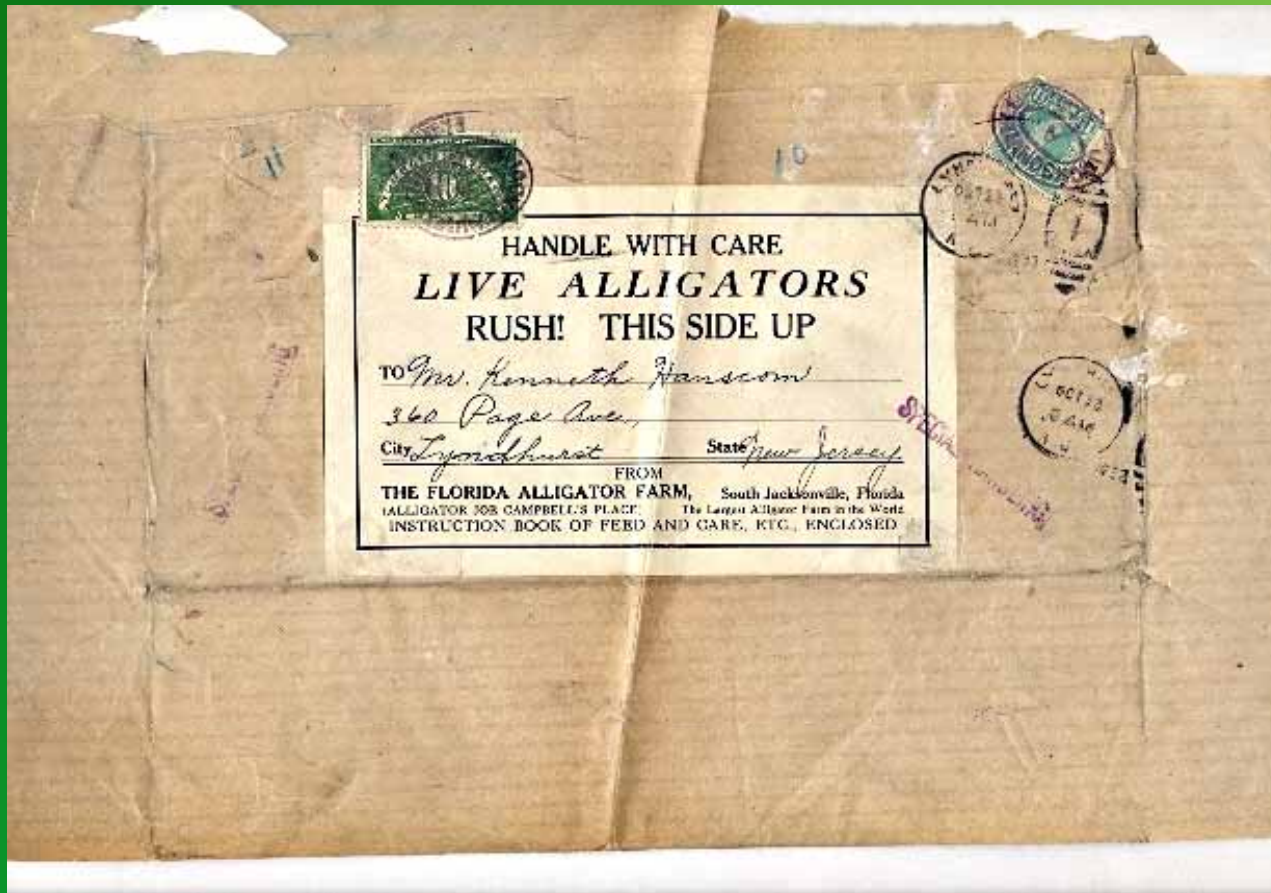
Special Handling neither authorized nor intended (but “permitted”)

Zeppelin to South America!



**Special Handling neither authorized nor intended (but "permitted")
What in the world was the sender thinking? Was he thinking of me?**

See Ya Later, Alligator!



Any Questions?

U.S. Stamp Trivia Question..

What U.S. stamp or series holds the record for the longest use in commercial service??? For example, the Prexies ran from 1938 to 1954, a total of 16 years. There may be multiple categories – stamps, stationery, etc – but there should be one clear winner for longevity. Guideline is availability at the post office or philatelic window. Who could tell if a 3 cent Liberty might not still be available at some rural office (and many of us still use 19th century postage on our mail) – these don't count! My candidate? Surprise – Special Handling 10, 15 and 20 cent stamps: 1928-1959, a total of 31 years!

U.S. Stamp Trivia Question..

Answers (Partial List)...

\$2 Harding Prexy – 1938 to 1978 = 40 years!

**2¢ Jefferson October 22, 1954 to July 31, 1983 =
29 years –**

**Special Handling 10, 15 and 20 cent stamps:
1928-1959, a total of 31 years!**