

**CATALOGUE OF THE POSTAGE
STAMPS AND STAMPED
ENVELOPES OF THE
UNITED STATES AND POSSESSIONS,
ISSUED PRIOR TO JANUARY 1, 1919**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649178148

Catalogue of the postage stamps and stamped envelopes of the United States and possessions,
issued prior to January 1, 1919 by Joseph B. Leavy

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

JOSEPH B. LEAVY

**CATALOGUE OF THE POSTAGE
STAMPS AND STAMPED
ENVELOPES OF THE
UNITED STATES AND POSSESSIONS,
ISSUED PRIOR TO JANUARY 1, 1919**



SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM
Bulletin 105

CATALOGUE OF THE POSTAGE STAMPS AND
STAMPED ENVELOPES OF THE UNITED
STATES AND POSSESSIONS, ISSUED
PRIOR TO JANUARY 1, 1919

COMPILED BY

JOSEPH B. LEAVY

Philatelist, United States National Museum



WASHINGTON
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
1919

ADVERTISEMENT.

The scientific publications of the United States National Museum consist of two series, the *Proceedings* and the *Bulletins*.

The *Proceedings*, the first volume of which was issued in 1878, are intended primarily as a medium for the publication of original, and usually brief, papers based on the collections of the National Museum, presenting newly acquired facts in zoology, geology, and anthropology, including descriptions of new forms of animals, and revisions of limited groups. One or two volumes are issued annually and distributed to libraries and scientific organizations. A limited number of copies of each paper, in pamphlet form, is distributed to specialists and others interested in the different subjects as soon as printed. The date of publication is recorded in the tables of contents of the volumes.

The *Bulletins*, the first of which was issued in 1875, consist of a series of separate publications comprising chiefly monographs of large zoological groups and other general systematic treatises (occasionally in several volumes), faunal works, reports of expeditions, and catalogues of type-specimens, special collections, etc. The majority of the volumes are octavos, but a quarto size has been adopted in a few instances, in which large plates were regarded as indispensable.

Since 1902 a series of octavo volumes containing papers relating to the botanical collections of the Museum, and known as the *Contributions from the National Herbarium*, has been published as bulletins.

The present work forms No. 105 of the *Bulletin* series.

WILLIAM DE C. RAVENEL,

Administrative Assistant to the Secretary,

In charge of the United States National Museum.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 18, 1919.

PREFACE.

This catalogue of United States postage stamps, stamped envelopes, specimen stamps, and proofs is published with the view of acquainting philatelists with what the Museum desires the Government collection of United States stamps to represent when completed. An asterisk (*) has been placed after each item already installed in the exhibition frames, so that the catalogue shows exactly what portion of the collection has been already acquired and what has yet to be added to complete the exhibit.

The catalogue is designed to be of educational service to all philatelists in forming a comprehensive collection of United States stamps; it notes all the important varieties and shades. The extreme specialist will find that the very minor varieties have been omitted and that only the marked and important shades of color have been listed. In almost every stamp printed there are many variations of shade of color which are of no especial interest except to the extreme specialist.

The catalogue is not intended as a philatelic primer, so that no description of the designs of the stamps is given. Philatelists are generally very well acquainted with all the various designs, but a short description is given of the distinguishing features of the various varieties of type noted.

No list is given of the numerous coil stamps issued by various vending and mailing machine companies. They are merely private perforation varieties and have no place in the Government collection.

The collection as installed is of unused stamps, with the exception of a few rarities, such as postmasters' provisionals and carriers, 1851; 1c. Type III, 1869; inverted medallions, 1870; grilled 12c. and 24c.; and 1895, revenue paper 6c. and 8c. Such items are hardly ever to be acquired unused.

The imperforate stamps, with the exception of the 1851 issue and the 90c. 1861, August, are in blocks of four or horizontal pairs.

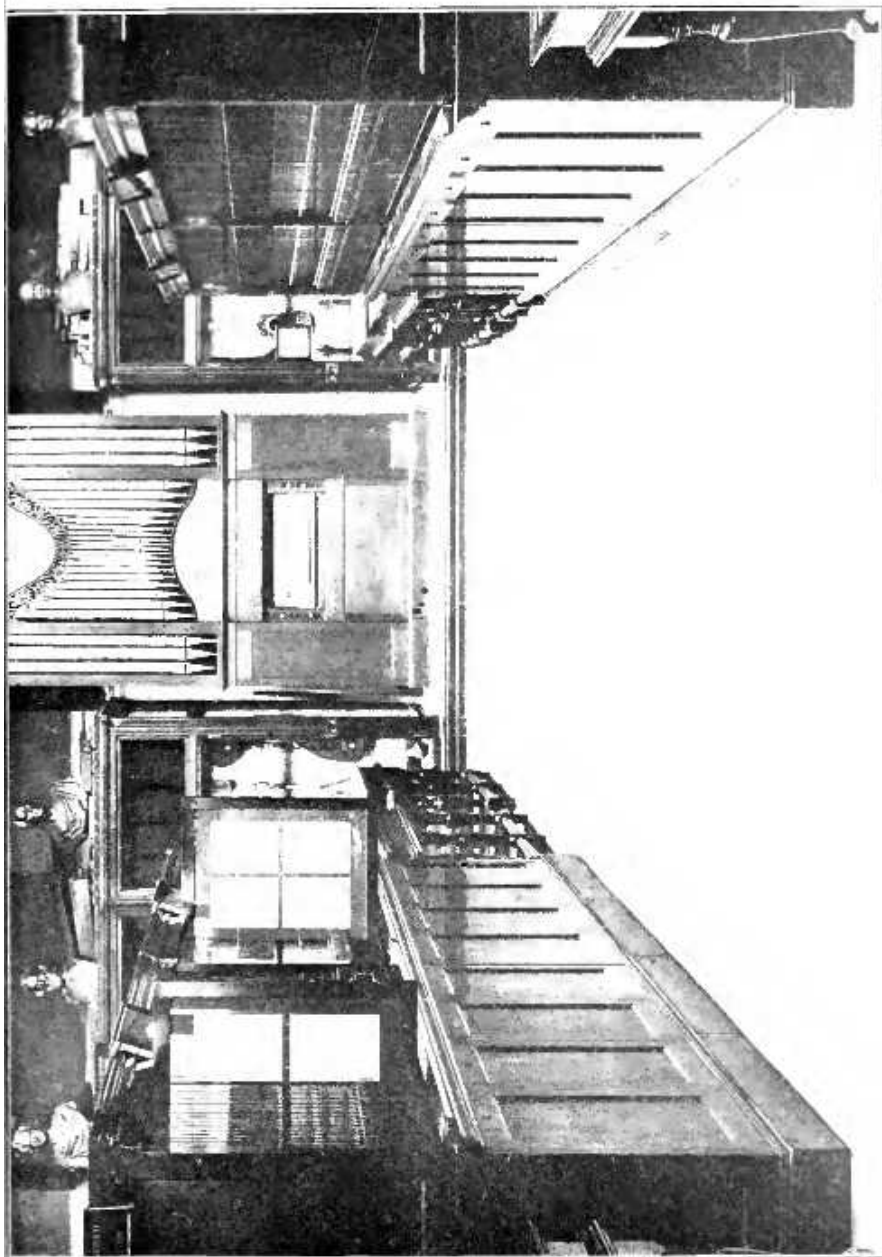
At the beginning of 1908 the subject of philately, at the United States National Museum, was illustrated by only a small miscellaneous collection of domestic and foreign stamps, numbering about 2,500 specimens, and principally donated by Mrs. Spencer F. Baird. In 1908, however, through the munificence of the late David W. Cromwell, of New York City, the Museum received a fine collection of about 20,000 specimens, representing the United States and nearly all foreign countries. In 1912 the Museum obtained by transfer the more essential parts of the large exhibition of the Post Office Department, comprising as its most valuable feature the stamps,

stamped envelopes, and post cards of all the nations of the world, to the number of nearly 200,000, and since that time there has been a constant accretion from this and other sources.

There have been many methods of exhibiting postage stamps, but the scheme adopted by the United States National Museum is without doubt an improvement over any other, especially in the matter of detail. The principle is the same as that followed by the British Museum and as exemplified in the former cabinet of the Post Office Department—namely, a series of vertical sliding frames in which the specimens are mounted. The two plates accompanying the text of this publication show the character of the installation of the stamp collection which is located in the northwest court of the older building of the United States National Museum. This is an interior court, lighted entirely from overhead, with no direct light ever falling upon the exhibits installed therein. It is an ideal place for a stamp exhibit, the lighting being very nearly perfect, and it is only in the late afternoon hours of the dark winter days or upon exceedingly dreary stormy days that artificial light is necessary, which is then supplied by high arc lights directly over the stamp cases.

The cabinets that have been built, and in which the United States Government collection is now installed, may be briefly described as follows: There are two cases, each 20 feet 2 inches long, 6 feet 7 inches high, and 2 feet 8½ inches deep, constructed in three sections for convenience in moving. They are made of hard cherry with dull mahogany finish, a cornice and simple trimmings giving an exceedingly rich appearance; the interior is of white pine, except as otherwise stated. The lower part of the case is arranged for storage and provided with doors. The upper part, measuring 3 feet 2¼ inches from a counter shelf to the top of the cornice, contains the sliding frames, of which there are 185 in each case, or 370 in all, a number that may of course be at any time increased by adding to the case length.

The individual frames, made of hard cherry with dull mahogany finish, measure 31½ inches high by 29¼ inches deep on the outside and 27½ by 21½ inches in the opening; the thickness of the frames is ¼ inch, and when fully drawn out they are exposed to a depth of 23½ inches, with an extension into the case of 6½ inches, which provides the necessary leverage. Both sides are used and are glazed with Belgian negative glass. The frames slide on cherry strips, fixed to the top and bottom of the interior space of the cabinet, and their upper and lower rails are grooved to within an inch of the front. In the lower groove are mortised four brass trunk rollers, projecting one-eighth inch, to raise the frame above the bottom strips, but the upper groove contains only one such roller, placed about 1 inch from the back to prevent friction as the frame is started



CABINETS CONTAINING STAMP COLLECTION SHOWING EXPOSED FRAMES.