



More Silkotes reported; pane found in Maine

By Rob Haeseler

The number of stamps surviving from the United States 2¢ Liberty Silkote experimental printing of 1954 is significantly higher than anyone imagined.

The discovery of two new Silkote plate blocks was reported in a page 1 story in Linn's issue of April 12.

Since then, at least 150 more stamps have come to light, including the full pane illustrated in color on this page and a plate block shown on page 16.

The elusive stamp is identified as Scott 1013a, the 2¢ Thomas Jefferson variety printed by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing on special Silkote paper manufactured by the S.D. Warren Co. of Westbrook, Maine.

A mint single is valued at \$1,750 in the 1999 Scott Specialized Catalog of United States Stamps and Covers. The plate block is listed in the catalog but is not valued because so few change hands.

Linn's reported Dec. 21, 1998, that San Diego dealer Dana Okey had purchased what was then believed to be the last full pane from an agent of Everett M. Hall, a stamp and coin dealer for more than 50 years in North Windham, Maine, a town about 10 miles from Westbrook.

Not only was Westbrook the home of the S.D. Warren Co., it was also the town where the entire printing of Silkotes — 500 panes,

or 50,000 stamps — was quietly put on sale to the public on Dec. 17, 1954, in the Cumberland Mills branch of the Westbrook Post Office.

Although the 2¢ Silkote stamp was known to collectors within two months of its appearance — thanks to an article by Harry Weiss in *How to Philatelic* of Feb. 19, 1955 — few paid attention to the stamp.

Hall said he originally purchased three panes at face value. He immediately broke up two panes, setting aside the plate blocks. He sold the other 192 stamps in blocks of four and 10 at 25¢ a stamp.

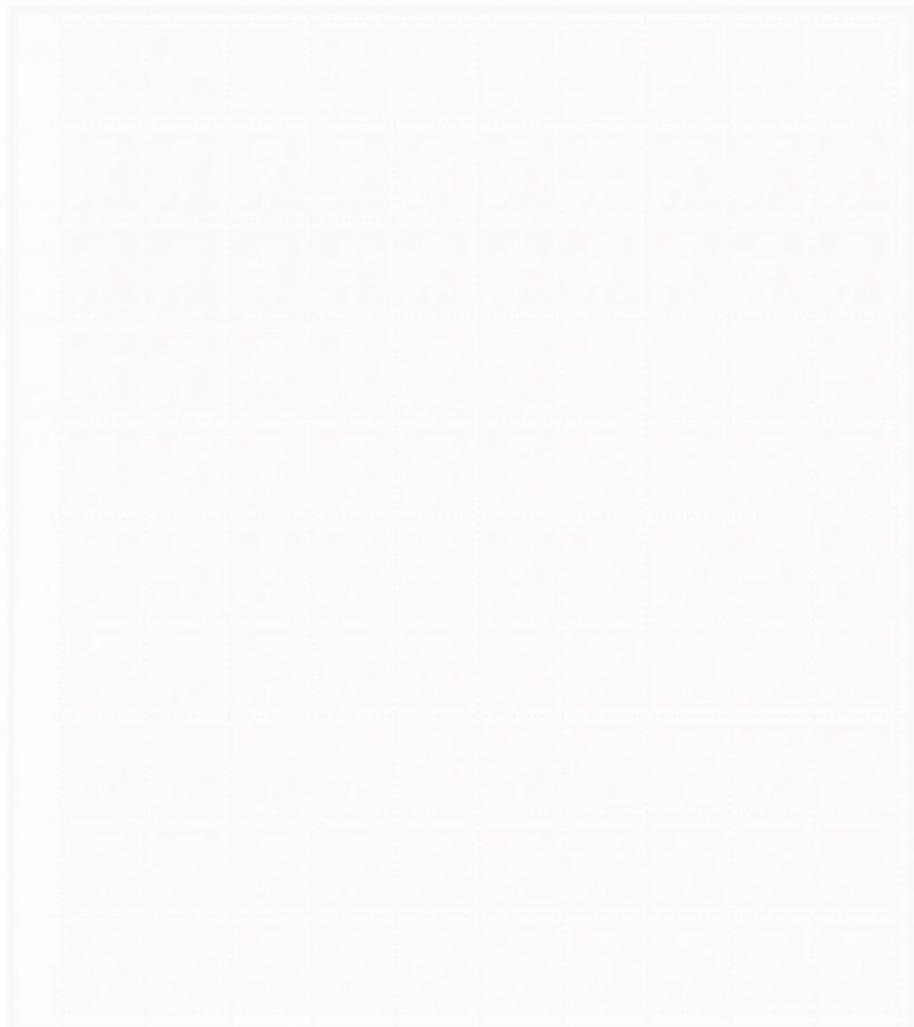
Okey broke Hall's last pane and has been selling off singles at \$1,250 and blocks at \$5,000.

It was believed that no other full panes existed until Bruce Hazelton, a Maine postal history collector and retired construction equipment salesman, told Linn's April 9 that he had recently purchased the pane shown here and that he intended to keep it intact.

The source of the pane was an 85-year-old man who had reportedly worked for the S.D. Warren Co. and had been involved in the Silkote project in 1954.

"He bought the sheet at the post office as a souvenir of his work," Hazelton said.

Hazelton owns the only known first-day (Please turn to page 16)



Recently purchased by a collector in Maine, where the stamp for the Silkote stamps was manufactured 50 years ago, this is thought to be the last surviving pane of the rarity.

Flag Over Porch dummy part of Daffy Duck Day; looks like real self-stick

By Charles Snee

A reproduction of the 1997 United States 32¢ Flag Over Porch self-adhesive coil stamp (Scott 2915D) surfaced in mid-April in association with a refrigerator magnet sold at Wal-Mart retail stores during Daffy Duck Day April 17.

At least one Wal-Mart store sold the magnet and the dummy stamps prior to the special day.

Daffy Duck Day was a nationwide promotional event of the U.S. Postal Service, in partnership with Warner Bros. and Wal-Mart.

The event was called Daffy Duck Day to trumpet the April 16 release of the new 33¢ Daffy Duck stamp.

A nearby color picture shows the small refrigerator magnet, a promotional item shaped like the familiar blue U.S. Postal Service street mailbox. A strip of the dummy Flag Over Porch coil stamps protrudes from the slit in the mailbox.

Images of one of the dummy Flag Over Porch coil stamps and a genuine 1997 Flag Over Porch coil stamp are displayed below the picture of the mailbox refrigerator magnet.

The pictured mailbox magnet contained a strip of three of the dummy Porch coil stamps. Linn's reader Jorge Cerezo purchased the items April 8 at a Wal-Mart store in North Fort Myers, Fla. The mailbox is made of wood. (Please turn to page 12)



This mailbox refrigerator magnet (top picture) was sold in approximately 1,500 Wal-Mart retail stores April 17, as part of Daffy Duck Day, a nationwide event for the 33¢ Daffy Duck stamp, sponsored by the United States Postal Service in partnership with Warner Bros. and Wal-Mart. Each mailbox contained a strip of three dummy coil stamps reproduced from the design of the 1997 U.S. 32¢ Flag Over Porch coil stamp. One of the dummy Flag Over Porch coil stamps is shown here, on the left below the mailbox. A genuine 1997 Flag Over Porch coil stamp is shown at the right. The most noticeable difference between the two pictured coil stamps is the absence of the "32" denomination and "USA" on the dummy.

Daffy Duck press sheets botched

By Rob Haeseler

Collectors who ordered Daffy Duck uncut press sheets from the United States Postal Service should expect a substantial delay in delivery.

According to order takers at Stamp Fulfillment Services in Kansas City, Mo., the entire printing of 15,000 sets of upper and lower halves of the press sheets had to be returned to the printer, Avery Dennison, because the sheets had not been die cut.

The discovery was made just before the Daffy Duck stamp was issued April 16.

Whether Avery Dennison

will be able to die cut the sheets or will have to destroy them and print a new run remains to be seen.

Die cutting normally is done on the web, or continuous roll of paper, after the stamps are printed and before they are cut into sheets.

Customers were told to expect a delay of six weeks, an

estimate considered optimistic by postal observers.

If the Postal Service had seen fit to sell the sheets in their imperforate form, a new variety would have been created for the Looney Tunes series, which started with the 1997 Bugs Bunny stamp and continued with the 1998 Sylvester & Tweety stamp. ■

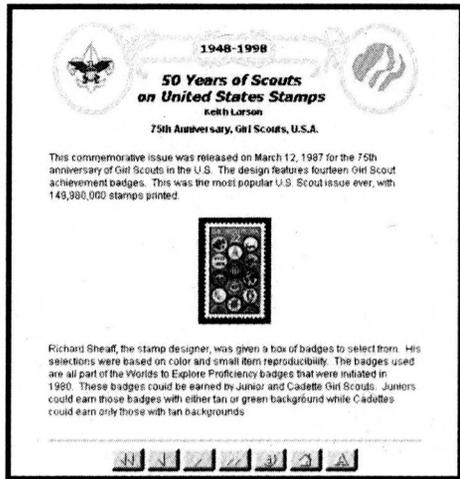
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Scouting topic on the web

Scouting on stamps is well represented on the World Wide Web.

The accompanying box lists the addresses of some of the sites.

One of the badges that a Boy Scout can earn is the stamp-collecting merit badge.



This commemorative issue was released on March 12, 1987 for the 75th anniversary of Girl Scouts in the U.S. The design features fourteen Girl Scout achievement badges. This was the most popular U.S. Scout issue ever, with 149,980,000 stamps printed.

Richard Sheaf, the stamp designer, was given a box of badges to select from. His selections were based on color and small item reproducibility. The badges used are all part of the World to Explore Proficiency badges that were initiated in 1980. These badges could be earned by Junior and Cadette Girl Scouts. Juniors could earn those badges with either tan or green background while Cadettes could earn only those with tan backgrounds.

Stamps on the Internet

By William F. Sharpe

Eight specific requirements and links to specialized resources are presented at the stamp-collecting merit badge site.

The Scouts on Stamps Society International site provides 13 pages of information on scout stamp activities, including a stamp collecting crossword puzzle. Seven links to other sites that offer stamp collecting information for youths also are shown.

In addition, an online version of a philatelic display by Keith Larson titled "50 Years of Scouts on United States Stamps," is available for viewing at the site.

Shown nearby is the page for the 1987 United States 22¢ stamp marking the 75th anniversary of Girl Scouts (Scott 2251). This stamp also is computer-related in that it shows as "1s" and "0s" the binary code for Girl Scouts.

Boy Scout Troop 11 in Kent, Conn., has an extensive well-organized site showing images of stamps related to Scouting from approximately 256 countries.

Six stamps and one postal card from the

This page from Keith Larson's exhibit "50 Years of Scouts on United States Stamps" is displayed on the Scouts on Stamps Society International web site. The page features the 1987 U.S. stamp honoring Girl Scouts.

United States are included in the list, as are four Canadian stamps and six from Great Britain.

The site is kept up to date. For example, the Scouting stamp from last year's United States Celebrate the Century 1910s pane is included.

Hallvard Slettebo lists 22 Scouting-related sites at his Norwegian web page of links to Boy Scout and Girl Guide/Girl Scout philately. Entries consist of web pages from Argentina, Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Great Britain, Isle of Man, Japan, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands, Singapore, Spain and Taiwan.

He also provides links to six dealers in the United States that stock this topic.

Thanks to Dave Deutsch, who sent me an e-mail suggesting this topic and a list of sites related to Scouting and stamps.

I'd appreciate hearing from other readers who may have suggestions for Internet topics to include in this column. Write to me at Linn's Stamp News, Box 29, Sidney Ohio 45365. ■

Scouts on stamps web sites

Stamp Collecting Merit Badge:
www.geocities.com/Heartland/Plains/1466/page2.html

Scouts on Stamps Society International:
www.sossi.org

Boy Scout Troop 11:
scout.simplenet.com/stamps.htm

Hallvard Slettebo's Links Page:
home.sol.no/~hallvard/hs/sos-link.htm

Exchange Rates

Country	Currency	U.S.	Country	Currency	U.S.	Country	Currency	U.S.	Country	Currency	U.S.
Algeria	Dinar	.0152	Ecuador	Sucre	.0002	Ivory Coast	CFA Fr	.0017	Portugal	Escudo	.0054
Argentina	Peso	1.0005	Egypt	Pound	.2923	Jamaica	Dollar	.0273	Romania	Leu	.0001
Australia	Dollar	.6519	Estonia	Kroon	.0030	Japan	Yen	.0086	Russia	Ruble	.0404
Austria	Schilling	.0775	Euro Currency	Euro	1.0003	Korea (South)	Won	.0009	Saudi Arabia	Riyal	.0266
Bahamas	Dollar	1.0000	Fiji	Dollar	.5001	Kuwait	Dinar	3.2787	Singapore	Dollar	.0074
Belgium	Franc	.0065	Finland	Markka	.1733	Latvia	Lat	1.0918	Slovenia	Koruna	.0037
Bermuda	Dollar	1.0000	France	Franc	.1639	Lebanon	Pound	.0007	Slovenia	Tolar	.0057
Brazil	Real	.5988	Germany	Mark	.5452	Lithuania	Litas	.2501	South Africa	Rand	.1656
Bulgaria	Lev	.2006	Great Britain	Pound	1.6109	Luxembourg	Lux franc	.0336	Spain	Peseta	.0065
Canada	Dollar	.6728	Greece	Drachma	.0033	Malaysia	Dollar	.2632	Sweden	Krona	.1194
Chile	Peso	.0022	Guatemala	Quetzal	.1424	Malta	Pound	2.5058	Switzerland	Franc	.0053
China (Peking)	Renminbi	.1208	Haiti	Gourde	.0596	Mexico	Peso	1.005	Tanzania	Shilling	.0015
China (Taiwan)	NT Dollar	.0306	Hong Kong	Dollar	.1291	Netherlands	Guilder	.4639	Thailand	Baht	.0258
Colombia	Peso	.0007	Hungary	Forint	.0043	New Zealand	Dollar	.5490	Timor	Dollar	.1600
Costa Rica	Colón	.0036	Island	Krona	.0127	Nigeria	Naira	.0457	Turkey	Lira	.0001
Croatia	Kuna	.1417	India	Rupiah	.0234	Norway	Krone	.1284	Ukraine	Hryv	.2390
Cyprus	Pound	1.2853	Indonesia	Rupiah	.0002	Pakistan	Rupiah	.0198	Uruguay	New Peso	.0029
Czech Rep.	Koruna	.0281	Iraq	Dinar	3.2165	Paraguay	Guaraní	.0004	Venezuela	Bolivar	.0017
Denmark	Krone	.1429	Ireland	Pound	1.2538	Peru	New Sol.	.2958	Yugoslavia	New Dinar	.0016
Dominican Rep	Peso	.0037	Brazil	Dólar	2.484	Philippines	Peso	.0264	Zambia	Kwacha	.0005
E. Caribbean	EC Dollar	.3704	Italy	Lira	.0006	Poland	Zloty	.2457	Zimbabwe	Dollar	.0029

Selling prices of world currencies for large-scale bank transfers of \$1 million or more in the United States for payment allowed as quoted in the New York City market April 29 (source: The Wall Street Journal). These rates are only a guide; rates are higher for smaller private and retail transactions. Consult local banks before making transactions involving foreign exchange rates.

San Jose prospectus now ready

The exhibitor's prospectus is available for the 1999 Philatelic Fiesta stamp show and exhibition.

The show will be held Sept. 17-19 at the Santa Clara Convention Center, Hall A, 5001 Great America Parkway, Santa Clara, CA 95054.

The 66th Philatelic Fiesta is sponsored by the San Jose Stamp Club.

The 151st anniversary of the discovery of gold in California is the theme of the show.

The show will feature exhibits, society meetings, an awards dinner, a youth table, government postal stations and 50 stamp dealers.

For an exhibitor's prospec-

tus, contact the exhibits chairman, Mike Renfro, Box 2268, Santa Clara, CA 95053, or phone 408-371-0361.

San Jose's Filatelic Fiesta is one of the qualifying shows for the American Philatelic Society's World Series of Philately competition.

The Filatelic Fiesta 99

grand-award winner is eligible to compete in the Champion of Champions event at the APS Stampshow in August 2000.

For additional information, contact the San Jose club president, Jim Sauer, Box 7113, Fremont, CA 94537, or phone 510-796-9767. ■

Malta's best stamp of 1998

Maltapost, the postal administration for Malta, reports that a souvenir sheet was voted as the best Maltese stamp of 1998.

The souvenir sheet is part of the Treasures of Malta set released Feb. 26, 1998. This sheet designed by Frank Ancilleri features a view of the city of Valletta on the 26¢ stamp.

Jean Parisot de La Valette, grand master of the Knights Hospitaller (also called the Knights of Malta) founded the city in 1566. Five years later, in 1571, it became the capital of Malta.

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References

- The owners of this publication
- Dun & Bradstreet
- D & B #62-505-2485
- Mellon Bank, Huntingdon, PA
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