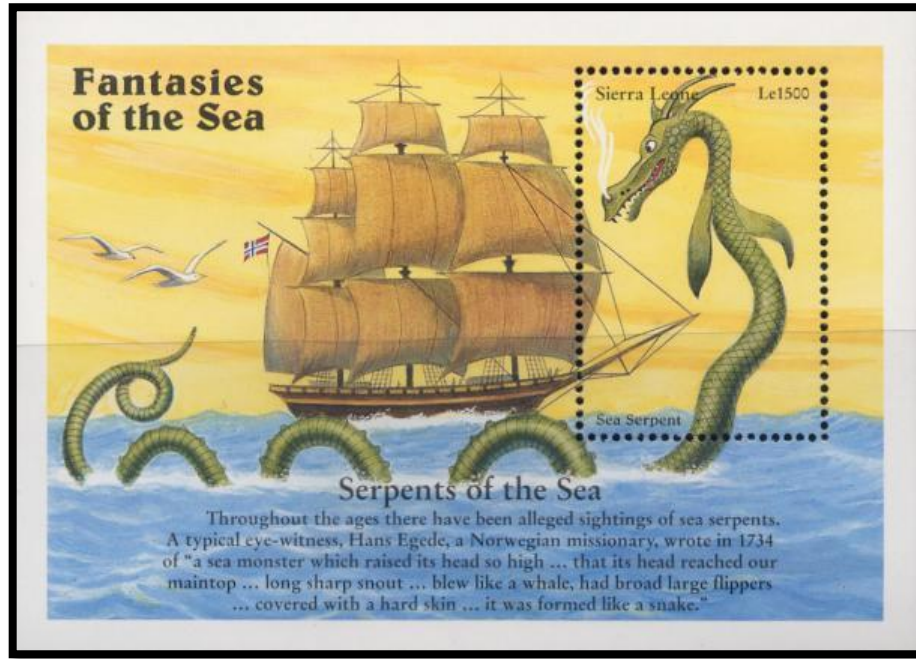
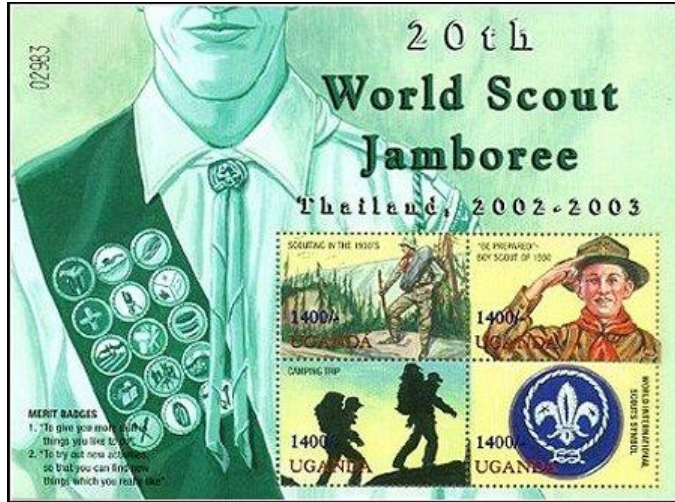


Requirement 3. Stamp Collecting Terminology



There are some common terms that are used so that stamp collectors can understand each other.

Requirement 3a. Perforated Stamps



Stamps with lines of small holes or cuts between rows of stamps that make them easy to separate.

Requirement 3a. Imperforate Stamps



Stamps without perforations or separating holes. They are usually separated by scissors.

Most often, imperforate stamps are ones issued very long ago. By the 1860s, perforations were common. Occasionally, a postal service didn't have access to a perforating machine, so later stamps were issued imperforate. Sometimes, this was done intentionally for nostalgia or other effect.

Perforated or Imperforated?



Requirement 3b. Mint Stamps



Stamps that have never been postally used. Ideally, they are in exactly the same condition as when purchased at the post office

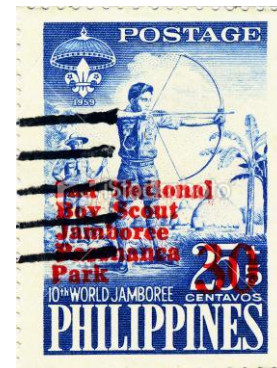
Requirement 3b.

Used Stamps



Stamps that have been cancelled so that they can't be used again. Sometimes, the cancellation is hard to see. It may be a similar color as the stamp. Or it may have only been applied to a very small part of the stamp.

Mint or Used???



BONUS: CANCELLED TO ORDER

Some postal services will apply cancellations to leftover stocks of stamps and sell them to collectors. These are called “Cancelled to Order” or “CTO”. If a stamp has a cancellation and also full adhesive, it is probably CTO.



Requirement 3c. Sheet Stamps



As printed, this is a complete unit consisting of four or more panes of stamps, each of which is cut apart when the stamps are sent to the post office. They are difficult to store due to their large size, but some people do collect these.

Requirement 3c.

Booklet Stamps



- Made up of one or more small panes of stamps in a cardboard cover.
- Booklet stamps usually have 1, 2, 3, or 4 straight edges



Perforations missing
from 1 side



Perforations missing from
1 side



Perforations missing from 2 sides



Perforations missing from 3 sides



Perforations missing
from 4 sides

May not have perforations on
1, 2, 3, or all 4 sides.

Requirement 3c. Coil Stamps

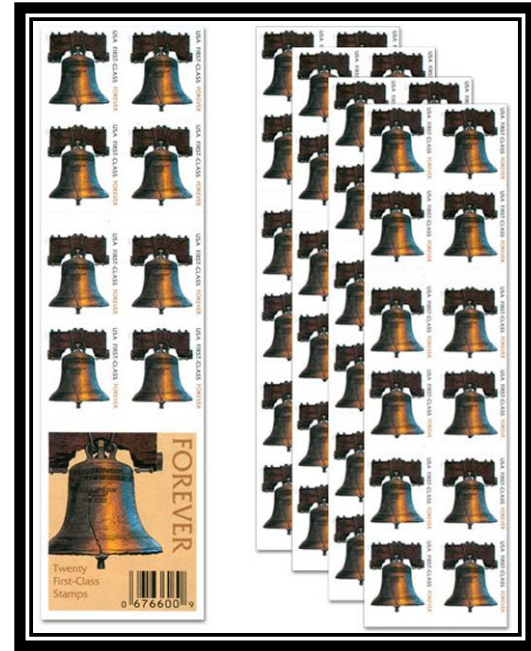
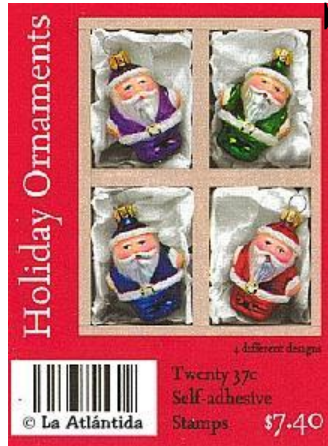


Stamps issued in rolls (one stamp wide) for use in dispensers or vending machines.

Coils can be horizontal or vertical.

They have **perforations** on two **opposite** sides and **no perforations** on the other two **opposite** sides.

Coil or Booklet Stamps???



Requirement 3d. Plate Blocks



- A block of 4, 8, 10, 12, or 20 stamps with a plate number in the corner
- Plate number is used to track stamps and printing plates used
- A single stamp with a plate number is called **Plate Number Single**
- Booklets have plate numbers in the selvage

Requirement 3d. More Plate Blocks



Requirement 3d. Plate Number Coil



- A **plate number coil** (PNC) is a stamp with the number of the printing plate or plates printed on it.
- Plate number coils are collected in coils of 3 or 5.

Requirement 3d. Marginal Markings



The selvage (paper around panes of stamps) that contains words, numbers, or pictures.

Other Marginal Markings



- Selvage, or marginal markings include color, designs, and pictures
- Colored dots tell the printer if stamp colors are accurate, or if he needs to add more color to the printing machine.

3e. Surcharges



A stamp whose value has been changed by overprinting. The new value may be lower, but it is still called a surcharge. Look carefully! Depending on the colors used, the surcharge may be hard to see.

Requirement 3e. Overprints

Additional printing on a stamp that was not part of the original design. Changed the purpose of the stamp, but not its value.

- War Tax
- Independence
- Royalty
- Olympics

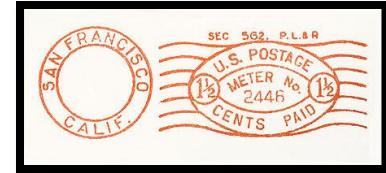
Look carefully! Depending on the colors used, the overprint may be hard to see.



Overprint or Surcharge???



Requirement 3f. Metered Mail



Envelopes that are machine-stamped with the proper postage amount using specialized printed images instead of individual sticky stamps.

Requirement 3g. Definitive Stamps

Regular issues of
postage stamps,
usually sold over long
periods of time.

- No special purpose for the stamp except to pay postage
- Smaller stamps
- Rate change stamps are definitives
- Often printed in very high quantity - billions



Requirement 3g.

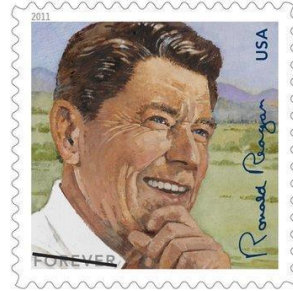
Commemorative Stamps

Stamps that honor anniversaries, important people, or special events.

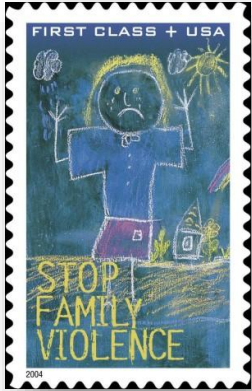
- Sometimes issued in sets of stamps
- Larger than definitives
- Printed in smaller quantities



Definitive or Commemorative???



Requirement 3g. Semi-postal Stamps



A stamp that is issued to raise money for some purpose (such as a charitable cause). It is sold over and above the cost of postage.



For example, if the first class mail rate is 44¢, then the semi-postal stamp would sell for 52¢ with the extra 8¢ going to research or charity.

Requirement 3g. Airmail Stamps



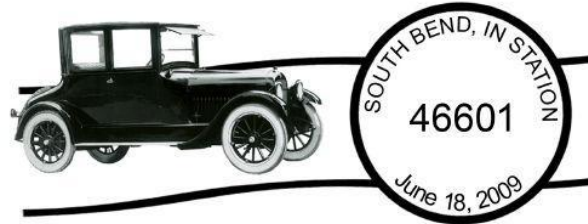
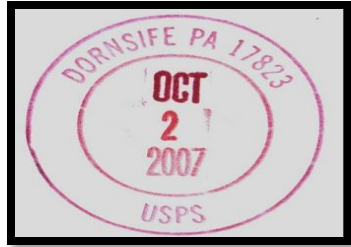
- Pays postage for letter to get to another country; can pay domestic airmail
- Can be definitive or commemorative
- Must say “Air Mail” or “Aero” or similar
- No longer needed for standard U.S. delivery

Requirement 3h. Cancellations



A mark placed on a stamp by a postal authority to show that it has been used.

Requirement 3h. Postmarks



Historic Lincoln Highway 17th Annual Conference
"Welcome back to Indiana, where the LHA was born!"
June 16 - 20, 2009: South Bend, Indiana

A mark put on an envelope showing the date and location of the post office where it was mailed. A postmark can also serve as a cancellation.

Newer Style Postmarks



- Postmark is sprayed-on by a machine

Requirement 3i. First Day Covers

- Shows all the elements of a regular postmark, in addition to when stamp is first issued
- Date of issue is the first day the stamp goes on sale to the public
- Usually says “First Day of Issue”
- May or may not have a cachet (a picture printed on the envelope)
- Mainly for collectors
- Usually do not actually go through the mail
- The term “cover” can also refer to a Postal card or a piece of package wrapper.





Requirement 3j. Postal Stationary - Aerogramme



A letter sheet made of a single piece of lightweight paper with gummed flaps, normally used for international airmail. The outside resembles an envelope on which the stamp is printed.

Requirement 3j. Postal Stationary – Stamped Envelope



An envelope, on which the post office has printed, or embossed, a stamp.

Requirement 3j. Postal Stationary – Postal Card



A government-produced card, with stamp imprinted in the upper right-hand. Not to be confused with a commercial, souvenir post card. A postal card may have additional printing applied by the purchaser.