

Lincoln Stamp Club

SOUVENIR SHEET

MAY 2014

Monthly News of the
Lincoln Stamp Club

2014 OFFICERS

President:

Cynthia Carlson ('14)

Vice President:

Ken Pruess ('14)

Secretary-Treasurer:

Ron Ecklund ('14)

Board Member:

Joel Johnson ('14)

Board Member:

Helen Marks ('14)

MEETINGS

The Club meets the
first and third Thurs-
days, 7:00–8:30 p.m.

LOCATION

St. Paul U.M. Church
1144 M St.
Lincoln, Neb.

CONTACT

E-mail:

questions@lincoln-
stampclub.org

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www.lincolnstamp-
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Lincoln, NE
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AFFILIATION

The Club is an affiliate
of the American Phila-
telic Society:
APS #0799-064882.

ANNIVERSARY

1964—2014

Fifty Years

NEWSLETTER

Editor: *David M. Frye*

When Does a Commemorative Stamp's Period of Normal Postal Usage End? Investigating Uses of the 8¢ Gandhi from the Champions of Liberty Series

by *David M. Frye, Editor*

If you've saved issues of *Souvenir Sheet*, you might have noticed I've spent the last several years digging into the 1961 issues of the U.S. Post Office Department and then turning my findings into the occasional article. My latest focus has been the 4¢ and 8¢ pair of Mahatma Gandhi issues from Jan. 26, 1961. These stamps, released only days into the administration of President John F. Kennedy, concluded the Champions of Liberty series, begun during the administration of President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

In my search for non-first-day and non-philatelic covers showing the stamps used to meet regular mail needs, I've discovered the 4¢ issue is much more common than the 8¢ issue. The lower of the two denominations met the first-class surface mail rate. I have several nice examples of this usage. The 8¢ stamp covered the rate on a two-ounce letter at the time of its issue; that's a usage I'm still seeking.

On the other hand, I have located the air-mail cover in this article's illustration. A little magnifying-glass work reveals that the letter was postmarked on "2? SEP 1965." The total of the three stamps comes to 15 1/2¢, slightly overpaying the 15¢ rate for a one-ounce letter from the U.S. to Germany.

So, the question is this: if the 8¢ Gandhi issue appeared on a letter four and two-thirds years after its release, was this an in-period usage? My first hunch was that the use occurred a bit long after release to be normal usage. Perhaps the letter was correspondence between



Last Champion of Liberty: The 8¢ Mahatma Gandhi issue of 1961.

stamp collectors. The fact that the letter was addressed to a "Dr. Walter Fetsch & family" leads me away from the collector-to-collector theory (although it would be nice to think of a whole family enjoying philately together!).

This conundrum led me to a little additional sleuthing. I discovered mentions of the Gandhi issues in the online archives of the Post Office Department's *The Postal Bulletin*. One, in particular, is worth mentioning. The Oct. 14, 1965, issue notes that "the following items are available in bulk quantities to first- and second-class post offices only ..." (p. 7). Listed are a number of 5¢ commemoratives and the 8¢ air mail Robert H. Goddard issue, released a year earlier. At the bottom of the list appears one last item: "8¢ Gandhi (available in lots of 7,200 and multiples thereof.)"

Since the per-ounce air-mail letter rate within the continental U.S. held at 8¢ for five years, beginning Jan. 7, 1963, it seems the Post Office continued to promote sales of the Gandhi commemorative until long after my cover was delivered to West Germany, making this an in-period usage. A nice cover with a bit of history to add to the mix for an exhibit!

SHOW AND TELL

May 2014 Exchange

Bring Your Unusual,
Intriguing Items

Members of the Club are encouraged to bring items from their collection to the program meeting—the second meeting of the month—to show to the other Club members.

You can bring an unusual or distinctive item, an item with a story, an item that needs further identification, or any other item that captures your eye and interest.

We will take some time at this second meeting to give members a chance to show their items and to tell (or ask!) about them.

This is a great way to share with fellow collectors some of the high points of your collection and to find out about nooks and crannies in the world of philately you may not have known about before.

Thanks for giving this invitation some thought and for bringing your items to enrich our Club's gatherings.

The Club offers the following items at its monthly exchange. Make payments in cash or in personal checks made out to the Club. Items with a catalogue value are donations to the Lincoln Stamp Club; proceeds from the sale of donations benefit the Club's general work. Opening prices on donated items appear under "Minimum."

Lot #	Description	Catalogue	Minimum	Final	Buyer
• 01	3¢ Plate Blocks (16)	(face) \$1.92	\$1.25	_____	_____
• 02	U.S. Sc. 909–921, VF MNH	\$2.65	\$0.75	_____	_____
• 03	U.S. Sc. 1889a, Pane (10), No Gum	\$7.00	\$1.50	_____	_____
• 04	U.S. Sc. 2122 VF Used	\$—	\$1.00	_____	_____
• 05	U.S. Sc. 2136 VF Plate No. No Gum	\$—	\$0.10	_____	_____
• 06	U.S. Sc. 2697 MNH	(face) \$5.80	\$4.00	_____	_____
• 07	U.S. Sc. 3105 CTO (15)	\$—	\$1.00	_____	_____
• 08	U.S. Sc. 3136 CTO (14)	\$—	\$1.00	_____	_____
• 09	U.S. Sc. 3225–3228 CTO (15)	\$—	\$1.00	_____	_____
• 10	U.S. Sc. 3236 CTO	\$—	\$1.00	_____	_____
• 11	U.S. Sc. 3377a CTO (5)	\$—	\$2.00	_____	_____
• 12	U.S. Sc. 3403 CTO (20)	\$—	\$1.00	_____	_____
• 13	U.S. Sc. 3776–3780 Booklet	(face) \$7.40	\$6.00	_____	_____
• 14	U.S. Sc. 3821–24 MNH Bl. 10	(face) \$3.70	\$2.50	_____	_____
• 15	U.S. Sc. 3828b MNH Pane 20	(face) \$7.40	\$5.00	_____	_____
• 16	U.S. Sc. 4074 + Canada	\$8.50	\$2.50	_____	_____
• 17	U.S. Sc. 4333 MNH	(face) \$6.72	\$5.00	_____	_____
• 18	U.S. Sc. C113–116	(face) \$1.60	\$1.00	_____	_____
• 19	U.S. Sc. UX401–404 M	\$—	\$1.00	_____	_____
• 20	U.S. Gold Foil FD (4)	\$—	\$—	_____	_____
• 21	Minkus Album w/ 100 stamps	\$—	\$1.00	_____	_____
• 22	LINPEX 2014 Covers, Unused (5) (list)	\$2.90	\$3.00	_____	_____
• 23	Australia Large Cover	\$—	\$0.50	_____	_____
• 24	Bermuda Sc. 433–436 M	\$8.65	\$4.50	_____	_____
• 25	Bhutan Sc. 1097–1098 M	\$5.25	\$2.50	_____	_____
• 26	Brazil Sc. 2244 M	\$5.00	\$2.50	_____	_____
• 27	PRC Sc. 2480 M	\$2.00	\$1.00	_____	_____
• 28	Grenada Sc. 561 M	\$1.75	\$0.85	_____	_____
• 29	Lesotho Sc. 314–318 CTO	\$2.00	\$1.00	_____	_____
• 30	Lesotho Sc. 376–378 M	\$0.90	\$0.45	_____	_____
• 31	Poland Sc. 2756a CTO	\$0.75	\$0.40	_____	_____
• 32	Portugal/Azores Sc. 314–315, 315a M	\$4.80	\$2.50	_____	_____
• 33	Portugal/Madeira Sc. 66–67, 67a M	\$4.80	\$2.50	_____	_____
• 34	Romania Sc. 3601 M	\$3.00	\$1.50	_____	_____
• 35	Romania Sc. 3743 M	\$1.60	\$0.80	_____	_____
• 36	Russia (USSR) Sc. 5656–5659 Bl. 4 M	\$0.80	\$0.40	_____	_____
• 37	Russia (USSR) Sc. 6026–6029 M	\$2.25	\$1.10	_____	_____
• 38	Sierra Leone Sc. 610–613, 613a M	\$1.50	\$0.75	_____	_____
• 39	Zaire Sc. 960–968 CTO	\$7.60	\$3.50	_____	_____
• 40	<i>Collecting Stamps</i> , Paul Villiard, PB	\$—	\$0.50	_____	_____
• 41	<i>Stamps & Stories</i> , 7th ed. '81, USPS, PB	\$—	\$0.25	_____	_____
• 42	<i>Standard Handbook of Stamp Collecting</i> , Richard McP. Cabeen, HB	\$—	\$0.50	_____	_____
• 43	<i>Nassau Street</i> , Herman Herst Jr., HB	\$—	\$1.00	_____	_____
• 44	<i>The Philatelic Exhibitors Handbook</i> , Randy L. Neil, PB	\$—	\$1.00	_____	_____

"Genesis of Philately" Arrives in the U.S. for the First Time**National Postal Museum to Display Rare Philatelic Gem**

The Smithsonian's National Postal Museum will display an extremely rare philatelic item, noted by stamp experts as the "genesis of philately." On temporary loan to the museum, the extraordinary and historic postal document will be on display—for nine days only—in the museum's new William H. Gross Stamp Gallery May 3–11. The May 2, 1840, cover shows the earliest known use of two different philatelic elements: the Penny Black, the world's first adhesive postage stamp, and the Mulready One Penny letter sheet.

On May 1, 1840, Great Britain issued the world's first postage stamp: the Penny Black. It revolutionized postal services worldwide. Mulready postal stationery lettersheets were also officially issued on that day. Neither the stamps nor the stationery were valid to prepay postage before that date; however, a few Penny Blacks and Mulready "covers" are known to have passed through the post office before the official date of issuance.

The May 2, 1840, cover being displayed at the museum is the only known item carrying both the Penny Black and Mulready One Penny letter sheet.

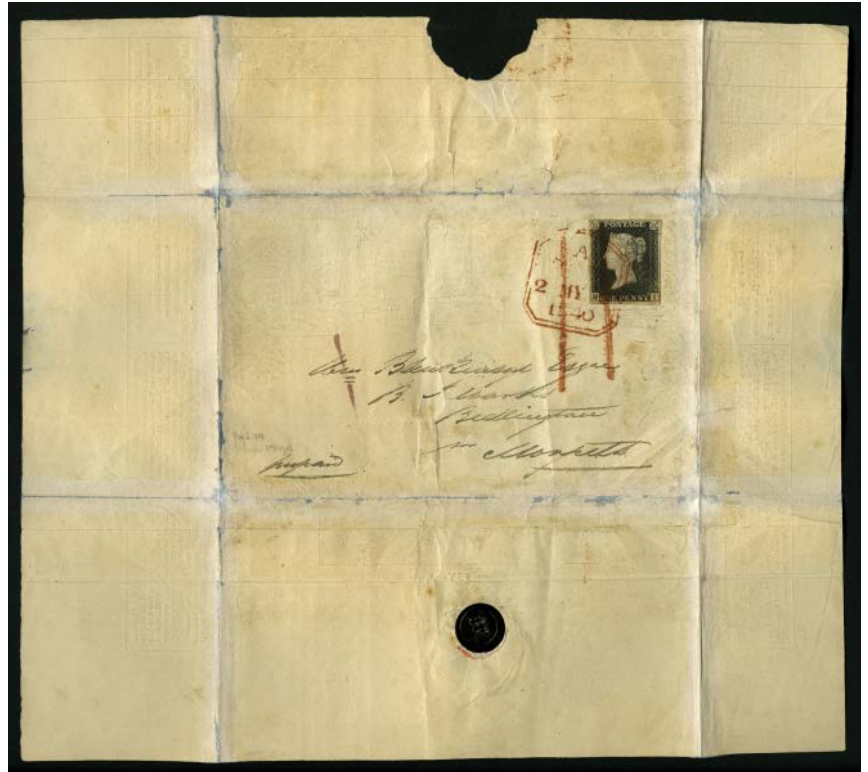


Image: Courtesy of the Smithsonian's National Postal Museum

**"The May 2, 1840, cover connects us to the very beginnings of philately and the modern postal system."
—Allen Kane, director of the National Postal Museum.**

"The May 2, 1840, cover connects us to the very beginnings of philately and the modern postal system," said Allen Kane, director of the museum. "We are excited to bring this rare item to the United States for the very first time."

The National Postal Museum is devoted to presenting the colorful and engaging history of the nation's mail service and showcasing one of the largest and most comprehensive collections of stamps and philatelic material in the world. It is located at 2 Massachusetts Avenue N.E., Washington, D.C., across from Union Station. The museum is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. ET (closed Christmas Day).

For more information about the Smithsonian's National Postal Museum, call (202) 633-1000 or visit the museum's Web site.

On the Web: www.postalmuseum.si.edu

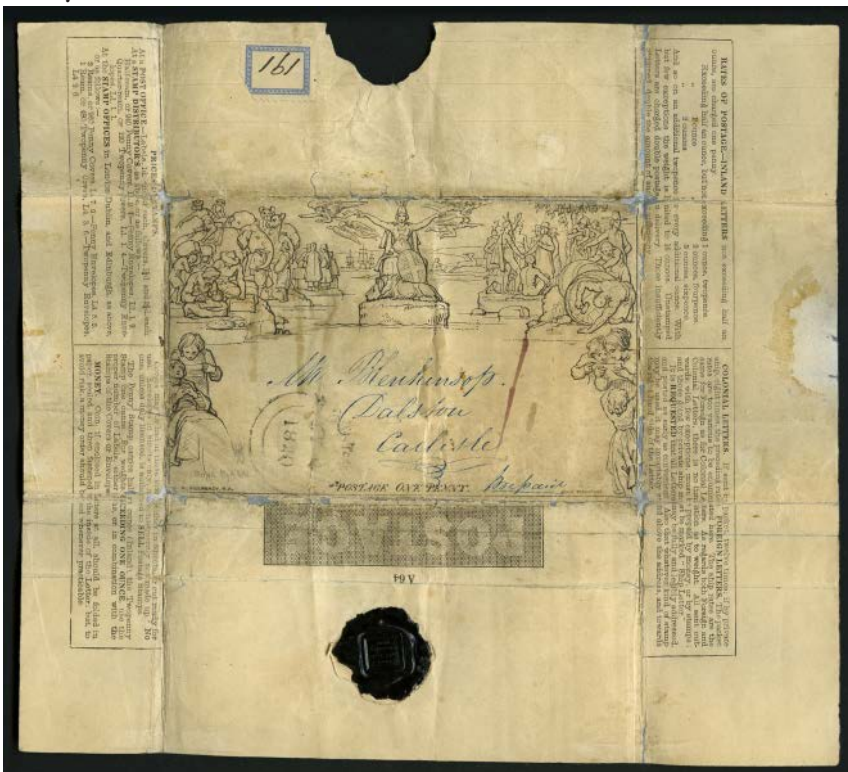


Image: Courtesy of the Smithsonian's National Postal Museum

Meetings: Business, Exchange, & Religion on Stamps

The Club meets at a central location from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on the first and third Thursdays each month:

St. Paul United Methodist Church
1144 M St., Lincoln, Neb.
Go south on 11th Street, then turn left into the church's parking garage between N and M Streets. Take the elevator to the *main* floor. Street parking is available too.

- **Business Meeting with Exchange:** Thursday, May 1.
- **Show and Tell (see p. 2) and Pro-**

gram: "... be glad to see anything of God ..."—*U.S. Postal Depictions of Religion*, David M. Frye, Thursday, May 15.

- **Business Meeting with Exchange:** Thursday, June 5.
- **Show and Tell (see p. 2) and Program:** "*Do We Really Need the Postal Service?*", Kurt Meyer, Thursday, June 19.
- **Looking Ahead:** July 3 and 17.
- **Programs:** If you want to present a program, talk to our VP.

WANTED

Items for Monthly Exchanges

If you would like to include items in the monthly exchanges, send your descriptions and prices to questions@lincolnstampclub.org by **May 23 for the Exchange on June 5**.

Send info about more significant items, which might require members to research ahead of time, by **May 23 for the July 3 Exchange**.

Forms for your items are available online:

- www.lincolnstampclub.org/downloads/SmallExchangeSheets.pdf
- www.lincolnstampclub.org/downloads/ExchangeSheet.pdf.

USPS Releases New Postal Issues: May through August '14

May 2—*Where Dreams Blossom*: 1 forever (49¢) stamp; pane (20); Acton, Mass.

May 5—*Vintage Circus Posters*: 8 forever (49¢) com.; pane (16); Sarasota, Fla.

May 22—*Harvey Milk*: 1 forever (49¢) com.; pane (20); Washington, D.C.

May 29—*Nevada Statehood*: 1 forever (49¢) com.; pane (20); Las Vegas, Nev.

June 6—*Hot Rods*: 2 forever (49¢) stamps.; booklet (20); America on the Move series; York, Pa.

June 27—*Canvasbacks*: 2 \$15 federal mi-

gratory waterfowl hunting and conservation stamps; WA pane (20), self-adhesive pane (1); Washington, D.C.

July ??—*Medal of Honor: Korean War*: 2 forever (49¢) com.; prestige folio (20); TBA.

July 30—*Civil War*: 2 forever (49¢) com.; pane (12); Battle of Petersburg, Battle of Mobile Bay; Petersburg, Va., and Mobile, Ala.

August 21—*Hudson River School*: 4 forever (49¢) com.; booklet (20); American Treas-

urers series; Hartford, Conn.

August ??—*Janis Joplin*: 1 forever (49¢); pane (16); Music Icons series; perhaps in San Francisco, Calif.

August ??—*Farmers' Markets*: several forever (49¢) com.; format (?); TBA.

Artwork: www.uspsstamps.com/stamps/preview.

Note: This Postal Service site shows two sets of images: Stamp Preview and Currently for Sale.



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