POSTAGE STAMP AND FIRST DAY OF ISSUE COVERS COLLECTION, 1928-2018

Processed by

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 half-sized box upright graphics, 1 OVA folder graphics
COLLECTION DATES:	1928-2018
PROVENANCE:	Various
RESTRICTIONS:	None
COPYRIGHT:	
REPRODUCTION RIGHTS:	Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained from the Indiana Historical Society.
ALTERNATE FORMATS:	
RELATED HOLDINGS:	Indianapolis Photo Stamps (P0714); South Bend Photo Stamps (P0427); Madam CJ Walker Stamp Dedication program (SC2854)
ACCESSION NUMBERS:	1958.0020; 1998.0213a0001; 1998.0929X; 2003.0217; 2003.0222; 2003.0228; 2003.0230; 2003.0282; 2008.0055; 2015.0293; 2015.0354; 2023.0031; 2023.0032
NOTES:	This is an artificial collection. Future additions are expected.

HISTORICAL SKETCH

The US government first issued adhesive postage stamps on 1 July 1847. Before that time, mail delivery was usually paid for by the receiving person. The use of pre-paid stamps was made mandatory in 1855. After the Civil War, as the variation in stamps increased, the hobby of collecting them grew steadily. By 1886, a committee had formed to plan a national organization for postal stamp enthusiasts (or philatelists). The American Philatelist Association was established in September. By the 1890s, the Post Office had realized that it could increase revenue by issuing special collectible stamps, often in commemoration of an event.

After President Warren G. Harding's unexpected death in 1923, a publisher in Ohio created a special graphic, or cachet, for envelopes, or covers, to memorialize the president. In this case it was five lines of simple text stamped in black. More elaborate cachets followed, and these also became collected by philatelists. Soon the Post Office began issuing special covers for the first day a commemorative stamp was issued.

Sources:

Dennis Sadowski, "Modern first day cover collecting began 100 years ago," *Chronicle Telegram*, 12 August 2023

"Postage stamps and postal history of the United States," http://en.wikipedia.org

http://stamps.org/about/history

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Indiana Historical Society does not actively collect stamps or anything else classified as "artifacts" by library and museum professionals. However, some exceptions have been made over the years, particularly when a notable Hoosier or person with ties to Indiana became the subject of a stamp. This collection consists of postage stamps and first day of issue covers found in the Indiana Historical Society's artifacts.

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