



## Baseball stamps: unveiling May 4 for July 6 issue

By Michael Baadke

The United States Postal Service will release a set of 20 self-adhesive stamps July 6 to commemorate 20 legendary baseball stars of the past.

The designs of the Legends of Baseball stamps will be unveiled May 4 during a pre-game ceremony on the field at Busch Stadium in St. Louis, Mo. It is expected that the ceremony will begin 20-25 minutes before the scheduled game time of 12:10 p.m.

A preliminary report on the upcoming baseball stamp issue was published on page 2 of the April 17 issue of *Linns's Stamp News*.

Each stamp in the forthcoming set will depict players considered last season for Major League Baseball's All-Century Team.

Though not all of the players to be depicted on the new stamps were named to the 30-member All-Century Team, all are outstanding Major League alumni and members of the National Baseball Hall of Fame.

The 33¢ stamps will picture Roberto Clemente, Ty Cobb, Mickey Cochrane, Eddie Collins, Dizzy Dean, Jimmie Foxx, Lou Gehrig, Josh Gibson, Lefty Grove, Rogers Hornsby, Walter Johnson, Christy Mathewson, Satchel Paige, Jackie Robinson, Babe Ruth, George Sisler, Tris Speaker, Pie Traynor, Honus Wagner and Cy Young.

Baseball Commissioner Allan H. (Bud) Selig, All-Century Team program members Mark McGwire, Lou Brock and Stan Musial, and Postmaster General William Henderson will participate in the May 4 unveiling ceremony.

The Legends of Baseball stamps will be issued July 6 in Atlanta, Ga., at a first-day ceremony held adjacent to an event called the "Club MLB Road Show Presented by Jif Smooth Sensations" and in conjunction with Major League Baseball's 2000 All-Star Week. All-Star Week concludes July 11 with the 71st All-Star Game at Turner Field.

Many family members of the players appearing on the stamps will attend the July 6 first-day ceremony.

No image of the stamps was available from the Postal Service at press time, but an Internet newsletter by Ray Schulte honoring Pittsburgh Pirates outfielder Roberto Clemente, located at [www.robertoclemente21.com/Newletter/newletter.html](http://www.robertoclemente21.com/Newletter/newletter.html) shows what purports to be the design of a 33¢ Roberto Clemente stamp from the forthcoming baseball issue.

The image of the Roberto Clemente stamp shown here is a composite mock-up using elements from Schulte's site.

The design resembles a classic baseball card, with the player's name near the bottom of the image and "USA 33" in the upper-left corner.

The actual stamps issued by the Postal Service may differ from the image shown here.

The Postal Service will print 10 million panes (200 million stamps) of the Legends of Baseball issue.

The stamps will be available at Atlanta post offices starting July 6 and at post offices nationwide starting July 7.

The stamps will also be available at Atlanta post offices starting July 6 and at post offices nationwide starting July 7.

The stamps will also be available at Atlanta post offices starting July 6 and at post offices nationwide starting July 7.

The stamps will also be available at Atlanta post offices starting July 6 and at post offices nationwide starting July 7.

(Please turn to page 53)



Pittsburgh Pirates outfielder Roberto Clemente is one of 20 players who will be honored on new United States stamps July 6. The Postal Service has not revealed the designs. The mock-up shown here is believed to be an accurate representation of how the actual stamps will appear.

## Last of Celebrate stamps issued; ceremony requires park ticket

By Michael Baadke

The United States Postal Service will sum up the 20th century May 2 with the nationwide issuance of the last of its 150 Celebrate the Century commemorative stamps.

The pane of 15 33¢ stamps titled "In Final Decade, Cold War Ends, Economy Booms," marks noteworthy events of the years 1990-99. The stamps will also be sold in uncut press sheets of 60 stamps, four panes in each.

The new stamps will be issued at San Diego Wild Animal Park in Escondido, Calif.

The first-day ceremony will take place at 10:30 a.m. in the park's Village Amphitheater. Collectors planning to attend the ceremony will have to pay admission to gain entrance to the park.

According to the park's Internet web site, admission prices are \$21.95 for adults (ages 12 and over), \$14.95 for children ages 3-11, with no charge for children 2 and under.

Parking is \$5 per vehicle.

A Postal Service retail booth offering a limited number of free ceremony programs, sales of the stamps and first-day-of-issue cancels will be set up outside the park entrance.

Diane M. Regan, associate vice president for the USPS West sales region, will dedicate the stamps.

The designs of the new stamps, 13 of them made public here for the first time, were illustrated by Drew Struzan of Pasadena, Calif., a noted entertainment artist whose work has been featured prominently on numerous film posters.

Struzan's illustration of characters (Please turn to page 10)



The United States Celebrate the Century commemorative stamp series ends May 2 with the nationwide issuance of 15 stamps depicting notable events of the 1990s. The series began in early 1998 with two 15-stamp panes for the 1900s and 1910s.

## Patriotics sale is biggest offering ever

An unprecedented collection of used United States Civil War patriotic covers will be auctioned in New York City June 21-23 by Nutmeg Stamp Sales of Danbury, Conn.

The collection, formed over many years by Jon E. Bischel, consists of more than 6,000 lots devoted to Union and Confederate patriotic uses.

The Bischel collection far exceeds the 3,253 lots offered in the renowned sale of the George Walcott patriotics collection in 1934.

The artistic and often unique nature of Civil War patriotic covers makes the collecting area one of the most colorful and historic of all classic United States postal history specialties.

"A well-rounded collection of U.S. and Confederate Civil War patriotic usages can present not only a week-by-week history of the conflict but also the personal, and often enthusiastic, sentiments of the populace from both sides," said Nutmeg auctioneer Andrew Levitt.

Rarely have so many important types of Civil War patriotics been offered.

There are more than 500 lots of Charles Magnus designs and more than 600 caricatures. Every facet of postal history is covered, from numerous desirable domestic uses that include express companies, locals and ship markings to covers used outside the United States, including many sent to foreign destinations.

Confederate States of America patriotic uses are well represented, with more than 200 lots featuring selections of flags and cannons as well as other areas represented in the various Dietz Confederate catalogs.

Nutmeg is presenting the Bischel collection in a two-part series. (Please turn to page 52)



More than 30 covers from the historic Dr. Henry Angell correspondence will be auctioned in New York June 21-23 as part of the largest-ever holding of Civil War patriotic covers. This cover, designed by Charles Magnus, was sent from Boston to Paris and forwarded to Madrid. The Nutmeg Stamp Sales firm of Connecticut will hold the public auction.

**CONTENTS: PAGE 3**

VISIT US ON THE INTERNET AT [www.linns.com](http://www.linns.com)

PRINTED with soy ink on recycled paper MAILED: April 20  
PAID CIRCULATION: 58,520 TOTAL DISTRIBUTION: 61,463  
POSTMASTER: Address changes to Box 29, Sidney, OH 45365

# New Girl Scouts error surfaces in Vermont

By Charles Snee

A complete 50-stamp pane of the United States 22¢ Girl Scouts stamp missing all regularly printed engraved black and red ink has surfaced in Vermont.

The error was first reported in the May issue of the *Vermont Philatelist*, the official publication of the Vermont Philatelic Society.

Shown nearby in color is a plate-number block of four of the error stamps, left, and a normal plate-number block of four, right. The image of the two blocks was taken from the cover of the May *Vermont Philatelist*.

At first glance, the error stamps do not appear different from the normal stamps. One must carefully scrutinize the Girl Scout merit badges that constitute the design.

The engraved black is the covering on the Conestoga

wagon (local lore merit badge, top badge in third column from left), the Capitol dome (active citizen badge, top badge in second column from left), and the latitude and longitude lines on the globe (wider opportunities badge, third badge from top in third column from left).

The engraved red forms the highlights on the sock, shoe and shoelaces depicted in the individual sports badge (fourth badge from the top in first column).

Although two engraved colors are missing on the error Girl Scout stamps, only one number (a "1") is missing in the bottom selvage of the error block shown here.

This is because a single plate on the Bureau of Engraving and Printing's combination offset/intaglio D press printed the five offset

press printed the five offset

inks (one color per station) — black, cyan, green, magenta and yellow.

This accounts for the "11112" plate-number combination that is visible at lower-left in the selvage of both Girl Scout blocks.

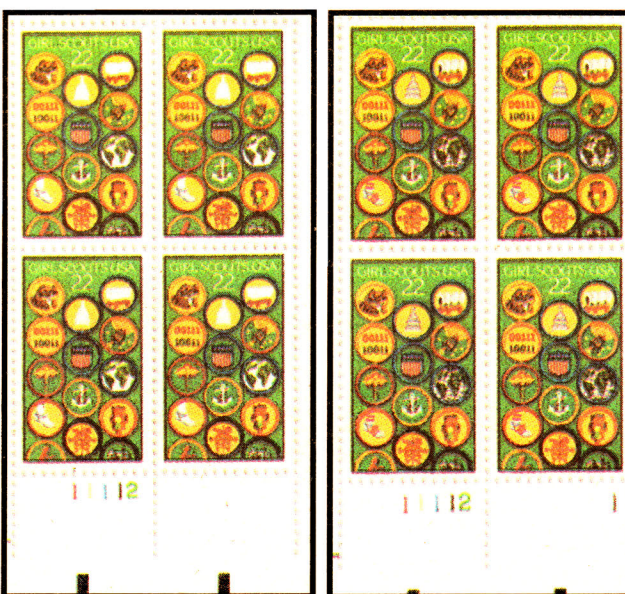
According to Paul Abajian, executive director of the VPS, the Girl Scouts error pane will be auctioned as part of the May 20 Rarities sale at Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries in New York City.

The error pane will be lot 345 in the Siegel auction. Readers interested in an auction catalog should write to Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries, 65 E. 55th St., New York, NY 10022.

Abajian also stated that the error pane has received a certificate of authenticity from the American Philatelic Expertizing Service in State College, Pa.

Mercer Bristow, director of expertizing for the APES, told *Linn's* that the Siegel firm sent the pane in for expertization.

According to Bristow, the pane received certificate No.



**On the left is a plate-number block of four 22¢ Girl Scouts stamps missing the engraved black and red. A normal plate-number block is shown on the right. The new color-missing error was first reported in the May *Vermont Philatelist*.**

press printed the five offset inks (one color per station) — black, cyan, green, magenta and yellow.

This accounts for the "11112" plate-number combination that is visible at lower-left in the selvage of both Girl Scout blocks.

According to Paul Abajian, executive director of the VPS, the Girl Scouts error pane will be auctioned as part of the May 20 Rarities sale at Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries in New York City.

The error pane will be lot 345 in the Siegel auction. Readers interested in an auction catalog should write to Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries, 65 E. 55th St., New York, NY 10022.

Abajian also stated that the error pane has received a certificate of authenticity from the American Philatelic Expertizing Service in State College, Pa.

Mercer Bristow, director of expertizing for the APES, told *Linn's* that the Siegel firm sent the pane in for expertization.

According to Bristow, the pane received certificate No.

124,871, dated March 9.

The written opinion states: "U.S. Scott 2251, unused, sheet of 50 with red and black intaglio colors omitted, full original gum, genuine in all respects."

Word of the pane's discovery did not spread immediately.

"I've known about the Girl

Scouts error pane for about six months," Abajian told *Linn's* April 11, "but the current owner did not want to take any action until after Jan. 1. We were very pleased to report the error in the *Vermont Philatelist*."

The owner (an anonymous Vermont collector) related to Abajian that he found the pane among an accumulation of other panes that he was breaking down for postage.

"Evidently, the owner had purchased the pane shortly after the Girl Scout stamp was issued in March 1987," Abajian related, "but it wasn't until last fall that he looked at the pane and realized something looked funny."

This is not the first reported error for the Girl Scouts issue.

In the March 21, 1994, issue of *Linn's*, Michael Schreiber reported on a partial pane of 46 Girl Scouts stamps missing all five offset colors (Scott 2251a).

A plate-number block from the partial pane is illustrated nearby.

In effect, the offset-color-missing error is the opposite of the Vermont discovery: the intaglio colors (red and black) missing on the Vermont pane are the only ones present on



**A plate-number block of the first Girl Scouts color-missing error (Scott 2251a), first reported in the March 21, 1994, issue of *Linn's*.**

the Scott 2251a plate-number block shown here.

The partial pane of Scott 2251a received a Feb. 11, 1994, certificate of authenticity from the Philatelic Foundation.

The other four stamps in the pane had been removed and were expertized separately. ■