

The Cover Story

National Parks, 1934 and Beyond by The Editor

Part IV of IV



Figure 4

In 2012 the USPS selected Glacier National Park for the 85 cent value [Figure 4] – the modern design with appropriate colors seems to work on multiple levels to represent the grand nature of the scenery.

The series was completed on October 8, 1934 with the issuance of the ten cent rendition of The Great Smoky Mountains. This stamp colored in gray black [Figure 5] works well to capture the subject and does well to convey the subject material. In all my travels, I would have to say that I have spent more time in

Figure 5



the area of the Great Smoky Mountains than any other of our national parks. [Editor's note: In an odd twist on things, as I write this in mid-October, I am on a 10-day vacation in the midst of the Great Smoky Mountains. The picture that was used to create the stamp is actually credited to this area of North Carolina, where I am enjoying a holiday in the very tiny hamlet of Little Switzerland that straddles the Blue Ridge Parkway.]

Additional pieces thanks to James Farley are of course the block of four with crossed gutters [Figure 6] and the eye catching plate block of six [Figure 7].



Figure 6



Figure 7



Figure 8

to check the back side for gum – especially if it is mint never hinged.

The Farley material that was released to the general public has a twist to it – and one that is pretty tough to find if a collector should be so bold as to attempt to procure such material. The imperforate sheets were released with no gum – thus making postal use difficult. For a short period of time the Post Office Department would accept FULL sheets from the public to be gummed. This material is extremely difficult to find and in the case of the 10 cent Great Smoky Mountain issue, a MNH plate block of six has a CV of \$475 against a no gum as issued CV of \$50! It would behoove a collector who may have some of this material

In the modern era the Great Smoky Mountains was again used in 2006 for the 75 cent air mail rate [Figure 8]. In my opinion this modern color attempt, lacks soul for lack of better explanation.

Some three years after the completion of the National Parks set of 1934, the Great Smoky Mountains made a return appearance. On August 26, 1937, again under the authority of James Farley a small souvenir sheet with a single representation of the stamp printed in blue green was released for the 43rd annual convention of the Society of Philatelic Americans being held in Asheville, NC. This issuance is considered common and can be easily obtained. Figure 9 shows souvenir sheet while Figure 10 is one of the many First Day Covers issued for the event.

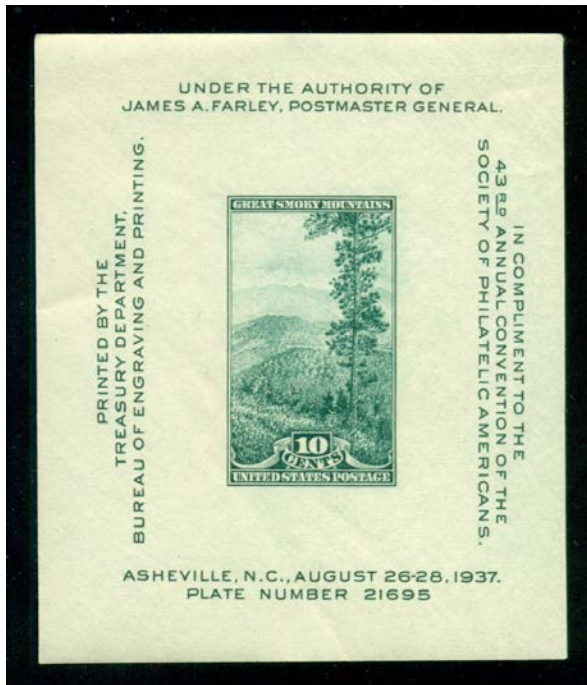


Figure 9



Figure 10

In conclusion, I have enjoyed writing this four-part series, if for no other reason it has given me a chance to again remember and appreciate the incredible jewels that we have scattered around this vast country of ours. Nature is wonderful, take the time to look and see what is out there – you will not be disappointed!