

A Postage Stamp ... Really?

by Rick Cohen

I recently came across this unusual example of a postage stamp! First, it's not a stamp at all, rather a "sticker" from the 1939 New York World's Fair. I don't know if it was to the left of an actual US postage stamp, but the cancellation is virtually "SON" (Socked on the nose). Upon further examination, the postmark is Saint Petersburg, FL dated August 22, 1977. Just a few years after 1939!!!

We'll never know if this unusual "stamp" had actually moved a piece of mail, but anything is possible with USPS.



Editor's note: The U. S. Postal system strikes ... and misses ... again.



These two examples of use of United Nations stamps to pay US postage have been provided by another long time CFSC member. The receiver's name and address have been removed from these two covers

– but both saw postal use. I receive a good deal of mail during a normal week and often will find skips and illegal use. I wonder when and if the USPS will ever wake up.....

FF



Caveat Emptor, #45

This Makes My Brain Hurt.

Francis Ferguson



The listing reads: “#807a Prexie 3c Jefferson Booklet Partial Plate # Singles, Machine Canceled”. Starting bid of \$1.49 or best offer. Shipping is a very reasonable 74 cents with free returns accepted. An offer of \$1.24 was made by the seller and declined. This experienced seller has a couple hundred active listings with many no value common stamps, antique items like a hay bale hook, clothing, books, eye glass frames, jewelry, etc.

Let me start with the only accurate statement in the description – “Canceled”. Everything else is wrong or at best inaccurate. This is the sheet version of 807 not the booklet – and there is no plate # in evidence. In addition to the obvious damage to this extraordinarily common stamp there is no real or perceived value evident. Is this a machine cancel? It is possible, but unlikely.

What is the value of this “gem”? Zero. It is obvious that this seller has no philatelic knowledge and just throws stuff up there with the hope that someone will take the bait.

This is just another example of the junk that pollutes the philatelic ecosystem that can be found online. Yuck!

What do you think?

[Note: As of this article the name change takes effect. I think it more closely reflects the range of material that has been highlighted – rather than singling out one specific source of material.]