

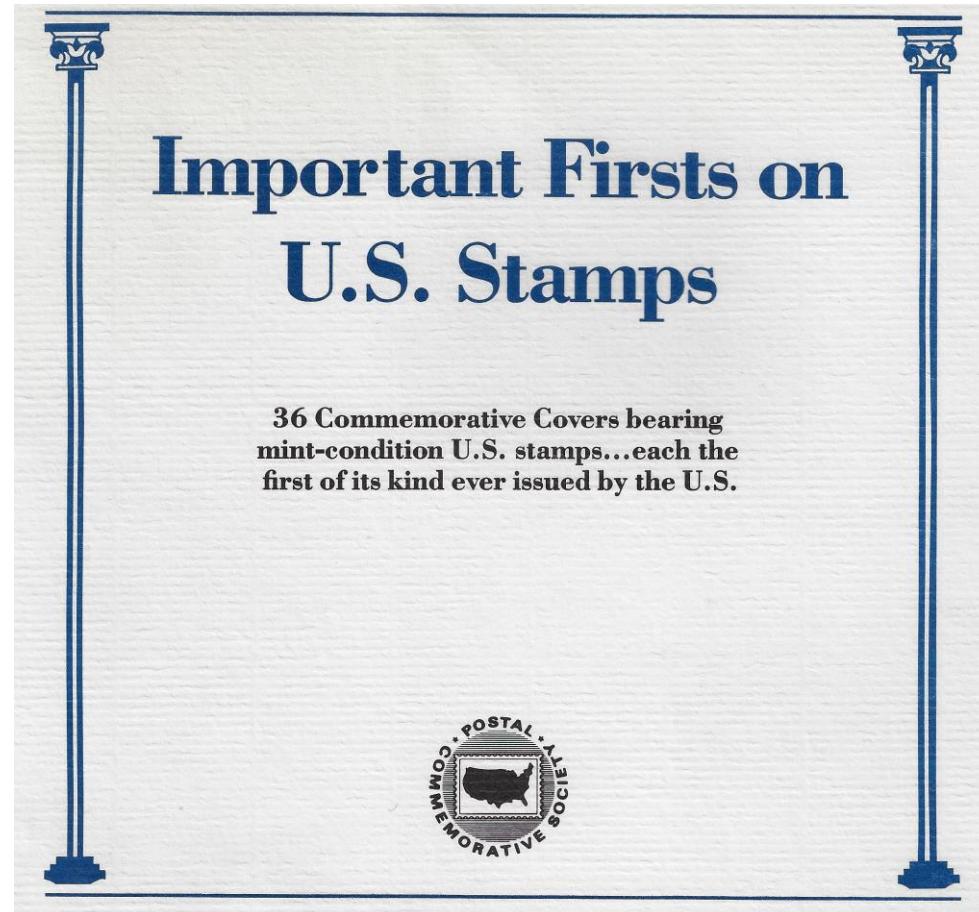
Important Firsts on United States Stamps

Central Florida Stamp Club

Presentation – November 17, 2022

By Newt Kulp

Selected by the Postal Commemorative Society 36 Different Stamps Presented



Disclaimer

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- The covers shown and information presented are contained in a series of covers published by that Society.
- Each cover also has an insert with detailed information about the stamp and related information.

Informational Card

The First Christmas Stamp

4¢ Wreath and Candles

Christmas stamps have a long and proud heritage—they represent the longest-running continuous stamp series in U.S. history. More than 60 memorable designs have been issued over the years...and all have been enormously popular with collectors.

With the introduction of the historic “Wreath and Candle” stamp in 1962, Christmas stamps quickly became a tradition—a special part of the season. Today, these cheerful Yuletide messengers brighten the holiday mail with traditional First Christmas themes, beautifully illustrated by the great masters...and nostalgic scenes, often capturing the magic of the season as seen through a child’s eyes. Yet, the history of Christmas stamps wasn’t always as joyful as the holiday pictures they depict.

From the very beginning, Christmas stamps have been colorful, whimsical, heartwarming...and controversial. When the U.S. Postal Service announced its intention to help Americans celebrate the Yuletide with a special 4¢ holiday stamp, the announcement immediately provoked arguments

over the separation of Church and State. Anxious not to offend anyone with its new venture, the Post Office adopted a non-sectarian, non-religious design: candles and a holiday wreath. Nevertheless, the controversy continued.

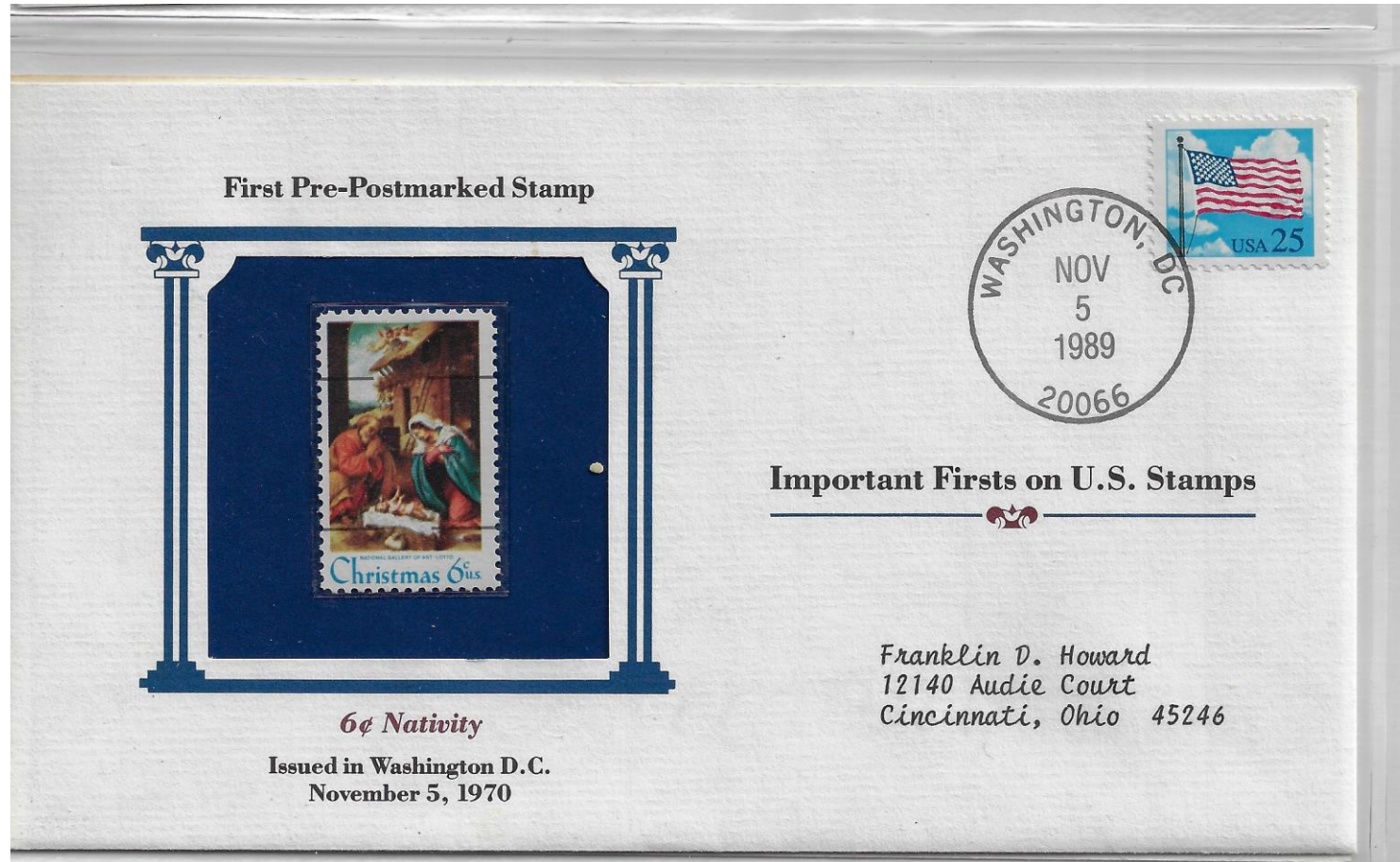
In 1970, the Postal Service came up with a better plan—a compromise that seemed to please everyone. From that year on, *two* stamps were issued so that postal customers—and collectors—could choose between religious and secular designs. Even with the Christmas stamp controversy solved, the increasing volume of Christmas mail continued to be a problem. To facilitate processing, several other philatelic firsts have been issued as part of the Christmas series: the first pre-postmarked stamp, the first self-adhesive stamp, and the first stamp without a printed denomination.

The 4¢ Wreath and Candle stamp preserved on this Cover was issued November 1, 1962 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. This historic U.S. stamp—the first to honor the Christmas season—was designed by Jim Crawford and W.K. Schrage in holiday colors of bright red and green.

First Christmas Stamp

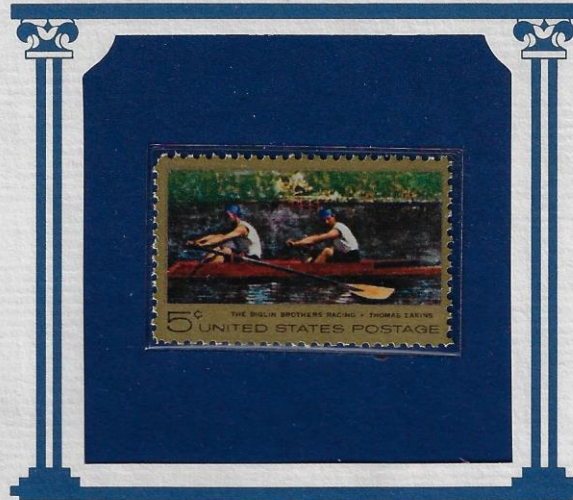


First Pre-Postmarked Stamp



First Gravure-Printed Stamp

First Gravure-Printed Stamp



5¢ Thomas Eakins

Issued in Washington, D.C.
November 2, 1967



Important Firsts on U.S. Stamps



Franklin D. Howard
12140 Audie Court
Cincinnati, Ohio 45246

Honoring the Space Age

First Stamp
Honoring the Space Age



3¢ Fort Bliss

Issued in El Paso, Texas
November 5, 1948



Important Firsts on U.S. Stamps

Franklin D. Howard
12140 Audie Court
Cincinnati, Ohio 45246

First Block of Four with Different Designs



First Self-Adhesive Stamp

First Self-Adhesive Stamp



10¢ Dove Weather Vane

Issued in New York, New York
November 15, 1974



Important Firsts on U.S. Stamps



Franklin D. Howard
12140 Audie Court
Cincinnati, Ohio 45246

First Vertical and Horizontal Pair



First “Love” Stamp



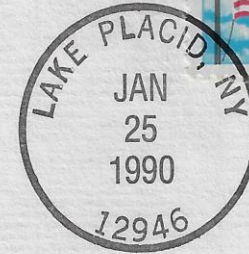
Honoring the Olympics

First Stamp to Honor the Olympics



2¢ III Olympic Winter Games

Issued in Lake Placid, New York
January 25, 1932

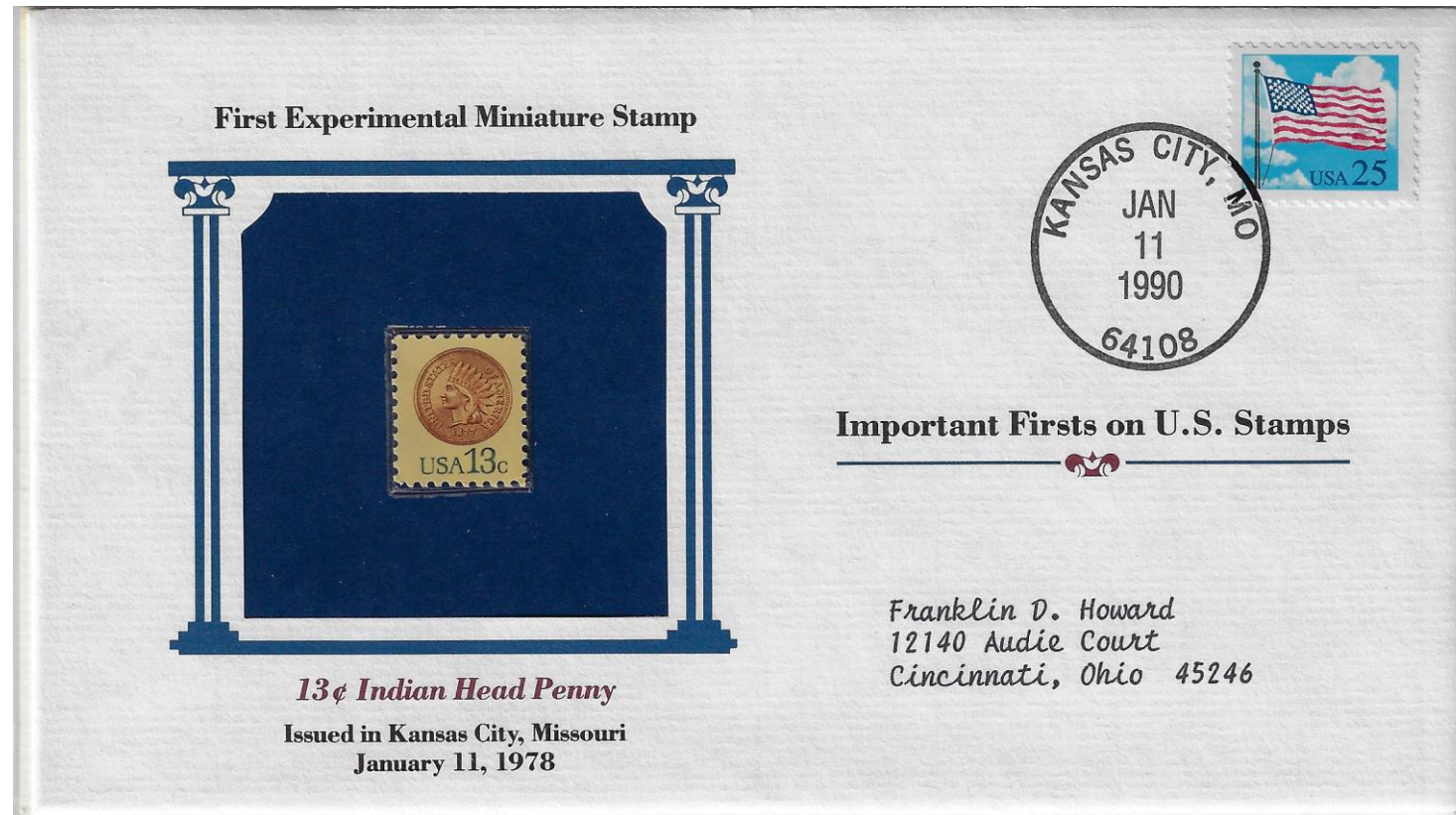


Important Firsts on U.S. Stamps



Franklin D. Howard
12140 Audie Court
Cincinnati, Ohio 45246

Experimental Miniature Stamp



First Error to be Reproduced

**First Stamp Error
to be Reprinted**



4¢ Dag Hammarskjöld

**Issued in Washington, D.C.
November 16, 1962**



Important Firsts on U.S. Stamps



Franklin D. Howard
12140 Audie Court
Cincinnati, Ohio 45246

First Stamp on Stamp

First Stamp on Stamp Design



8¢ Stamp Collecting

Issued in New York, New York
November 17, 1972



Important Firsts on U.S. Stamps



Franklin D. Howard
12140 Audie Court
Cincinnati, Ohio 45246

First Fractional Denomination Stamp



First Panorama on a Block of Four



First Airmail/Regular Mail Common Design Stamp

First Airmail/Regular Mail Common Design Stamp



20¢ “Columbia Jays” by Audubon

Issued in New York, New York • April 26, 1967

5¢ John James Audubon

Issued in Henderson, Kentucky • December 7, 1963



Important Firsts on U.S. Stamps



Franklin D. Howard
12140 Audie Court
Cincinnati, Ohio 45246

First Reverse-Side Printed Stamp



First Wildlife Conservation Stamp



First “Alphabet” Stamp

First “Alphabet” Stamp



15¢ “A” Eagle

Issued in Memphis, Tennessee
May 22, 1978



Important Firsts on U.S. Stamps

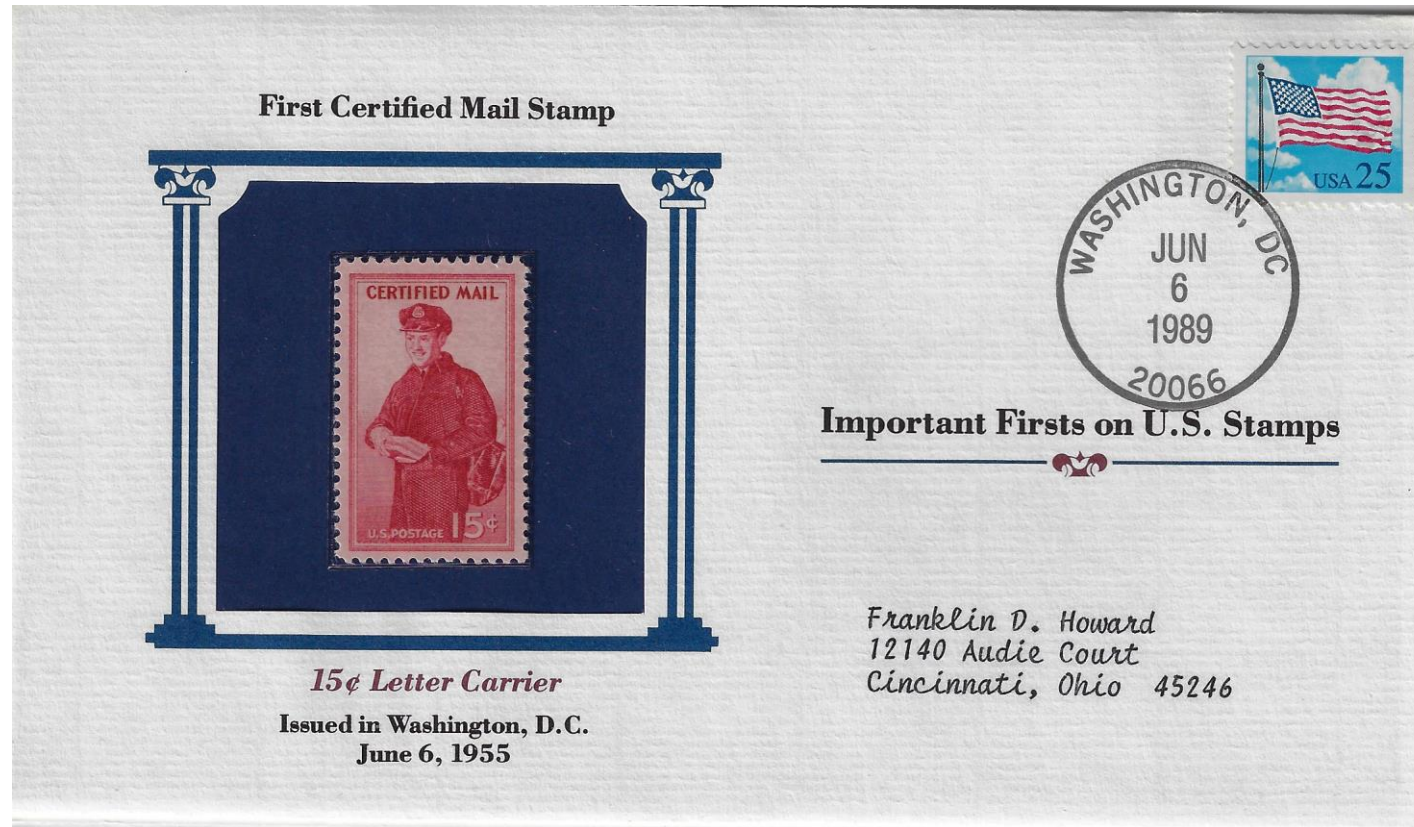


Franklin D. Howard
12140 Audie Court
Cincinnati, Ohio 45246

First Foreign-Issued U.S. Stamp



First Certified Mail Stamp



First Multi-Colored Stamp

First Multi-Color Stamp



5¢ Poland

Issued in Washington, D.C.
June 22, 1943



Important Firsts on U.S. Stamps



Franklin D. Howard
12140 Audie Court
Cincinnati, Ohio 45246

First Stamp Honoring U.S. Postal Service



First U.S. Flag Stamp

First U.S. Flag Stamp



4¢ 48 Star Flag

Issued in Washington, D.C.
July 4, 1957



Important Firsts on U.S. Stamps

Franklin D. Howard
12140 Audie Court
Cincinnati, Ohio 45246

First Commemorative Document Revenue



First Joint Issue Stamp

First Joint-Issue Stamp



4¢ St. Lawrence Seaway

Issued in Massena, New York
June 26, 1959



Important Firsts on U.S. Stamps



Franklin D. Howard
12140 Audie Court
Cincinnati, Ohio 45246

First Oversize Stamps



First National Park Stamp



First Jumbo Airmail Stamp

First Jumbo Airmail
Commemorative Stamp



10¢ First Man on the Moon

Issued in Washington, D.C.
September 9, 1969

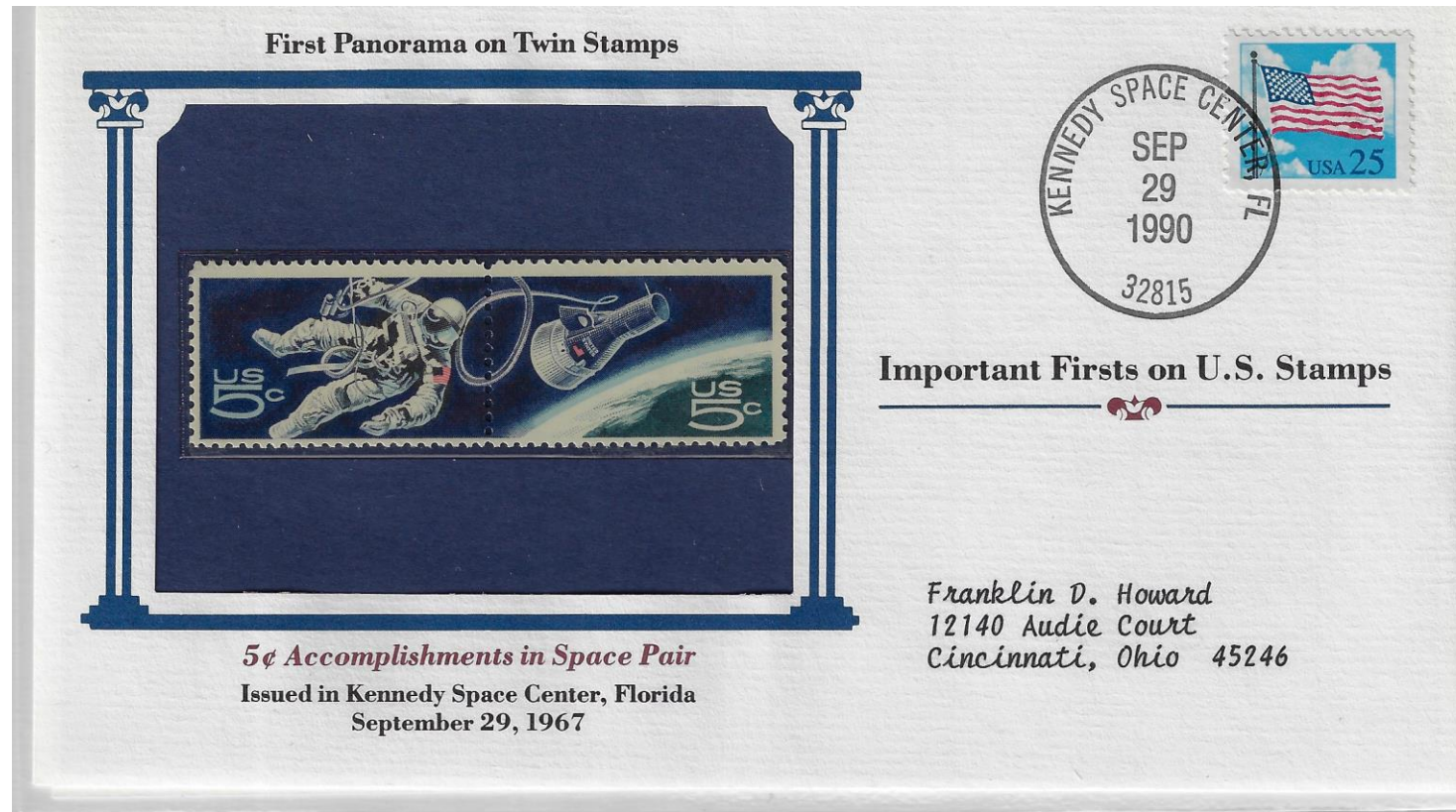


Important Firsts on U.S. Stamps



Franklin D. Howard
12140 Audie Court
Cincinnati, Ohio 45246

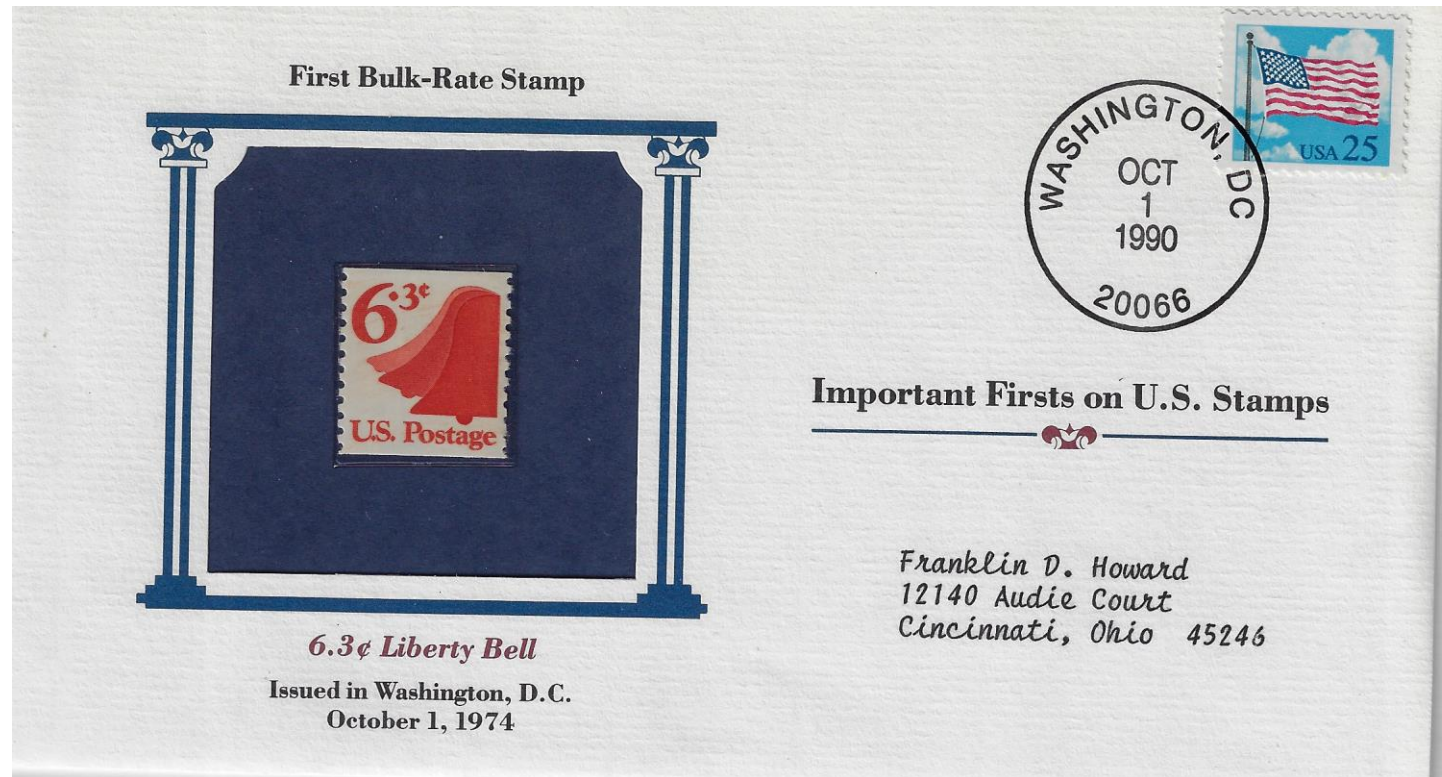
First Panorama on Twin Stamps



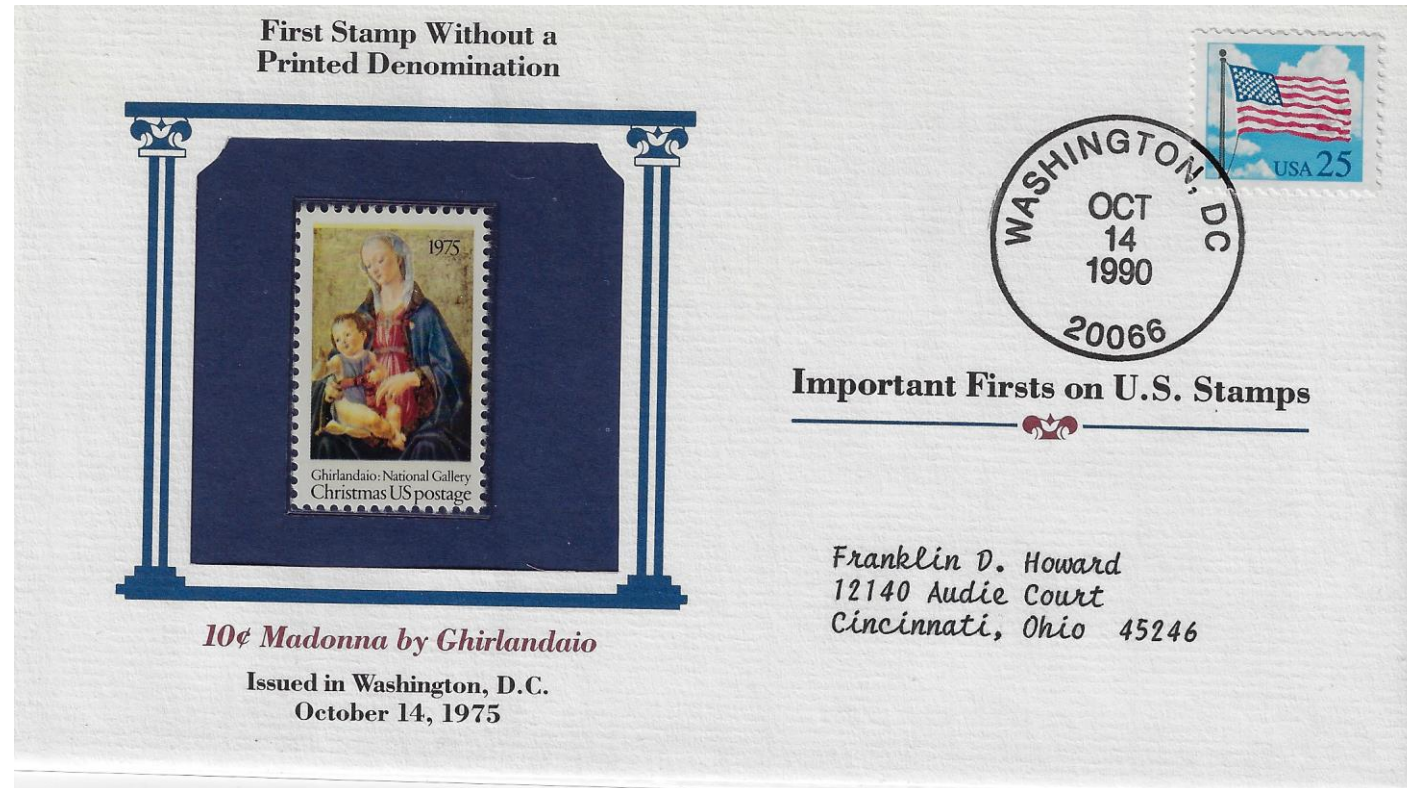
First Airmail Special Delivery Stamp



First Bulk-Mail Stamp



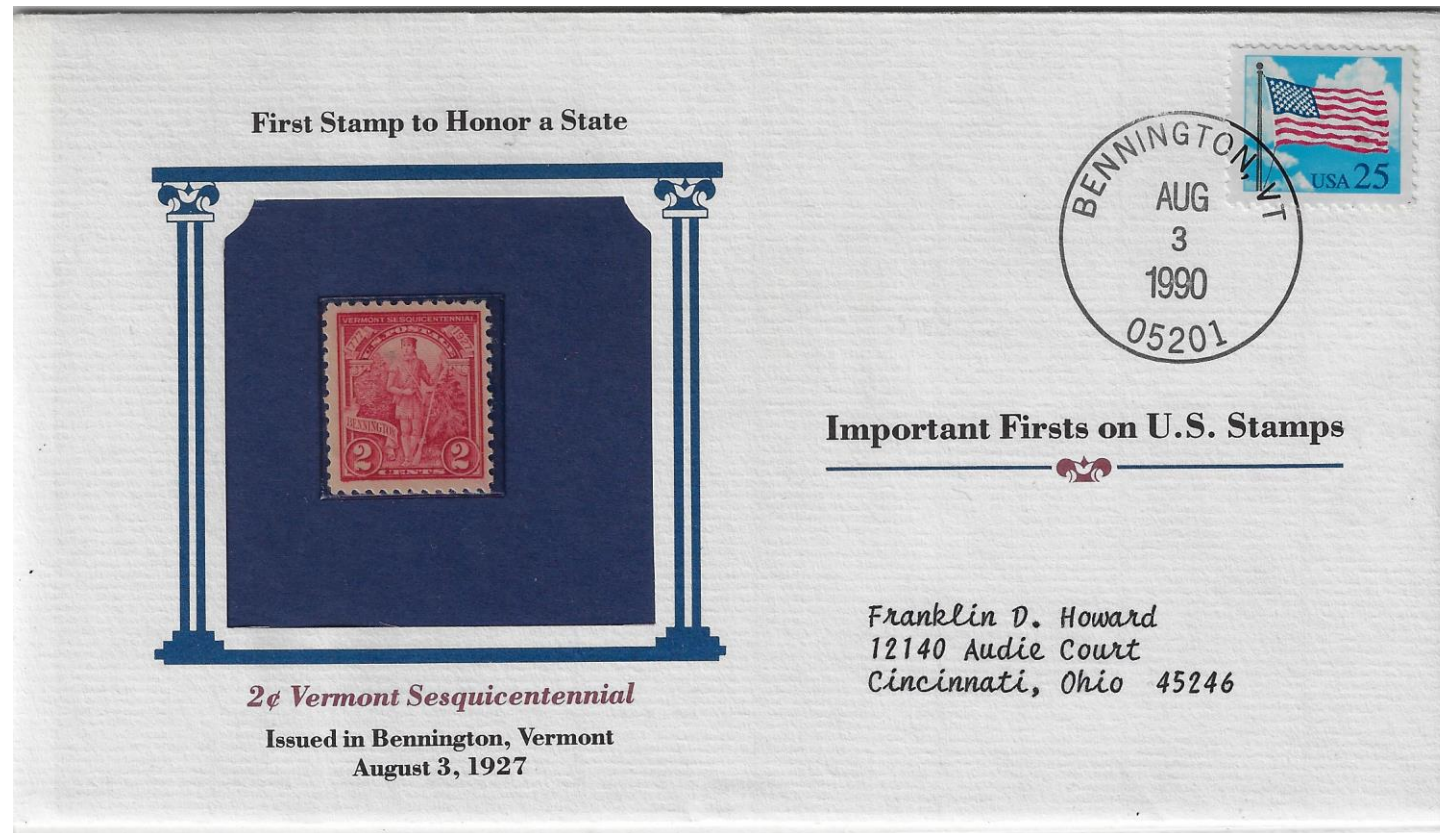
First Stamp Without a Printed Denomination



First Stamp Issued in the Prominent American Series



First Stamp to Honor a State



First Wildlife Stamp



First Commemorative Presidential Stamp



The
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