Making *Arago* work for you:

Navigation Tips, Tricks, and Trade Secrets
What is *Arago*?

- NPM’s online collection
- Named for Francois Arago (19th century French scientist and friend of James Smithson)
- Launched May 27, 2006
- Currently 13,000+ objects online, with images and related descriptions

[www.arago.si.edu](http://www.arago.si.edu)
What’s on Arago?

- Digital images of NPM objects
- Descriptions of objects and object groupings
- Philatelic material
  - Stamps, covers, essays
  - Largely United States, some international
- Postal Operations material
  - Memorabilia related to moving mail
  - Postal service ‘stuff’
New *Arago* Content

Complete collection of US postage stamps!

4,966 Images with descriptions
Arago: Getting Started

4 Modes of Discovery

- Browse
  - By Philately
  - By Postal Operations
- Search
- Featured Collections
- My Collection
Browse Tips

- Overview narratives introduce each section of hierarchy
  - *Taxonomy* tree narrows object selections
  - Story-telling mode vs. thumbnail view
Browse Tips

- Thumbnail view
- Toggle between tabs
- Visual grouping of same taxonomy tree
Browse Tricks

- Return to Arago home page
- Use the taxonomy string to “go back” a screen
- Click on a picture to view the object record
Object Record Components

- Object Name
- Catalogue number
- Detailed description
- Date (date range)
- Researcher who wrote description
- Glossary (related terms)
Object Record Components

- Markings (if any)
- Medium (i.e. materials)
- Museum ID
- Place (origin)
Trade secrets

- Sponsor links
- Filter Options
- Zoom function
- HTML vs. Flash
Trade Secrets: Filter Options

- Further narrow object selection
Trade Secrets: Zoom

- Magnify digital image
- View details of object at 100% magnification
HTML vs. Flash view

- Flash = images rotate
- HTML = static images
- Toggle between formats
Directed Searches
Directed Searches

- Search by
  - Keywords
  - Catalogue Number
  - Collections at NPM
  - Stamp Topic
  - Object Type
  - Researchers
  - Date Range
  - Geographic location
Featured Collections

Arago™ is your resource to the study of philately and postal operations as seen through the National Postal Museum’s collection.

Named after Francois Arago (19th century French scientist and friend of James Smithson), our website upholds his philosophy that knowledge can be shared through the technology of the day.

Philately
Objects that chronicle the evolution and history of U.S. stamp design and production, and the administration that controlled their issuance and use.

Postal Operations
Objects that chronicle the development of the U.S. postal system and the vital role mail plays in our daily lives.

Exhibits
Special histories told through selected assemblages of museum objects and exceptional private collections. View all Exhibits.

Search
Enter keyword(s) to begin a search. Philately and Postal Operations buttons help refine or limit the results. Otherwise proceed to Search page for advanced search options.

My Collection
Use collection images to create your own digital collection. Record notes and e-mail items of interest to friends. Create your Collection.

Returning to view your collection? Log in to view your collection. My Collection requires the Flash Player.
Featured Collections

- “Exhibits”
- Thematic selections of the online collections
- 12 currently published
My Collection

- Save objects you visit often or find of particular interest
- Unique ID & password required
- Unlimited Folders
- Unlimited Objects
- E-mail collections to others
Starting a Collection

- Create an account & log in
- Select objects
- Organize selected objects in collection
Selecting an object
Be the first to know

- Sign-up for online newsletter, Postmark, to receive notification of latest additions
Give it a try

www.arago.si.edu