2010 Winton M. Blount Postal History Symposium:
“Stamps and the Mail: Imagery, Icons, & Identity”

The Case of Thirty-Five Esthetic and Political Messages:
The Famous Americans of 1940

“Hello! Thanks for coming to our Symposium – I am happy to meet you – please hold on to me during the presentation!”
FOR RELEASE 10:00 A.M. (E.D.T.)
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 27, 1956

TALK BY
POSTMASTER GENERAL ARTHUR E. SUMMERFIELD
AT THE
PURE FOOD AND DRUG STAMP CEREMONY
WASHINGTON, D. C.
JUNE 27, 1956

It is a pleasure for me to participate in this celebration today as we observe the fiftieth anniversary of the signing of the Pure Food and Drug Laws.
A STAMP PROGRAM for Patriotic Progress

POSTAL DESIGNS TO ADVANCE AMERICAN CULTURE

by Michael L. Eidsness, Jr.

The soldiers who have preserved civilization are but little more worthy of philatelic recognition than the eminent scientists and inventors whose genius has been an endowment of society but for whom neither the State nor the populace ever have arranged adequate reward. I think of Louis Agassiz, J. J. Audubon, Alexander Graham Bell, Luther Burbank, James B. Eads, George Eastman, Thomas A. Edison, Cyrus W. Field, Charles Goodyear, Asa Gray, Joseph Henry, Elias Howe, Cyrus H. McCormick, Samuel F. B. Morse, William Osler, Eli Whitney and Wilbur Wright; and I wonder when philatelic laurels will be granted them. Meanwhile, it is incomprehensible to me that such acknowledgment of mankind’s debt should be begrudged by anyone who enjoys the fruit of their labors and sacrifices.

Among the builders of America, also, the men of letters—poets, novelists, historians, essayists, law Reid, J. Whitcomb Riley, Josiah Royce, Melville E. Stone, Bayard Taylor, Henry David Thoreau, Henry Van Dyke, Lew Wallace, Booker T. Washington, Walt Whitman, John Greenleaf Whittier and William Holmes MacGuffey.


Meanwhile, who will presume to say that a series for musicians like Stephen Collins Foster, Ethelbert

Michael L. Eidsness, Jr.
Famous American Educator

BOOKER T. WASHINGTON

To stamp collectors, Booker T. Washington will be noted as the first of his race to be depicted on a U. S. stamp. He was born a slave on a plantation near Hale’s County, Va., April 5, 1856. After the Civil War, he lived at Malden, W. Va., where he worked in the coal fields of the furnace; later in a coal mine. His education was obtained at a night school in the town of Galax where he found work in the manufacture of matches. In 1877, at the age of 21, he entered the Hampton Institute and in three years, by working as school janitor. At the same time, he studied at the Hampton Institute and obtained a degree in education. He was appointed instructor in the Hampton Institute and was subsequently appointed principal of the Institute. He became the first principal of the Institute’s colored section and was later appointed principal of the entire Institute. In 1881, the Alabama state legislature appropriated $5000 annually for salaries of Indian teachers and Booker T. Washington was appointed Indian agent in 1892. He served in this position until his death in 1915.
ALLAN P. VESTAL
ATTORNEY AT LAW
FLETCHER TRUST BUILDING
INDIANAPOLIS

MOUNDSVILLE, W. VA.
U.S.A.

APRIL 1 1941

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind.

OCT 4 1940

3:30 PM

MARCH 9, 1942

DEFENCE SAVINGS
FEDERAL SAVINGS.

JUNE 5, 1940

12 M.

V. I.

FREDERIKSBORG

THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

Dot and Bob Briggs

Erving, Mass.
Special Delivery

Chicago Ill
“The Famous American Size”
Authors
Educators
Composers
Artists
Stamp Collectors Protest Postoffices' Failures

1st-Day Covers Due for Slump, Dealers Hint

Philatelic Value Is Lost in Premature Selling by Some Postmasters

By Ernest A. Keir

If the attitude of collectors and dealers around town is any indication, first-day covers are due for a slump unless the Post Office Department takes drastic steps to prevent such irregularities as have cropped up in recent weeks.

Envelopes bearing new stamps and postmarks affixed before the official release date have appeared almost every time an issue was authorized, but collectors heretofore ignored them as freaks. Lately, however, the sale and distribution of new postage stamps before the date on which they were advertised becomes so noticeable to collectors and dealers are beginning to protest.

Whenever a new stamp is issued, stocks are printed and distributed to postoffices throughout the country many days in advance of the announced date of issue. Despite strict instructions that these stamps should be withheld from sale until the official date, postmasters are reported to have dispensed them at retail stores.

Left to right: Horace Mann, Mark Hopkins and Charles W. Elliot

could obtain one, but after that date thousands of hobbyists—particularly novices—decided to fill albums with only first-day covers.

With each succeeding issue, more and more covers were being canceled at the offices where they were first placed on sale. In those days, too, the first day of sale was not always confined to a single postoffice, but was allowed in all the towns associated with the event commemorated by the stamp's design. (The Sullivan issue, for example, was sold first in Auburn, Binghamton, Canandaigua, Canajoharie, Elmira, Geneva, Horseheads, Owego, Penn Yan, Seneca Falls, Waterloo, Watkins Glen (near the N.Y.)

Designs for the forthcoming educator's group of the Famous Americans series. Frances E. Willard (left) and Booker T. Washington

Streamers Noted
An Irving Buys First Sheet of Irving Stamps

Farley, at Tarrytown, Sells Commemorative Issue to Namesake of the Author

By a Staff Correspondent

TARRYTOWN, N. Y., Jan. 29.—Postmaster General James A. Farley sold the first sheet of the new commemorative issue of Washington Irving stamps of the 1-cent denomination at the local postoffice here today to Washington Irving 3d, a great-great-grandnephew of the author and statesman.

Mr. Irving lives on the estate, Sunnyside, which was also his famous collateral ancestor's home. A brother, Dr. Peter Irving, of New York City, secretary of the New York State Medical Society, bought the second sheet of stamps.

Mr. Irving presented the first sheet of stamps to the Tarrytown Historical Society at a luncheon tendered to Mr. Farley, the Irvings, and other guests by the National Federation of Stamp Clubs at the Hackley School, not far from the Tarrytown post office.

Mayor William A. Murphy, of Irvington, which had insisted that Irvington, and not Tarrytown, was the site of Sunnyside, and should have had the first-day sale of the Irving stamps, told Mr. Farley, whose department had decided in favor of Tarrytown, that he and the rest of Irvington still thought they were right.

"But there are no hard feelings," said Mayor Murphy.

Postmaster General James A. Farley selling the first sheet of the new Washington Irving stamps to Washington Irving 3d, collateral descendant of the author, at Tarrytown, N. Y., yesterday. Left to right are Mr. Farley, John H. Burke, Tarrytown postmaster; Roy M. North, Deputy Third Assistant Postmaster General; Dr. Peter Irving and Mr. Irving.
Mark Twain Castigated in House
As Deserter at First Yankee Shot

Shannon, in Debate Over Memorial Stamps, Disowns Him for Missouri, Says Author Fled War After 4 Minutes and Hid Until Year After Its End

By Joseph Driscoll

WASHINGTON, Feb. 3.—Congress, busy as it is with questions of loans for Finland and embargoes for Japan, found time this week to fight the Civil War over again and to hear one of its members denounce the great Mark Twain as a coward, a deserter from the Confederate forces and a "dismal failure as a belligerent."

Dead these many years, Mark Twain (Samuel Langhorne Clemens) is generally regarded throughout the world as the finest author and ford, including "Huckleberry Finn," "Tom Sawyer" and "A Connecticut Yankee at King Arthur's Court."

After thinking over Mr. Miller's speech, up rose a Missouri Democrat, Representative Joseph B. Shannon, of the Kansas City Shannons, to disown Mark Twain and to pro-