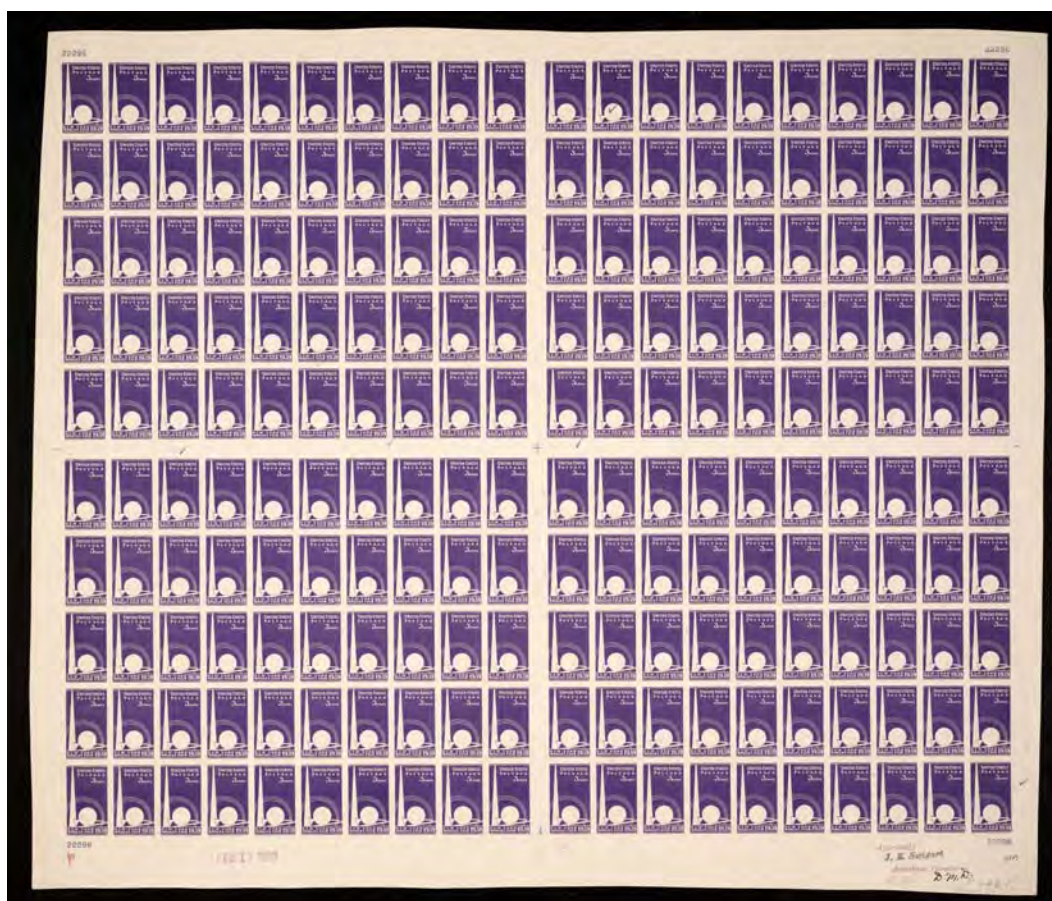

PHILATELY AND U.S. WORLD'S FAIRS FINDING GUIDE

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New York World's Fair Certified Plate Proof, 1939 – Scott 853 (Accession No. 0.242263.15861)



Smithsonian
National Postal Museum

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Western Cattle in a Snow Storm, Trans-Mississippi Exposition, 1898 – Scott 292 (Accession No. 1980.2493.2000)

COLLECTION SCOPE & CONTENT

The United States Post Office Department (United States Postal Service since 1971) played a major role in America's world's fairs by issuing postage stamps to promote and honor the international expositions and their themes, by exhibiting the history of postage stamps and postal operations in the Federal Building, and by operating postal stations on the fair grounds for fair organizers, concessionaires, and visitors. The U.S. post office issued its first commemorative postage stamps for the 1893 Columbian Exposition, initiating a significant change in the postage stamp program (*The Nation's First Commemorative Postage Stamps* www.postalmuseum.si.edu/AragoColumbianExposition). Scholars who study American world's fairs will discover untapped resources in the philatelic collections, archives, and library at the Smithsonian National Postal Museum.

PROVENANCE

World's fair holdings are not identified or organized as such but are part of larger collections transferred from the Post Office Department and Department of the Treasury or donated by individuals.

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

In addition to postage stamps, the National Philatelic Collection includes die proofs, certified plate proofs, postal stationery, and special exposition postmarks on mail. These objects document the postal history of the fairs and provide graphic imagery that projects themes and aesthetic styles of the fairs.

The archival holdings include the Third Assistant Postmaster General stamp design files with information on sources for stamps design, production information, and correspondence with the public in response to specific stamp issues. The files contains documents related to the design and production of U.S. regular stamp issues from Scott #1 (1847) to Scott #2532 (1991) as well as 'back of the book' issues (airmail, postage dues, postal savings, federal duck stamps, and postal stationery) for roughly the same period. The collection is organized into file jackets and oversized envelopes according to Scott Catalogue number. For further details, see www.si.edu/digitalcollections/npm/essays.cfm.

The bibliography includes selected books, catalogs, and journal articles with philatelic information not generally found in traditional exposition literature. Philatelists have researched extensively and published in detail on stamps and events related to postage stamps.

[Note: For U.S. postage stamps from 1978 to present, reproduction permission is required from the USPS]

COLLECTIONS INVENTORY

Collections:

U.S. Postage Stamps Issued for World's Fairs and Expositions:

Year – Fair, City – Scott Stamp Catalogue number

[note: search the Scott number on www.arago.si.edu for image, related images, and narrative/object records for each issue]

1893 – Columbian Exposition, Chicago – 230-245
1898 – Trans-Mississippi Exposition, Omaha – 285-293
1901 – Pan-American Exposition, Buffalo – 294-299
1904 – Louisiana Purchase Exposition, St. Louis – 323-327
1907 – Jamestown Exposition, Hampton Roads – 328-330
1909 – Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition – 370-371
1909 – Hudson-Fulton Celebration, - 372-373
1913 – Panama-Pacific Exposition – 397-400, 400A
1914-15 – Panama-Pacific Exposition – 401-404
1926 – Sesquicentennial Exposition, Philadelphia – 627, Canal Zone 96
1933 – A Century of Progress, Chicago – 728, 730
1933 – A Century of Progress, Chicago – 729, 731
1933 – A Century of Progress, Chicago – C18
1935 – California Pacific Exposition, San Diego – 773
1936 – California Pacific Exposition, San Diego – 778
1939 – Golden Gate International Exposition, San Francisco - 852
1939 – New York World's Fair, New York City – 853
1962 – Seattle World's Fair, Seattle - 1196
1964 – New York World's Fair, New York City – 1244
1974 – Expo '74 World's Fair, Spokane – 1527
1982 – Knoxville World's Fair, Knoxville – 2006-2009
1984 – Louisiana World Exposition, New Orleans – 2086

Anniversary issues:

1992 – Columbian Exposition, Chicago (1893) – 2624-2629 reissue
1998 – Louisiana Purchase Exposition (1904), St. Louis – 3182e
1998 – Trans-Mississippi Exposition (1898), Omaha – 3209a-I, 3210 reissue

World's Fair Proofs:

National Philatelic Collection by Scott Stamp Catalogue number
Certified Plate Proof Collection by production plate number
Panama Pacific Die Proof Album (Accession No. 0.58223)
Post Office Department Philatelic Display Panels
Roosevelt Presentation Albums (Accession No. 52985.339 and 1994.2090)
Ernest R. Ackerman Collection
Clarence H. Eagle Collection
Postmaster General Collection, USPS (on loan - image reproduction restrictions)
The Benjamin K. Miller Collection, The New York Public Library, Astor, Lenox and Tilden
Foundations (on loan - image reproduction restrictions)

Smithsonian National Postal Museum, World's Fairs Finding Guide, p. 4.

World's Fair Postal Stationery:

Year – Fair, City – Scott catalogue number

1876 – Centennial Exposition, Philadelphia – U218-21

1893 – Columbian Exposition, Chicago – U348-51

1893 – Columbian Exposition, Chicago – UX10 set of postal cards with printed images of fair buildings (Accession No. 2000.2007)

1926 – Sesquicentennial Exposition, Philadelphia – U522

1964 – New York World's Fair, New York City – U546

National Philatelic Collection by Scott Stamp Catalogue number

Arthur E. Michel Collection

World's Fair Mail and Postal History:

National Philatelic Collection Covers

by Scott Stamp Catalogue number

Expositions and Fairs collection

Hand-illuminated cover autographed by King George VI and Queen Elizabeth,

New York World's Fair, 1939 (Accession No. 209801.1)

James A. Farley Collection

Presentation sheet, New York World's Fair, 1939 (Accession No. 209045.80)

World's Fair Artifacts:

Columbian Exposition Owney Tag (rail mail mascot), 1893 (Accession no. 0.052985.210)

Washington City Old Post Office architectural model, Panama-Pacific Exposition, 1914-15
(Accession no. 241441.1)

Archives:

Third Assistant Postmaster General Stamp Design files by Scott number



Columbian Exposition Souvenir Postal Card (Woman's Building), 1893 (Accession No. 2000.2007.11)

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