



# NEWSLETTER

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## Philatelic Opulence: The 1902 Second Bureau Issue

By Doug Files — Part 1 of 2



Public Domain, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Series\\_of\\_1902](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Series_of_1902) SC 300-313

### Basics of the Second Bureau Series

The definitive stamp series of 1902 showcased many firsts for the U.S. Post Office. An American woman was honored for the first time. The 13-cent denomination was novel. Some of the stamps were issued in imperforate form, which was new. Coils and booklets had not previously appeared in American philately. Of note, the stamps bore the wording "Series 1902", making some collectors speculate that new definitives might be issued each year. This did not occur. Most of the 1902 series stamps actually emerged in 1903 and the next definitive series did not begin until 1908 (i.e. the Washington-Franklins).

The second bureau issue was developed by the Bureau of Engraving, perforated 12 and issued on watermarked double-line paper. Watermarking the paper served as an anti-counterfeiting practice. It was instituted after the prior issue had been forged. Despite its name the second bureau issue was actually the first set designed at the bureau. The "First Bureau Issue" had simply continued with minor changes the same designs created by its predecessor, the American Banknote Company.

### Design Features

This series' designs were particularly detailed; some observers have even called them lush or opulent. One nickname for the series compares the stamps to highly-decorated "gingerbread." But this opulence was not unique to definitives. The Trans-Mississippi Exposition and Pan-American Exposition commemoratives were also highly decorative. In fact, it was the success of the Pan-American series that led post office leaders to request the Bureau to create the distinctive and particularly attractive definitive issue which became the series of 1902."



1902 Series  
50-cent stamp  
depicting  
Thomas Jefferson  
SC 310

—Continued on Page 4

Meetings and Activities  
Meetings begin at 7:30 pm

May 6 - Club Speaker: Topical Collecting with member participation

May 13 Board Meeting

May 20—Club Members Bourse #1 (aka Sell, Buy, Trade)

June 3—My Other Hobby: show & tell your other hobby with us! (member participation, 4-6 minutes)

June 10 Board Meeting

June 14 & 15—COLOPEX Columbus Philatelic Club, Columbus, email: info@colopex.com

June 17—Philatelic Trivia: Open Book Quiz (on your own or work as a team)

July 1—Patriotic Presentations to honor Independence Day (member participation, 4-6 minutes)

July 8 Board Meeting

July 15—Club Auction #3 (philatelic material only)

Aug. 1-4 — APS/ATA Joint National Stamp Show, Omaha NE

Aug. 5-10 — Perfin/Preanel, 98th Annual Conference, Omaha, NE

Aug 5 -Media Show from ATA – "Walt Disney's Empire" Ap- point Nominating Comm. for 2019 DSC Officers

Aug 12 Board Meeting

Aug 19—How I Started Col- lecting Stamps (member par- ticipation, 4-6 minutes)

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Another Country to Collect Without Breaking the Bank

Vatican City State was founded following the signing of the Lateran Pacts between the Holy See and Italy on February 11th 1929. These were ratified on June 7th 1929. Its nature as a sovereign State distinct from the Holy See is universally recognized under international law. The agreements were signed by Benito Mussolini, Prime Minister and Pietro Gasparri for Pope Pius XI.



The postal history of Vatican City begins shortly after its official foundation. The Vatican post office began operating with supplies and equipment donated by the Italian government. Vatican City became a member of the Universal Postal Union, and then on July 29 Vatican City and Italy signed a postal agreement, going into effect on August 1, providing for the routing of its mail through Rome.

The first of August saw the issuance of the first Vatican stamps (Italian stamps were used previously), in the "Conciliation" definitive series of 15 values. The low values, 5 to 75 centesimo,



depicted the heraldic arms, while the higher values (80 centesimo to 10 lira) featured a full-face portrait of the reigning Pope Pius XI.



Vatican SC #8 1929 featuring the image of Pope Pius XI

The Vatican stamps are colorful and rich with history. For the collector the stamps are relatively inexpensive. Vatican #1 can be found for less than a dollar and Vatican #8 for a little over \$1.00. These fall This of interested collectors.



The six pictorial Vatican City stamps shown (Sc. #41-46) were issued on February 1, 1935 to honor the the International Juridical Congress, held in Rome during 1934. This series is the first commemoratives issued.

Recent Vatican Stamps

The Vatican has acquired a reputation for producing handsome and attractive issues in limited quantities (even today, the average production run for most issues is only between 300,000 and 500,000 stamps). Vatican stamps are produced under the authority of the Philatelic and Numismatic Office of the Vatican City State.

Much, but by no means all, of the mail handled by the Vatican is from tourists or official congregations of the Roman Curia. Many Romans, distrustful of the unreliable Italian post office, make weekly trips to the Vatican just to post their important letters.



Italian stamps may not be used on Vatican mail nor vice versa. According to the Universal Postal Union, the Vatican post office is "one of the best postal systems in the world" and "more letters are sent each year, per inhabitant, from the Vatican's 00120 postal code than from anywhere else in the world."

The most expensive Vatican Series



The five Pope Pius XI portrait definitive stamps of 1929 shown (Sc. #35-40) were re-valued on June 6, 1934.

For anyone contemplating collecting the stamps of the Vatican, this is the most expensive set in Vatican philately. On

eBay, mint sets are priced at \$750.00 to \$1,500.00, depending on whether never hinged or lightly hinged stamps are preferred. For Vatican stamp collectors, once this set is purchased, everything else gets progressively less expensive.

## First African American on a US Stamp 1940 Booker T. Washington (SC#873)



Some stamp stories are long overdue and even more to be admired like this one. Booker T Washington (1856-1915) was the first African American to appear on a stamp in the United States on April 7, 1940. Born a slave he founded the Tuskegee Normal Industrial School in 1881 in Alabama.

He was a renowned author, orator, and a key figure in the early Civil Rights movement. He was a consensus builder, believing in equal rights for all and making a lasting impact with his goal of promoting education and entrepreneurship to the African American community.

This gorgeous stamp is one of the many examples of stamp stories that don't have huge price tags. A nice example of this stamp originally issued over 65 years ago can be bought for a few dollars.

The Booker T. Washington stamp is one of the 35 stamps in the Famous America Series of 1940 (SC #859-93). This issue is one of five as part of the Educators.

### APS Volunteer Work Week July 15–19, 2019

Come for the entire week or just one day and work side-by-side with fellow philatelists and APS staff at the American Philatelic Center on projects that benefit both the Society and the Library. The event is not all work as volunteers will have opportunities to use the APRL, spend time in Circuit Sales, shop in the Gift Shop and talk stamps!



For more information and to register visit the APS Website: <https://stamps.org/>

### May 20 — DSC Members Bourse

**Become a Stamp Dealer for a few hours. Bring your unwanted but still loved philatelic items to the meeting on May 20 starting at 7:30. Setup is available after 7:00pm to choose your ideal location and develop your unique presentation.**

**Sell, Buy, Trade—to find missing treasures for your collection. Great opportunity to clear out some space and refill it with new material.**

**Rudy Marino** (1929-2019) passed away April 16. He was a welcoming and active member of the Dayton Stamp Club for many years, Funeral Services were held April 25.

Memorial contributions may be made to the [Alzheimer's Association](#). Online condolences may be made to the family at [www.KindredFuneralHome.com](http://www.KindredFuneralHome.com).

## Stamps From Around the World Which Might be Missing From Your Collection?

**The Treskilling Yellow** - The Treskilling Yellow is considered one of the most expensive postage stamps in the world due to the fact it should be printed in a blue-green colour with the three-skilling print, but it was actually printed in yellow. This Swedish misprinted stamp issued in 1855 is believed to be the only surviving copy to exist, which is why it is worth over \$2.4 million. The stamp has been sold more than once, each time climbing with value.



**Baden 9 Kreuzer - Around \$1.2 million**—Rather than being valuable for an image error, the Baden 9-Kreuzer is a moneymaker due to a color error. A 9-Kreuzer stamp has the face value of 9-Kreuzer and is colored pink, while the 6-Kreuzer stamps were green. However, an error in printing meant that a batch of 9-Kreuzer stamps were colored green, rather than pink. Only four are known to exist.



**Inverted Swan** - The Inverted Swan is one of the most famous and unique stamps in the world, not because of its beauty, but rather because it was one of the first invert errors in the world. The Inverted Swan was issued in Perth, Australia in 1855 when a complicated process of producing these stamps through lithography was followed. However, contrary to popular belief, it is actually the frame that is inverted rather than the swan. This famous stamp is valued over \$40,276.



— continued from page 1—1902 Second Bureau Issues

One disadvantage of the detailed nature of the images is that production technology could not keep pace with esthetic demands. Proofs printed in black India ink were crystal clear, but the actual versions failed to live up to expectations. Regular red copies of the stamps bore unclear images and many copies were perforated so as to make the designs appear off-center. Collectors struggle to compile a well-centered set.



The Unpopular  
Two-Cent  
George Washington  
SC 301

### The Series of 1902

The series bore 14 initial denominations, scaled from 1-cent to \$5.00 (Scott catalog #300 to #313). Many experts also consider Scott #319 – the 2-cent red replacement - and the messenger on bicycle special delivery designs to be part of the Series of 1902. Scott #319 was issued after the first version of the 2-cent engendered criticism. Some people did not feel the image captured the heroic qualities of the Father of Our Nation. It could have been worse. The *New York Times* printed a sardonic essay wondering why “nude” boys appeared alongside Ben Franklin on the one-cent: “Here on our lovely green stamp two nude boys are writhing in the assorted poses of malefactors condemned to the cross...” In reality the young men are partially covered by cloths.



The one-cent  
Benjamin Franklin  
SC 300

Most of the series of 1902 were popular with the public but some people thought George Washington’s cheeks were oddly-shaded on the 2-cent stamps. In late 1903 a second version of the stamp was issued, touched up and with a new frame. The new stamps were better liked and were so common that over their 8 years of use many inks were used; they exist in many shades of red. The Scott catalog current lists carmine, bright carmine, carmine lake, carmine rose and scarlet. The basic stamp colors were chosen to align with Universal Postal Union standards. That is, green was the color for the post card rate stamp, red for regular mail and blue for international mail. Of the other denominations in the set, most retained the colors used in the prior definitive series.

The American heroes who were honored on the stamps were not new: most of them had been celebrated on the prior issue as well (George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Benjamin Franklin). New honorees included General William Tecumseh Sherman, Admiral David Farragut and the recently deceased President Benjamin Harrison.



Admiral David Farragut  
on a \$1 Stamp  
SC 311

### Reprints of High Values

The third bureau issue, also known as the Washington-Franklin series, began to replace the second bureau issue in 1908. The new definitive series only consisted of low denominations because post offices still had adequate stocks of the old higher values. In fact, 9 more years elapsed before inventories of the \$2 and \$5 second bureau stamps ran low. At that time an increase in the number of packages sent to Russia during the revolution of 1917 necessitated new high-denomination stamps. Since the stamps were urgently needed at many locations, postal officials decided to reprint designs from the old series rather than create new ones. These reprints, known as Scott numbers 479 and 480, filled in until new Washington-Franklin issues could be produced a year later. These reprints can be easily differentiated from the originals because they were perforated 10 instead of 12 and they were printed on unwatermarked paper. The reprints are up to ten times more commonly found than the original versions, with commensurate catalog values.



Third Bureau Issue 1908-10  
SC 331, 332, 333

illustrations: Public Domain, Smithsonian Institute National Postal Museum, <https://arago.si.edu/index.html>

**Part 2 of The 1902 Second Bureau Issue will continue in the next issue discussing the Innovations of the Second Bureau Series**

## Why Did I Become Involved with the American Topical Association?

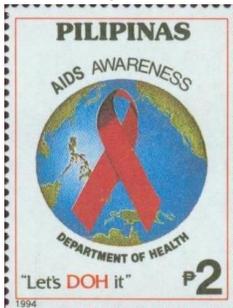
By Dale Smith, President

American Topical Association

I initially collected U.S. stamps and loved it but moved on to some of the classics. My wife accompanied me to stamp shows and entertained herself with reading. Then she discovered that there were CATS on STAMPS. CATS on postcards, CATS on souvenir sheets. A CAT lover was lost in philately very quickly much to my relief.



As a pharmacist, I discovered the topic of pharmacy on stamps. I also treated HIV/AIDS patients and then started collecting those stamps.



Then I found STAMPS on STAMPS. Immersed in topical stamps we discovered the American Topical Association (ATA) and that was a new beginning. We joined an organization that represented our interests, promoted the collection of stamps with themes and topic, and we have been involved ever since.

After many stamp shows we have made friends who collect birds, penguins, fish, flowers, Olympics, chickens, and close to 1,300 other topics on stamps. These collectors are as passionate as any other stamp collector, and topical/thematic collectors and exhibitors have fun sharing not just stamps but also information about the topics they collect.

Approximately 300 new members a year join ATA, and one reason is the checklists of stamps that we publish and sell. We offer a Checklist Service with more than 1,300 topic lists for members. When starting a new topical collection, it is important to have a list that indicates how many stamps are in their topic, what countries issued those stamps, when they were issued, and the Scott catalog number of each stamp.

If a desired topic is not found, customized checklists from the Checklist dATABASE are available at a nominal cost. Checklists are emailed to members in Excel or pdf format or paper copies are mailed. **ATA members purchase checklists only once**; free updates of new issues are available annually to current members.

We publish handbooks on popular topics, and members receive a discount when purchasing recent handbooks. There is also available a flash drive containing all issues of *Topical Time* (over 400 to date) and a comprehensive index is available. Copies of articles from *Topical Time*, categorized by topic, are available, as are several DVDs, on many popular collecting top-

ics. These are suitable for beginning to intermediate collectors, stamp clubs, youth groups or community groups.

ATA has 50 major topic Study Units comprised of worldwide collectors of similar topical interests. Study Units include sports, penguins, ships, medicine, biology, to name a few, have enthusiastic members sharing information about their topic. The ATA has 42 affiliate chapters in the U.S. and worldwide. Chapters are local stamp clubs, including KPS, that have several members who are interested in topical collecting. The ATA also provides an estate and heirs assistance service to help dispose of collections.



Another ATA benefit is the Gold medal award winning publication *Topical Time*, the 92-page, bi-monthly journal of the ATA, available by mail or electronically. ATA produces a triennial Membership Directory, with checklist topics, allowing members to connect with other collectors around the world who share their collecting interests.

Every year since 1952, the ATA has held its annual meeting in a different location around the United States and Canada. That meeting is now part of National Topical Stamp Show, the largest all-topical show in the United States, sponsored by the ATA. NTSS 2019 will be joining the APS summer show in Omaha, Nebraska August 1-4<sup>th</sup>, following the successful similar joint show in Columbus in 2018. Regional and local shows that have a topical section in their exhibits can obtain a wide variety of exhibit awards to any show that has a juried exhibition.



Those are many reasons why I am so enthusiastic about the ATA and its support for topical collectors worldwide - we have close to 500 international members in over 40 countries. It is important to support those organizations that help you and your collecting interests.

I will have applications with me when I attend a show as a dealer this year and will be happy to answer any questions you may have at that time.

See more about ATA at [www.americantopicalassn.org](http://www.americantopicalassn.org). Feel free to contact me at [thedale.smith48@gmail.com](mailto:thedale.smith48@gmail.com) or 816 668 4433.



The seven overprinted definitive Vatican stamps shown above (Sc. #61-67) were issued on February 20, 1939 for the Interregnum, following the death of Pope Pius XI on February 10, 1939.

The overprint consists of the Papal Crown and the inscription "SEDE VACANTE" (VACANT THRONE) / MCMXXXIX (1939).

On 18 February 1939, just a little over Pius XI's death on 10 February, the arms stamps of 1929 were overprinted "SEDE VACANTE / MCMXXXIX". They remained valid until 3 March, the day after the election of Pope Pius XII.

The entire series of seven is offered on eBay from \$10.00 to \$70.00. The series from another dealer would be within that range. Many offers include album pages or entire speciality Vatican albums.

### Example of cost of 2019 Vatican Stamps



2019 issues for recent Popes, SC #1957-60 in MNH condition offered about \$13.00. Many dealers have available entire country collections. These frequently are in Vatican specific albums. Usually do not include most recent years. However, the collection albums can be wonderful beginning albums and include early issues. Most important is to have fun with a new adventure!

### Vatican Philatelic Society



In 1983, the Vatican Philatelic Society celebrated its 30th anniversary and became affiliate #129 of the American Philatelic Society.

All memberships include a subscription to a quarterly publication devoted to the interests of Vatican and Roman States collectors. A wealth of material not to be found in other philatelic journals is included as well as information on all new Vatican issues. [www.vaticancitystamps.org](http://www.vaticancitystamps.org)

**SWAPPING OR SELLING** between members is made easy; those interested submit their names and contact information to the editor for publication in "The Colonnade," a free listing of wants and swaps that appears in *Vatican Notes*.

### DSC Meetings and Activities Continued from page 1

**Aug 23-24 (Fri-Sat)**  
**\*AIRPEX @ IBEW Hall (F: 12-6pm; Sa: 10am-4pm)\***

**Sept 2 - Labor Day (Church Closed) No Meeting**

Sept 9 Board Meeting

**Sept 16 -Club Auction #4 (philatelic material only)**

**Oct 7 Solve My Mystery: Bring in a philatelic item you can't ID**

Oct 14 Board Meeting (set 2019 calendar & budget review)

**Oct 21 - Club Members Bourse #2 (aka Sell, Buy, Trade)**

**Nov 4 - Club/Guest Speaker – TBD**

Nov 11 Board Meeting

**Nov 18—Club Auction #5 and Elections (philatelic material only)**

**Dec 2 - Club Holiday Dinner @ local restaurant, 6:30 pm**

Dec 9 Board Meeting

**Dec 16—No Meeting – Enjoy the Holiday Season!**

### A Miniature Museum of Marian Art: The Madonna on Stamps

**Cost: Free and open to the public**



Visit the Marian Library's gallery for a display of Marian postage stamps that showcase the Madonnas created by Renaissance masters Botticelli, Dürer, Memling and Raphael.

Exhibit is located at the University of Dayton Marian Library 7th floor. The exhibit dates are April 8 to June 28 with hours 8:30am to 4:30pm, Monday through Friday.

**Directions and Parking:** The Marian Library is located on the 7th floor of Roesch Library on the University of Dayton campus.

Pass through the main campus entrance and follow the signs to visitor parking (if you are an off-campus user). Roesch Library will be on your left as you enter campus.

Stop at the parking booth and an attendant will issue you a parking pass and direct you to a parking lot.

During the Roesch Library renovation, the main entrance to the library is on the west side of the ground floor, facing College Park Avenue.

Once inside, take the elevator or stairs to the 7th floor.